



K of C Christmas

Sister Seraphine Herbst, center, looks over a check presented for her work at the School of the Holy Childhood by the Knights of Columbus Irondequoit Pope Pius XII Council at the knight's recent Christmas party. Sister Maria Concetta sits at her right. Others in the picture are (left to right) Father Donald E. McCarthy, council chaplain; Philip Malone, president of the Corpus Christi school board; Father Joseph Moffatt, principal of Aquinas Institute; Brother John O'Brien, counsellor at Bishop Kearney High School; Father Jeremiah Moynihan, past council chaplain; Jerry Flynn, master of ceremonies; John Surahs, district deputy; John Dash, news editor of the Courier-Journal; and Joseph Molinari, grand knight of the council. Presentations were also made to Bishop Kearney High School, Aquinas Institute, Corpus Christi school and the Courier-Journal/Catholic Charities Christmas Fund.

Holiday Gatherings

Chinese Acrobats and Magicians of Taiwan, a troupe of acrobats, magicians, dancers and musicians, will perform in two-shows at the Nazareth Arts Center on New Year's Eve at 7 p.m. and at 10 p.m.

The Seven Little Foys, classic musical comedy film starring Bob Hope and James Cagney, International Museum of Photography at the George Eastman House, Dec. 20 at 1 p.m. and at 3 p.m. in the Matinee Movies for Senior Citizens program.

children's musical review at the Strasenburgh Planetarium, Dec. 26, 27, 28, and Jan. 1 at 3:15 p.m.; on Dec. 29, at noon and 4:45 p.m.

Children's Films at the Rochester Museum and Science Center: Hans Christian Anderson, 1 p.m., Dec. 26; The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh, and The Ugly Duckling, 1 p.m. Dec. 27; Babes in Toyland, 1 p.m. Dec. 28.

Advent Lessons and Carols, preceding celebra-

tion of the Episcopal Holy Eucharist, at Christ Church, Dec. 23 at 11 a.m.

Rain Lady, a special family show at the MIME Workshop, Dec. 27-30 at 2 p.m.

Kiss Me Kate, the Cole Porter Musical on the stage of the Rochester Community Players as a New Year's Eve champagne benefit at 8 p.m.

Catholic Women's Club 60th birthday dinner dance, Monroe Golf Club, Dec. 22 at 7 p.m., featuring Tom Monte's Orchestra. Further information: 275-9173.

Word for Sunday

By Father Albert Shamon

God's Mother Remained A Virgin

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Lk. 1:39-45. (R1) Mi. 5:1-4. (R2) Jeb. 10:5-10.

One of the overarching figures of the Advent season is Mary. In ancient days kings owed their thrones to their mothers. In a harem there was always a power struggle among a king's many wives. Solomon owed the throne to Bathsheba, his mother. Thus he built her a throne, next to his own. Her title was Queen-Mother. Her power equalled that of the king himself. In the visitation when Elizabeth greeted Mary, she called her Queen-Mother. "Who am I that the Mother of my Lord (that is, Queen-Mother) should come to me?" Jesus owed His humanity to Mary's consent. She was Queen-Mother and therefore the Virgin Most Powerful.

Graciously, God sought the free consent of Mary to be the mother of His Son. Humbly, Mary gave it. And instantly, her fiat, like the words of consecration, summoned God's Son into the altar of her womb.

Fiat!— a cloistered womb—
A sealed, untainted tomb—
Wakes to the birth and bloom
Of life and light.

Mary did not give Jesus His divine nature; hence she is no goddess. But Mary gave Jesus what every woman gives her child—flesh and blood. And what come forth from her womb on Christmas is what comes forth from every mother, namely, a person! Only there was this difference in Mary's child: He was a divine Person, the Son of God. Now a mother is spoken of as the mother of the person who issues from her womb, even though mothers give only flesh and blood. So Mary is rightly called Mother of God, for the person born of her is the Son of God.

As for Saint Joseph, he was indeed the father of Christ, not by ties of flesh and blood, but by reason of his true and real marriage to Mary. Where God's power chooses to intervene, the carnal act is no more necessary for fatherhood than for motherhood. Mary became mother without losing her virginity; so did Joseph become father without losing his.

A virginal marriage like Joseph's and Mary's served a very definite purpose. God's Son wished to enter the

world as all other men did—namely, into a family. But as His generation in eternity was virginal, so it befitted His dignity that His generation in time be virginal.

A virginal conception completes all the various ways in which man might come into the world.

Adam came into the world without the intervention of man or woman.

Eve, without the intervention of a woman.

All her children through the intervention of both man and woman.

Only one way remained: namely, for someone to come into the world without the intervention of a man. Jesus was so conceived — by the Holy Spirit!

A virgin became a mother; the mother remained a virgin. As on Easter Day, the risen Jesus passed through the sealed rock of the tomb and the tightly closed doors of the Upper Room, as light passes through glass without shattering it, so Jesus left Mary's womb without breaking the seal of her virginity. "Virginity hindered not her fruitfulness; fruitfulness destroyed not her virginity" (Augustine).

Truly Christmas should be merry for all. The Son of God became man — therefore all men can be merry; but of a woman — therefore all women can. Merry Christmas, then, to all and each one.

HE TOUCHES ALL HEARTS WITH HIS ETERNAL LOVE...



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WE THANK YOU ... IN THE NAME OF OUR MISSIONARIES AND THE PEOPLE OF GOD THEY SERVE IN EVERY AREA OF LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA, THE SOUTH PACIFIC AND ASIA . . . FOR HELPING US TOUCH THE WORLD WITH GOD'S ETERNAL LOVE DURING THE PAST YEAR.

WE PRAY THAT CHRIST WILL BE THE REAL LIGHT, JOY AND PEACE OF YOUR LIFE NOW AND THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR!

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