

## The Date Book

### Mission Guild

The regular monthly meeting of the Catholic Mission Guild will be held Jan. 10 at the Knights of Columbus, Monroe Ave.

### Catholic Adult Club Doings

There will be a business meeting Jan. 10 at 8 p.m. at Father Wood's, 5000 Mt. Read Blvd. Jan. 14 is the date for a Cabin party at the Pavilion in Ellison Park. Round and Square Dancing. Admission: members, \$2.50, guest, \$3.00. For reservations call Carmie Petote, 458-5236 by Jan. 12.

There will be dinner and dancing at the Moose Club Jan. 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Palm Room. For reservations call Carmie Petote by Jan. 16.

### CDA Meeting

Court Our Lady of the Cenacle No. 1139, Catholic Daughters of America will hold its next meeting Tues., Jan. 9 at 8 p.m., at the Calvary Evangelical Church on the corner of Cuiver Rd. and Melville St. The Pope's Store room will be featured this month with members bringing items of wearing apparel for infants and small children to be distributed among the poor.

### Mercy Guild

The first meeting of Mercy Guild of the Little Flower for the year will be held Tues., Jan. 9, at Catherine McAuley College at 1:00 p.m. Mother M. Bride, and Sister M. Judith, will be guests of honor. Mrs. Joseph Klingler, retiring president, will conduct the business meeting. The following officers will be installed: Mrs. Elmer O'Brien, President; Mrs. Walter B. D. Hickey and Mrs. Henry Kearse, Vice Presidents; Mrs. Bryan Ford, Secretary; Mrs. John McGrath, Treasurer.

### Thomas More Events

Those going to Industry meet Jan. 5, 8 p.m. at Father Norris's house. Rides leave St. Andrew's parking lot 7:05 p.m. for anyone needing transportation. Contact Betty Lang, 544-9633 for information.

There will be a Holy Hour Jan. 9 at 8:00 p.m. at St. Andrew's Church, 329 Portland Ave. Father Schifferl from Christ the King Parish will be guest speaker. A Discussion and Coffee Hour will follow in St. Andrew's School Hall. For more information contact Trudy Kirkmire, 458-4882, or Mary Ann DiPablo, 554-5741.

### Invested In Mission Order

Framingham, Mass.—Brother James W. Stein N.F.M.S.I., son of Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Stein, Caledonia, N.Y., was invested in the habit of the Sons of Mary, a medical-missionary society with missions in Latin America, in ceremonies at the Motherhouse on Dec. 16.

Brother James, one of ten children, had as his guests his parents, two of the other nine children, Teresa and Peter, and Mr. and Mrs. William Stein, his god-parents. A reception for guests was held in the Motherhouse immediately after the ceremony.

ST. CECILIA, Irondequoit. St. Cecilia's Guild will meet Jan. 9 at 8:15 p.m. in the school hall. Father Henry Atwell will speak and show his slides of Israel.



DOMINATING THE City of Athens is the Acropolis, topped by the Parthenon, one of the most graceful and subtle buildings in the world. The temples to the left include the Temple of Victory and the Erechtheion, famed for its sculptures. The graceful tapering of the fluted Parthenon columns can be seen in the closeup picture at left.



THIS IS THE NINTH in a series on "The Crescent of Christianity" written by the Rev. C. J. McNaspy, S.J., associate editor of America magazine. Photos by the Rev. Elmo Romagosa of the CLARION. Copyright, May, 1967, CLARION Herald.

## Athens — city of light

Flying from Istanbul to Athens, you are within sight of many of the key spots of civilization as we know it. Over the site of Troy (scene of the oldest and perhaps greatest epic of the West), the island of Chios (where Homer is said to have been born), almost within sight of Ephesus (famous as the traditional burial spot of Our Lady, the spot where St. Paul challenged the idol-makers, and where the momentous Council of 400 was held), over the island of Lesbos (famed for the lyric poets Sappho and Alcaeus), not far from Miletus (where philosophy and science as we know them came into being), to the city that gave us most of the humanistic values of our Western culture, Athens.

The present-day capital is very modern indeed, almost entirely 19th- and 20th-century. For during the Roman period Rome was the capital, and during the middle ages Constantinople was the center of the Greek world.

But for some centuries before Christ Athens was the city of light — philosophical and literary and artistic. And we know from the Acts of the Apostles that St. Paul preached to the intellectuals on the Areopagus, a hill within the shadow of the Parthenon. At the time of Christ, Athens was part of the Roman empire, but it was still a great cultural capital, where intellectuals and artists loved to study and live, a sort of Mecca for educated Romans and others.

HERE IT WAS that several of the world's decisive battles were fought — Salamis, in the harbor; Marathon, just a few miles away; and others. But more important were the gigantic intellectual battles for which Athens is famed. The Acropolis, which dominated the ancient city and still dominates the modern, was originally a citadel (the word Acropolis, in fact, means "high city" or "citadel"); in the course of time it was adorned with wondrous temples, including the most famous of temples, the Parthenon, dedicated to Athena, virgin goddess of wisdom.

It was built under Pericles, Athens' great political leader during the "Golden Age," by architects Iktinos and Kallikrates (447-432 B.C.), and even in its state of ruin is still one of the most graceful and subtle buildings in the world.

After the conversion of the Greek world to Christianity, the Parthenon was appropriately rededicated to the Blessed Virgin (whom we honor as Seat of Wisdom), and for centuries it was her shrine. Calamitously, however, when

the Turks conquered Athens in 1453, it ceased to be a church. The Turks used it as a powder magazine, and the Venetians in 1687 fired on it causing one of the most disastrous destructions in the history of architecture.

EVEN SO, A VISIT to the top of the Acropolis is most rewarding, from both a broadly cultural and a Christian point of view. At its foot, you will want to attend a concert in the ancient theater of Herodes Atticus, just a few feet from the theater of Dionysus — the first theater in our tradition, where the classic dramas of Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides and Aristophanes were performed.

Athens, as might be supposed, is rich in museum treasures. Many of the world's most celebrated statues, statuettes and other works of art (like the Vaphio Cups and mask of Agamemnon) may be seen there, as well as masterpieces of the Byzantine period. However, the greater part of Greek statuary has been destroyed, and most of what remains is in other museums (for example, the Discus Thrower in Rome, the Winged Victory in Paris, etc.). Perhaps most important of this statuary, the Elgin Marbles in the British Museum, is taken from the frieze of the Parthenon.

The churches of Athens are largely medieval and some of them are impressive. One tiny church, not far from the center of town, includes a remarkable inscription on its main entrance: "To the Known God" — in response to the altar that St. Paul talks about, with its inscription: "To the Unknown God."

JUST OUTSIDE ATHENS is the little monastery at Daphni. It and a similar structure near Delphi, Hosios Lukas, are the best known and probably most beautiful representatives of what is called the Greek-cross-octagon plan, built around the year 1100. They are immensely enriched with mosaics from the middle Byzantine period and are most expressive — indeed they match almost anything to be seen in Istanbul.

Athens, for most centuries before Christ, was reckoned "the city." Its great leader, Pericles, proudly described it as "an education to all Greece" — keeping in mind that Greece was an education to all the world, as he saw it. He claimed that Athenians "love the arts, but without lavish display, and things of the mind, but without becoming soft."

The Athenian ideal expressed here is one we all treasure, just as we think of Socrates as one of our heroes, Plato and Aristotle (who came to Athens, as did so many other giants) our great thinkers.



ABOVE IS a view from just outside Athens where the Monastery of Daphni enshrines some of the finest Byzantine mosaics in the world, dating from the 12th century A.D.



LOOKING FROM the Temple of Victory on the Acropolis, one can see the massive stone area called the Areopagus where St. Paul preached to the Grecian intellectuals.

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