

Merry Christmas

By MARY TINLEY DALY

A Christmas tree is a sentimental symbol. Without going back into its roots in history, we accept it annually, at your house and ours, as a capsulized story of a family, spending Christmases together.

Just to keep from living on today, getting out the well-worn box of Christmas ornaments, we realized that, for the first time in our lives, we need not buy a single ornament for that tree. No matter if it be floor-to-ceiling, wide-sparce, there is ample to cover it, and cover it with treasures meaningful to those who will enjoy it most.

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ments, put the 1962 inscription on them so that they may eventually go into the homes of the four grandchildren born this year: Matthew and Brendan Daly (the twins); Markie Brennan, Eileen and Tony's daughter; and Tim Gorman, Jr., (Mary and Jim's son, born on Halloween.)

PRIOR TO actual dressing of the tree, of course, comes the pesky untangling and testing of lights, always finding some blanks. Lights, as far as we are concerned, are not a sentimental symbol. Just a nuisance.

With the hurdle of having enough tree lights going all at the same time, we can turn our attention to lining up the real decorations for the tree, and this is fun!

There are the one or two still remaining baubles acquired during the bride-and-groom days when there was simply a table tree. Then the others acquired along the way: the little angel to put on top, bought the year our first baby was born, the little teapot, the small glass bell with its tongue broken, the miniature Santa Claus sent by a friend in Germany. All these scarcely filled the tree in "the olden days" so we had to fill up the gaps with strings of popcorn and of cranberries.

There remains to this day, "the birdie-bird" which our Tommy loved, a blue and silver bird with silky tailfeathers that Tommy, on his last Christmas on earth used to rub against his cheek. This, of course, is placed high on the tree, well out of harm's way.

For some unaccountable reason, we hang onto "Markie's eatery," a blown glass ornament that used to have an addendum which Markie, at age 15 months, chewed off. "Give her mashed potatoes," Dr. Wall recommended. "lots of mashed potatoes." That year, Markie's Christmas breakfast, dinner, supper and bedtime snack consisted of mashed potatoes. Now a registered nurse, Markie knows what to recommend for children who try to eat Christmas tree ornaments.

THEN THERE is the "war stuff"—those unimaginative, ugly blue, green and red plastic balls, only trimmings available during World War II. For some years after the war, we used to ignore these, but not now. They make wonderful "filler" for the bottom part of the tree where small grandchildren can reach. The things are certainly practical with their capacity to bounce, roll, be tossed and pitched with abandon while the upper part of the tree ornaments remain intact.

Somewhat shamefacedly, we bring out the "gold and blues" reminding ourselves of the year, when, going along with the trend of the day, we decided to have a "fashionable" tree—nothing but gold and blue would do, to go along with the completely adult Christmas party during the holidays, and its gold and blue motif.

"But where's the birdie-bird?" complained the children. "Where's the angel? And Markie's eatery?"

That was a long time ago, first and last time we tried to be "fashionable" without Christmas tree.

Now we continue in the old tradition, a heterogeneous blend of the new, the beautiful ornaments and the others, some heaving with sentiment, others off the shelves of the 5-and-10.

So, we prepare to dress the 1962 tree at our house, as you do at yours. It's a carry-over from the past, representation of the present that will be remembered, someday, as "the olden days."

Truly, a Christmas tree is a sentimental symbol.



Holiday Dinner Dance Set

NAZARETH COLLEGE Alumnae will hold a holiday dinner dance Dec. 29 at Midvale Country Club starting at 7:30 p.m. Mrs. James W. Gallagher, left, and Mrs. Martin Koesterer are cochairmen.

Talk It Over

Open House

By ANNE CULKIN

Dear C. P.:

If the invitation reads "Open House from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m." it means that you are invited to visit the home of the person who sent the invitation for about a half hour between the hours of five and seven. It doesn't mean that you arrive at five and stay until seven.

Dear Mother:

Good taste and tradition suggests that only relatives and very close friends be invited to an engagement party. Yes, the parents of the gentleman your daughter is to marry should be sent an invitation.

Dear Readers:

Once again we attempt to answer your "Christmas Questions" and to add a few timely reminders.

GIFTS 1) Gifts exchanged between young people should be inexpensive and impersonal. The girl presenting a boy with an expensive gift bought from the receipts of her baby sitting will embarrass the recipient more than please him.

2) If you have only been seeing a boy for a period of months, you, the girl, should not feel a gift is a must. It is not nor is it expected. Therefore, don't thank him breathlessly and then excuse yourself to run upstairs and wrap your brother's gloves.

3) No, and it's underlined. The girl does not give a gift to the boy's parents because she has been dating him for three months. The boy can, if he wishes, remember the girl's family with a box of candy or something as impersonal as that can be enjoyed and shared by all. But it is not a must!

CHRISTMAS EVE This should be a "stay at home" evening. If a young man has expressed a desire to attend Midnight Mass with you, plan for him to arrive late, not early in the evening. You may be delighted with his presence but his family will not share your joy. Parents look forward and rightly so that all their children who are unmarried and have not established a home of their own be at their own home on Christmas Eve.

2) When you walk up an aisle in church together, the girl precedes the boy.

3) A Christmas Tree party (group getting together to decorate a tree) can be indeed a beautiful party. But it is not necessary to wait until Christmas eve to have it. If you are planning to have friends to your home for this type of party, plan it for an evening or two prior to the eve of Christmas.

And now a few quickies:

1) To twist when wearing a formal gown would be as out of place as giving someone an Easter egg at Christmas.

2) Persons are either too young or too old to play "kissing games," but there is nothing objectionable in having a little mistletoe placed in a strategic place, perhaps at the doorway of your home.

3) No, I don't think that silver or gold dust sprinkled through the hair for the Christmas Dance is out of place. It's festive as is the season.

4) A "funny card" is not a Christmas card. To send one is definitely depicting bad taste.

5) Of course there is nothing wrong in sending a card to the boy you "go with" or for that matter the boy you would like to go with. "Miss" should not be printed on a Christmas card.

KC Auxiliary Reports Party

Ithaca — The Ithaca K of C Auxiliary held its annual Christmas Dinner and party on Tuesday, Dec. 11, at the Knights of Columbus Home.

Forty members attended the dinner. Rev. John S. Maloney, administrator of Immaculate Conception Church, was a special guest. Dinner was served by a committee of Knight of Columbus members.

THE PROGRAM consisted of carol singing and a visit from Santa Claus Walter Conley who distributed the gifts. Following this program the husbands of the members joined the group for dancing and card playing.

The auxiliary officers: Mrs. Leo Parente, president; Mrs. T. Hastings, Jr., vice president; Mrs. Katherine Kelly, secretary; and Mrs. Joseph Zichetella, treasurer, were in charge of dinner arrangements. Mrs. William E. Gray and Mrs. W. Arthur Sprague were in charge of table decorations and music.

Catholic Books In Library

An Introduction to Moral Theology, by Karl Eihmann, Newman, 1961.

John Lancaster Spalding, First Bishop of Peoria, American Educator, by John T. Ellis, Bruce, 1962.

Leo the Thirteenth, The First Modern Pope, by Katherine K. Burton, McKay, 1962.

My Life With Christ, by Anthony J. Paone, Doubleday, 1962.

Saint Agnes, by Louise Andre-Delastre, Macmillan, 1962.

Saint Vincent de Paul, by Louis Chaigne, Macmillan, 1962.

Times of Decision: Story of the Councils, by J. D. Conway, Fides, 1962.

The World of the Vatican, by Robert Neville, Harper, 1962.

Museum Lists Holiday Closing

Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences will be closed on Monday, Dec. 24 at noon and Christmas Day, Dec. 25. The Museum will also be closed on New Year's Day, Jan. 1.

At other times regular hours at the Museum are daily through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday after noon from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free at all times.

Family Rosary Radio Program

Friday, Dec. 21—John Noble, Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Saturday, Dec. 22 — Louis Scarciotta, Most Precious Blood.

Sunday, Dec. 23 — Clarence Georger, St. Salome.

Monday, Dec. 24 — Clarence Wiest, St. Monica.

Tuesday, Dec. 25 — Louis Zicari, St. Francis of Assisi, accompanied by altar boys of that Church.

Wednesday, Dec. 26 — Stanley Kolupski, St. Andrew's, accompanied by the Holy Name Society.

Thursday, Dec. 27 — A representative of Rochester Products.

'Nutcracker' Set For Eastman Stage

The glittering and festive holiday ballet, Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker," will be presented in two performances at the Eastman Theatre this year. The Mercury Ballet and the Rochester Civic Orchestra have scheduled a matinee performance on Thursday, Dec. 27, at 2:30, and an evening show on Saturday, Dec. 29, at 8:15.

The "Nutcracker" is based on Hoffmann's tale, "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King." The story concerns a little girl who is heartbroken because her Christmas present, a nutcracker, is broken. She goes downstairs late at night to get her favorite toy, falls asleep, and dreams of the Sugar Plum Fairy.

The costumes, ballet, and Tchaikovsky's music make this beautiful story perfect for holiday entertainment.

Tickets for both the matinee and evening performances of "The Nutcracker" are available at the Eastman Theatre Box Office.

COURIER-JOURNAL Friday, Dec. 21, 1962

GREETINGS Of the Season

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The school itself is nearly 100 years old; the equipment worn and out-of-date. Despite this, Salesian-trained carpenters, cobblers, machinists, tailors, welders and bakers are reputed to be the best in Jordan today. A young lad trained by the Fathers is almost certain to find a job. The Salesian Fathers ask for help because in Jordan, orphans and poor boys cannot pay for an education. 25 cents will feed one boy for a day... \$1 will help buy wrenches, shoe leather, hammers, needles, pots and pans. \$13 will pay all costs for one boy for a month... Would you like to give a full scholarship to one boy for a year, perhaps in memory of your parents? The cost: \$150... Please write to us. What you do for the poor you do for Christ, especially in the town where He was born!

A Happy and a Holy Christmas To All Our Friends, Members And Benefactors

THE STONES CRY OUT

IT HAPPENED ON MT. OLIVET. The Pharisees were asking Our Lord to scold his disciples for singing God's praises so loudly... Christ's answer: "If these shall hold their peace, the stones will cry out." Today this has literally happened as explorers uncover stone after stone testifying to the truth of the Bible... One by one, like a giant jigsaw, the 600 towns and cities of Palestine are being located. The two fastest growing sciences in the world: Palestinian archeology and nuclear physics—some dealing with natural light, the other, supernatural!

Walking among these very stones are the missionaries—priests and sisters—and refugees whom the Holy Father has entrusted to our care. Shall we leave all the preaching to stones or shall we, as faithful disciples, show a little of Christ's mercy to these needy ones? ... Ask yourself: What can I do as an individual? Answer: Join the Catholic Near East Welfare Association and let your prayers and financial help speak for you... The cost: \$1 a year for a single person; \$20 for perpetual membership. Or, for a family: \$5 a year; \$100 perpetual membership.

THE RED AND THE GOLD

GOMANNU MANNU is the name of an Indian village. The melodious words mean "red soil"... But recently there has been a golden harvest of souls at Gomannu Mannu. More than 100 separated Christians have united with the Church.

Bishop Mar Athanasios hopes to build a modest chapel for these newly returned brethren. He needs \$1,500 for the land and \$4,000 for the building itself... Can we write the Bishop and tell him his Church will be built? Yes, but only with your help... Won't you help make this letter of good news a reality? Any contribution will do.

Dear Monsignor Ryan:

Enclosed find for

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