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 SATURDAY, DEC. 26, 1903.

A Merry Christmas to all!

A Joyous Feast.

Probably the most joyous feast day in the Catholic calendar is Christmas. It marks the day on which the Incarnation was completed, when God became man that we might come into the full understanding and benefit of the prophesied redemption from the sins of our first parents.

For centuries the Jews had watched for the advent of the Messiah in the worldly way they imagined that He would come in pomp and majesty of kingly glory to drive from Palestine the Roman oppressors and to restore to the Jewish monarchy its pristine splendor. They could not conceive of spiritual kingdom, of rule by love, of further humiliation of God's chosen people. In this they were like thousands of latter day persons, who imagine they are Christians because they lead correct lives from the worldly standpoint, because their names appear on the church lists, because they subscribe lavishly to organized charity, but who would shrink from contact with actual poverty, who would think they had committed a mortal sin if they happened to allow a wave of sympathy with the offenders against worldly code of ethics to surge through their hearts. For these, like the Jews of old, the Messiah could not come to a stable. He must be clothed in royal purple and housed in a palace, else they will have none of Him.

To those of us who have the grace of true humility in our hearts, to those whose spiritual eyes are not blinded by pride either of intellect or accidental station and who share with the wise men and the shepherds of Bethlehem the faith that knows no doubt, there is a peculiar sense of joy on Christmas day. No matter what sorrows oppress, no matter what tribulations beset us, no matter how humble our station, we are confronted with the thought that Christ came into this world as lowly of the lowliest. He first saw the light of day in a stable. Few of us can complain of a more humble birth place. Who dared predict that from that stable would radiate a flame that would light the whole world, spiritually speaking, that would change the entire tread of thought and condition?

Then let us all raise our hearts in thanksgiving on Christmas day because Christ was born for us all. He was born for you my humble brother or sister just as much as He was born for the king, the nobleman or the millionaire. Let us kneel at the crib and adore the Infant Jesus, as did the wise men of old. Let us ever bear in mind that all we have, all we may be, here and hereafter is summed up in this line:
 A Child, a stable and a star.

A Contributing Cause.

Undoubtedly the burning, uppermost, ever present, most discussed phase of American economics just now is the relative relation of labor and capital. Sage editors discourse learnedly and, sometimes not with good discrimination about the obligations of employers to employees and vice versa. Preachers rant about how the employer should act toward the employees. Labor agitators formulate impossible panaceas to cure the industrial ills. Civic federations and kindred organizations meet and discuss, and resolve and so on.
 In our humble opinion there is one phase of the controversy which has

been overlooked entirely and that phase is a vital and pertinent one.

Employers and economists and sociologists seem surprised that the employees are not better satisfied. "Work is plentiful and wages are higher than ever before. What more do our men want?" appears to be the burden of their plea.

Probably it is true that wages are higher, on the average, but we think all will concede that they have not increased in the same ratio as the profits of the employers. Nevertheless, all other things being equal, that should not produce industrial discontent.

Do the employees ever stop in their mad pursuit of wealth to ask what part their wives and daughters are playing in this industrial war? "Where do they come in?" may be asked. Let us try to explain. In these days of opulence and athletics, it is not considered good form if a woman looks after her own house or is the mother of a family. With much idle time on her hands it is to be wondered at if my lady turns her attention toward teaching the wives and mothers of the poorer classes how to run their homes and how to rear up their families. Houses are not furnished as they should be. Children are not clothed well enough. Homes are not what my lady would have them. Schools are made into elegant palaces expensive tapestries and costly pictures are hung on the walls. Poorly clad children do not comport with such fine surroundings. Besides they are frowned upon by their more fortunate associates. Therefore, the artisan must buy better clothes in order that his children may not appear at a disadvantage.

Thus the wives and daughters of the employer have contributed indirectly toward a material increase in the living expenses of the employee, a greater increase by the way than the increase in his wages.

If employers cannot persuade their wives and daughters to cease their efforts to make the employees spend more on living expenses, they must make up their minds either to pay still higher wages or that there will be no cessation in the agitation for increase in pay.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Interesting Event Celebrated by Rev. Wm. A. McDonald, of Geneva.

Very Rev. William A. McDonald, pastor of St. Francis de Sales church and dean of Geneva, celebrated last Monday the silver anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. That this milestone of the Dean's life, marking the end of a quarter of a century of successful service in the church, might be properly recognized, solemn high mass was sung. Dean McDonald acted as celebrant, Rev. Martin J. Hendricks of Penn Yan, as deacon; Rev. Felix J. O'Hanlon of Clifton Springs, as sub-deacon, and Rev. S. V. McPadden of Geneva, as master of ceremonies. The music of the mass was impressively rendered by the children's choir.

The following other priests assisted in the service in the sanctuary: Monsignor Henricks of Ovid, Rev. B. W. Gummenger of Lyons, Rev. M. U. Dwyer of Seneca Falls, Rev. M. T. Madden of Trumansburg, Rev. James E. Gibbons of Newark, Rev. J. T. Dougherty and Rev. Bernard Gelfell of Canandaigua, Rev. W. H. Harrington of Waterloo, and Rev. James B. Keenan of Stanley.

Silver Jubilee.

The silver jubilee of Rev. James E. Hartley, pastor of St. Ann's church of Palmyra, took place at the rectory Monday. Many visiting clergymen were present and all of the parishioners. An elaborate dinner was served and a most enjoyable time spent. Numerous telegrams of congratulation were received by Father Hartley, testifying to the high esteem in which he is held by his colleagues.

Ordinations.

Bishop McQuaid Saturday morning at 8 o'clock ordained to the priesthood four students of St. Bernard's Seminary. The names of the new priests are the Revs. Richard Shanahan of Syracuse, Daniel Hennessy of Cortland, William Dwyer of Utica, and S. Bi-dnarkevitz of Buffalo. Frederick Zierlein of this diocese, received the order of sub-deaconship, and several students received minor orders.

Special homeseekers' excursions via the Nickel Plate Road. Extremely low rates to all points in the West and Southwest. First and third Tuesday of each month to April, 1904. Good return limit. Full particulars of local agents or write R. E. Payne, Gen'l Agt. Buffalo, N. Y.

Five Minute Sermon

Christmas Day.

GOSPEL: St. Luke ii. 14.—"And it came to pass that in those days there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that the whole world should be enrolled. This enrolling was first made by Cyrenus, the governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee out of the city of Nazareth into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his espoused wife, who was with child. And it came to pass that when they were there, her days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first born Son, and wrapped Him up in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds watching, and keeping the night-watches over their flock. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the brightness of God shone round about them, and they feared with a great fear. And the angel said to them: Fear not; for behold I bring good tidings of great joy, that shall be to all the people. For this day is born to you a Saviour, Who is Christ the Lord, in the city of David. And this shall be a sign unto you: You shall find the Infant wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God, and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will."

The prophet Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem of Judea, and the word of God pronounced by the lips of that inspired man must be fully verified. The word "Bethlehem" signifies "the House of Bread," and it was proper that from that house should come He Who is the heavenly bread, He Who nourishes our souls with His doctrines His grace, and His flesh.

What lesson should we learn from Jesus in the manger?

A thousand things, but principally contempt for riches and the pomps and honors of the world. Jesus, the Master of the universe, born poor and in a stable; Jesus the most innocent of beings, to suffer at His very birth; Jesus, the Adored of angels, humiliating Himself in a manger as the least of the living. With such an example before us, who would prefer the riches, the pleasures, and the pomps of this transitory world to the eternal joys promised by the Son of God?

SS. Peter and Paul's New Organ.

The new organ which has recently been installed in SS. Peter and Paul's church of this city, was heard for the first time at a special service last Sunday evening. The organ is one of the largest and most expensive in city. It was built at Springfield, Mass. The total number of speaking pipes is 2,436. The following rendered selections on the new organ: Professor Eugene Bonn, organist at St. Patrick's Cathedral; Albert Barnes, of Springfield, Mass.; Prof. S. Seibold, organist at St. Boniface church; Fred C. Pohl, organist at St. Michael's church; Miss Margaret Vay and Prof. Frank Pohl, assistant organist and organist, respectively, at SS. Peter and Paul's church.

The Washington University.

His holiness, fulfilling a promise made to the Rev. Dennis R. O'Connell, rector of the Catholic university at Washington, when the latter was presented to him by Cardinal Gibbons, has sent to Mgr. O'Connell a most cordial letter containing a brief in favor of the Catholic university at Washington. The pope most warmly recommends the university to the support of the whole people of the United States, "trusting to their generosity to enable it to accomplish its final object, which is to maintain and augment the intellectual supremacy of America."

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Weekly Church Calendar.

Sunday December 27—Gospel, St. Luke, ii, 38-40—St. John, Apostle and evangelist.
 Monday 28—The Holy Innocents, martyr.
 Tuesday 29—St. Thomas & Becket, archbishop and martyr.
 Wednesday 30—St. Sabinius, bishop and martyr.
 Thursday 31—St. Sylvester I., pope and confessor.
 Friday January 1—Circumcision of Our Lord.
 Saturday 2—St. Macarius, Hermit.

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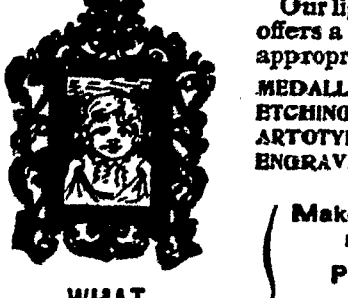
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A Merry Christmas to all

Before another issue of The Journal, Christmas will have passed and left behind a pleasant memory. So we take this opportunity to wish all a
 MERRY CHRISTMAS.
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