

Dr. Maurice J. Gormican (left), attending physician at St. Mary's Hospital, is pictured with Francis DiTotto and his wife, Gail, who recently gave birth to a baby boy, Michael Robert.

## Hospital Allows Husbands to Attend Birth

Husbands may now be present through all stages of the birth and delivery of their children in St. Mary's Hospital.

Coupled with the new policy was the announcement this week that the hospital has inaugurated a Family-Centered Maternity Care Program.

The program provides childbirth education classes which prepare the couple for the childbearing experience. They are encouraged to share the experience to the extent they desire, including the actual delivery.

The husband has extended visiting privileges, his questions are answered, hospital procedures are explained, and physician's remarks are interpreted when necessary. The educational program, it was noted, "is designed to give parents the means to build a strong, healthy, happy and secure family life."

Classes for expectant mothers are conducted throughout the year. Information may be obtained from the physician. Ex-

pectant parents desiring to tour the maternity department may contact the maternity supervisor.

## St. Jude's Lists Christmas Plans

A celebration of Christmas at St. Jude's Church, 4100 Lyell Road, Rochester, will begin at 11 p.m. on Christmas Eve with the Adult Choir singing a medley of Christmas Carols.

A Christmas Vigil Service begins at 11:30 p.m., featuring a "Children's Pageant" depicting the Christmas Story in procession to the Sanctuary Creche.

The feast of the Holy Family will be celebrated on Sunday, Dec. 27th, with all families requested to receive Holy Communion together as a family.

## Church Window Stars in Show At Planetarium

A "Mother and Child" stained glass window in Blessed Sacrament Church is featured in the climax of the "Star of Christmas" show at Rochester's Strassenburgh Planetarium on East Avenue.

The show, which explores the "astronomical possibilities" and symbolic meaning of the Bethlehem star, closes with a panorama of Gothic arches displaying the Blessed Sacrament window. It will run through Jan. 3.

There will be no showing on Christmas day, New Year's eve or New Year's day.

## The Slot Man

# Old Woman's Christmas

By Carmen Viglucchi



The old woman had long ago disabused herself of the idea that Christmases depended on price tags and home-movies and all the faldral of wreathes, tinsel and tinkling bells.

It isn't that she is a cynic or even an intellectual person. And she would never allow herself to be depicted as exceptionally good.

God knows, she muses, that as a child she delighted in the tantalizingly-wrapped presents under the tree and the thrill of "Santy Claus" and the wonderful magic of little people's Christmases.

And, as years passed, she annually worked to bring about the same mystique for her own children. But somewhere, probably during the Great Depression, reality had forced a different outlook upon her. She and her husband just couldn't afford the usual toy trucks, dolls and games. In fact holiday-ish gifts such as white muffs and plaid scarves gave way to practicalities such as overshoes and ear-muffed caps which passed as Christmas gifts but also served as necessities.

Indeed they were hard put to make a "decent" contribution to the church and although their table was always bountiful and spiced by home-made cookies and cakes, there were years when they were embarrassed by the meager attempts at gift-giving.

But aside from that, she and her family experienced the most thrilling of Christmases, each surpassing the last. In spite of, or because of diversity, a bright and sinewy miracle grew.

The old lady, even then a

realist, quickly discerned that she and hers had stumbled onto the miraculous order of God's world. They knew the real meaning of the celebration of Christ's birthday.

Her husband passed on and her children and their children grew up into the world where joy is reserved for once a year. They are well-off enough to buy the customary gifts and have reverted to such celebrations that are supported by piles and piles of fancies. Yet each Christmas they search their children's eyes in vain to see that sparkle that would reflect the spirit of Christmas baring in their little breasts.

But the old woman knows. And although she recognizes that the little things her grandchildren bring her (did I say grandchildren, make that great-grandchildren) are of great significance and she acts in like manner, she realizes she is only pretending.

For she has her own secret-heart Christmas. She goes to early Mass where not too many will take notice of her blue-flowered bonnet and gray cloth coat. She says her rosary with added fervor on this day and then trudges home.

There she bakes the traditional cookies, cakes and breads she has made for some 70 years because the kids like them but even more because in the kneading and rolling she can think clearly of her husband, their hopes and dreams, and of her own children, forever young.

For she is one of the lucky ones and for her Christmas will never die.

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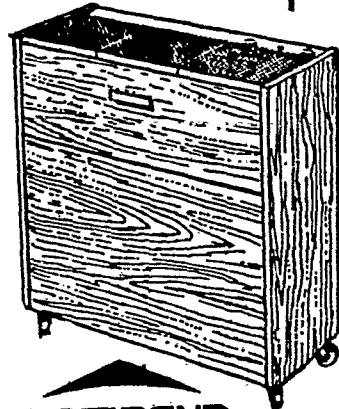
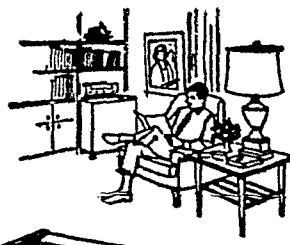
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