

High Schoolers Will Offer Christmas Choral Pageant At Cathedral. Dec. 21, 22

Next Sunday and Monday evenings, Dec. 21 and 22, St. Mary's Cathedral will be the setting for a huge choral pageant, "The Christmas Story." The pageant will begin at 8 p.m. The production is the result of the combined efforts of the Cathedral high school girls' chorus and the students from the religious instruction classes of St. Cloud Technical high school.

The pageant will tell the simple, age-old, but ever-new inspiring Christmas story through the medium of the stage. Acting as stage manager, Marvin Bauer, St. Anthony's parish, will open the pageant in what will prove—to say the least—a most novel manner. Arlene Kockler, St. Mary's parish, will portray the Blessed Virgin Mary. A cast of 57 will assist the leads in the hour and a half long pageant that will be depicted on three different stages. The 10 scenes will be connected by traditional Christmas carols sung by the girls' chorus as well as several organ and violin solos. The musical portion of the program is under the direction of the Rev. Harold Pavelis.

The pageant begins with the longing of the Prophets of the Old Testament, Isaias, Daniel, and Micheas, for the coming of the promised Messiah. The prophets are portrayed by Charles Pfannenstien, Kenneth Schill, and Donald O'Tremba, respectively. The ancient and beautiful martyrology chant for the Feast of Christmas is sung by Michael Burns and John Brandl.

The pageant continues successively from one stage to another, bringing to the attention of the audience the simple but moving Annunciation scene, the visit of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth (Cecelia Abeln) and the entrance of Mary with the Christ Child and Saint Joseph (Ronald Weimann).

In song and drama, the voice of the Angel of Good Tidings (Harold Reed) is heard by the shepherds on the hill, and the Wise Men in their turn hear the cynical King Herod (Robert Neutzling) utter his deceitful command, "Go and make careful inquiry concerning the Child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may go and worship Him." The pageant closes with the reading of the Prologue to the Gospel of St. John during the adoration of the new-born Child while the chorus joins in with the singing of the beautiful "Gesu Bambino."

No such production could have been achieved without the assistance of many hands. Deserv-

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Story of the Week

Yes, Christmas is really made up of two words—Christ and Mass. Old English and it comes to us from the days when all England went to Mass on the birthday of Jesus.

They tell the story of a gentleman who got up one day in Parliament (we think he was a sorehead, ourselves). Anyway, this gentleman's name was Thomas Massey-Massey. Since the Mass was by that time out of favor with the majority of the English, Thomas could see no sense in perpetuating the name Christmas. He suggested that it be changed to Christ-tide.

Quick as a flash, Daniel O'Connell was on his feet with his snapping Irish wit. "Perhaps," he said, "perhaps we might begin by changing our colleague's name from Thomas Massey-Massey to Totide Tidey-Tidey."

Parliament laughed and the matter was dropped.

It is a fact, though, that the world seems to turn Catholic for a few weeks each year at Christmas. The Blessed Virgin Mary carries her Holy Infant on countless cards. Manger scenes are built around St. Joseph and the shepherds. Light streams from the open doors of medieval Cathedrals, and the faithful are summoned to adore Christ the Lord in many a quaint carol.

Jesus' birthday still centers around the Mass for us Catholics. In many places the first Mass is at midnight on Christmas, when Bishops and priests go forth to the altar vested in sumptuous cloth of gold, clouded by a haze of rich-smelling incense, blue in the soft-light of myriad candles. The angelic hymn is intoned in the sonorous Latin "Gloria in Excelsis Deo," and is taken up at once by the innocents in the choir, rising to its climax:

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Cathedral Choral Pageant

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ing of special mention are Robert Sis, John Schnettler, and Robert Cassidy who constructed the three stages and the other necessary props. Miss Rita McConnell with the assistance of high school girls has succeeded in capturing the atmosphere of Biblical days by deftly costuming the cast of 56. Richard Reider and his assistants succeeded with effective lighting techniques in turning the church into a stage without losing the religious atmosphere that the Christmas story requires.

"The Christmas Story" is intended to make its viewers conscious of the true meaning of

this sacred feast. Everyone is welcome. No admission will be charged.

Christmas Crib Sets

Polychrome Finish
5" - 6" - 8" Figures
21 Piece Sets

SCHAEFER'S

17-6th Ave. So. St. Cloud