



Polish Pageant

The Three Wise Men shown here are actors in the Christmas pageant put on annually by the Polish Language School of St. Stanislaus parish. School children and their parents portray the story of the Nativity and perform folk dances in costume. The Christmas custom, "the breaking of the bread," and Polish carols also are on the program, which begins at 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 8, in the hall at 913 Norton. Walter Widlarz is director, assisted by Felix Novosielski, school president, and Father William Pietrzykowski, assistant pastor.

Injustice, War Targets Of RACL Yule Statement

The Rochester Association of Catholic Laymen took a look last week at international politics and the bloody conflicts in Asia, at the withering hardships of poverty in a land of plenty and the commercialization of Christmas.

"Indeed, we do have a long way to go if we are really to put Christ back into Christmas," they observed, in a statement that touched on power alignments and the sale of arms; the history of U.S. bombing in Indochina and injustices seen in this country.

The statement was intended for distribution in the parishes, on pamphlet racks or at the door. Pastors were asked to point it out to their people and to consider its ideas in their sermons.

The paper points out contradictions that "become most

startling and painful during the Christmas season."

The contradiction, for example, "that exists in proclaiming 'peace on earth' while continuing to mercilessly bomb Indochina with an intensity unprecedented in human history. To the extent that we fail to challenge these actions of our government," the statement says, "to that extent we are responsible for the killing, for it is being carried out in our name and with our money and support."

"We live lives of affluence and over consumption in the midst of overwhelming hunger and poverty," the statement notes. "The commercialization of the Christmas spirit which urges us to spend our resources at this time on expensive and unnecessary gifts, celebrations and decorations, seems to us to be not only contrary to the message of the season, but blasphemous to true religious values."

Exorcism Up In England

York, England — (RNS) — People who dabble in witchcraft and black magic are causing a growing problem for the Church, the Anglican Synod of York was told.

The Rev. Thomas Willis, who was ordained in 1959 and has been at Hull in the York Province since 1963, told the Synod:

"This is a problem that the Church has not met for the past 200 years. But priests are now finding all over the country that they are having to cast out devils and evil spirits."

He reported that one priest in London had carried out 1,000 exorcisms in two years, noting the Church of England had sponsored a special conference at Coventry which was attended by members of other denominations, to discuss the problem.

"People are turning away from material things like cars and refrigerators and becoming increasingly interested in religion," he said. "The supernatural is gaining ascendancy. More and more people are dabbling in fortune telling, home seances, witchcraft, black magic, and things like the 'Age of Aquarius.'"

Mr. Willis also said priests have been called on to deal with occult disturbances and evil infestations by people who had dabbled in these matters and then become frightened.

New Bishops

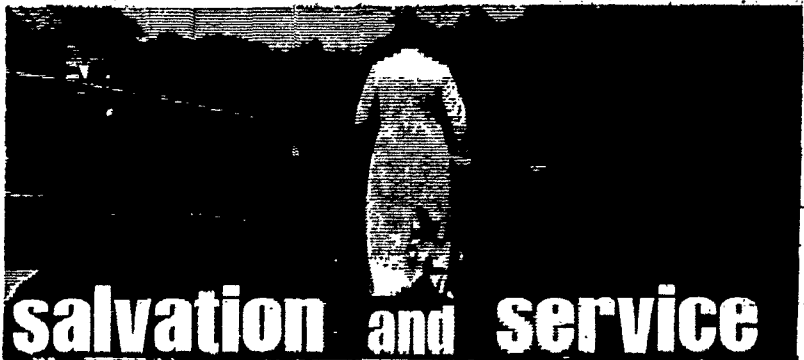
Washington, D. C. — (RNS) — Pope Paul has appointed three new U.S. bishops, naming a successor to the retiring bishop of Burlington, Vt., filling the vacant Providence, R.I., See, and designating an auxiliary to the Archbishop of Miami, it was announced here.

Father John A. Marshall, a priest of the Worcester, Mass., diocese who has been serving as business manager of the North American College in Rome, succeeds Bishop Robert F. Joyce of Burlington whose resignation at 75 was accepted by the Pope.

Msgr. Louis Gelineau, vicar general of the Burlington, Vt., diocese, was appointed Bishop of Providence. Msgr. Rene Gracida was named auxiliary to Archbishop Coleman Carroll of Miami.

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A NEW YEAR'S MEDITATION

Before me is a contemporary "holy card" which reads: "We are not permitted to choose the frame of our destiny. But what we put into it is our." (Dag Hammarskjöld)

As our thought turns to memories of the past year and anticipations of the new year, let us take a moment to ask ourselves what are the most important things we want to put into our "life's frame."

We may say happiness, security, and love are the ultimate fulfillments of life, but what are the basic needs and desires every human being strives to find, so these ideals may be reached? We could make a list of all we want of life. We should like to mention only three concerns we are all familiar with to show that these are the very things missionaries strive to give to the world's poor, and what your concern and support for the Church's missions makes possible, as the world begins a new year.

First, is our health. Our ability to work, play, and be active depends so much on our health: physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional. We eat, dress, rest, exercise, and practice self-discipline to attain or maintain good health. We pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." Give us the physical and spiritual nourishment we need to live, to grow, to find fulfillment. Do we not toast, as on New Year's Eve: "To your health!"

Perhaps less obvious and less prayed for than health, but still a deciding factor in our lives, is education. Our work, social and cultural life styles, and financial security are results of our education. Our philosophy of life, our knowledge of God, our communicating with people and our handling life's situations have all been, and are, learning experiences.

And finally, our personal and communitive welfare. We want to live and work in good conditions. We want a good home life, neighborhood, place of business, financial security, peace of mind, and good things for ourselves and our families.

Like faith, happiness, and love, these blessings in life (health, education, and welfare) cannot be bought, but it still takes money to provide the means to these ends. And these are the means your money provides for your Church's missionaries in every mission school, medical clinic, relief center, seminary, and chapel.

The needs of the mission-poor may be vastly different from our own; our individual abilities to contribute help are also differing received and wishes for the new year, and to find in your fervent. But we would beg each of you to examine your own blessed heart the Love of God which reaches out to those not as blessed. We cannot choose the frame of the world's destiny, but we are held accountable for what we put into it. "When you do it to the least of these my brothers . . . you do it to Me."

Please begin the New Year by sharing the blessings of your life with the suffering-poor of the missions, that 1972 may truly be a year of peace, brotherhood, and grace. Send your generous sacrifice today. Thank you and God love you.

SALVATION AND SERVICE are the work of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Please cut out this column and send your offering to Reverend Monsignor Edward T. O'Meara, National Director, Dept. C., 336 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10001, or directly to your local Diocesan Director, Rev. Joseph F. Reinhart, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. 12/8/71

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CARMEN VIGLUCCI

The Slot Man



It didn't exactly happen at Christmas time but its message fits this time of the year.

It took a couple of good guys to restore the happy mien of our circulation manager, Frank Crociata, when he recently lost his wallet in the vicinity of Holy Apostle Church. Gaetano Catalani found it, turned it in to Holy Apostles pastor, Father Emmett Murphy, who got it back, intact, to Crociata. Knowing the sock of dough Crociata totes this really adds up to a "good news" story, particularly befitting this season.

The smart program book of the recent Sisters of Mercy "People Please, Celebration of Communication" week has been named an outstanding example of creativity in print by the Georgia-Pacific Paper Co. of Illinois.

Designed and coordinated by Carl Zollo, the program not only contains the calendar of events for the celebration but also the original works of 15 area artists.

Anybody who saw it knows it was a knockout. Incidentally, the artist's works were reproduced in poster form to be sold

Father Peyton Maps Plans

London — (RNS) — Father Patrick Peyton, the American Holy Cross priest who founded the "Rosary Crusade," is planning another 10-year campaign to save what he calls "America's disintegrating families."

"Psychologists and psychiatrists say the disintegration is caused by 'inability to communicate' and 'the generation gap,' he said. "God has been shut out."

Thursday Deadline

Thursday noon is the deadline for news and photos for the Courier-Journal of the following week.

Courier-Journal

during the fund-raising program. Some still are available at the Mercy Sisters Office of Communications on Blossom Road. Give Sister Patricia Keough a call.

Michael Mulligan of Sodus passes along some interesting information about Mass attendance. He's come upon a newspaper clipping reporting a "count" of those attending Mass in Rochester Catholic churches on April 30, 1893.

At the time Perpetual Help was a "new parish in process of organization" and St. Stanislaus was still incomplete, so their respective figures of 598 and 408 are not so startling. But think of 4,058 at the Cathedral, 3,500 at Immaculate Conception and at St. Joseph's; 3,348 at Holy Family, 3,052 at St. Michael's.

Mulligan adds, "Show the people what good attendance we Romans had 78 years ago."

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