

Prince Of The House Of God.

BY E. M. MCCARTHY

[Continued from last week]

"Now, my friends, there remains but one or two great events in the life of the Prince of the House of God. After remaining about seven years in Egypt, St. Joseph was again warned by an angel: 'Arise, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel, for they are dead who sought the life of the Child.' Mary knew that the mission of her Son was to begin in Israel. It seemed to her that the ecstasies of love she had so long enjoyed with her beloved Son was nearing a close, but with perfect resignation to God's will she bowed her head and held Jesus, her Son and her God, close to her heart, and He who created all, calmed her as He in years afterward said to the troubled ocean 'Peace, be still!'"

At the command of God they returned to their humble home in Nazareth and dwelt there in peace and happiness. The Holy Child was a wonder among other children, who loved to be with Him. His pure face was like the sun, particularly when He spoke of His Heavenly Father. St. Joseph's sister, Mary, and her husband Cleophas, and their two sons, James and Jude, came to welcome them home, as also did a beautiful child, a companion of theirs, called John. This lovely boy had a countenance which bespoke the love of God in his soul. When the children beheld Jesus they went to Him, prostrating themselves at His feet. They did not know that He had called them, and they were to be His followers in His great work of preaching and redeeming souls.

Jesus often spoke of these children as His brothers, as of ten was the case with the Jews. They called cousins brothers. Some persons have thought erroneously that James and Jude were children of the Virgin Mother. Jesus alone was her child. He was not of flesh and blood, but of God, and God's Word became incarnate. And the Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us. Jesus was now twelve years old, and no purer child did the sun ever shine on. His wondrous face was beautiful to behold!

The feast of the Passover was near, when all the Hebrews were obliged by that law to celebrate the festival in the Holy City. Joseph and Mary, in compliance with the law, took the Child Jesus to Jerusalem to be enrolled, accompanied by Mary [Joseph's sister] and other relatives and friends. The throng was very great, as there was a rumor among the people that the birth of the Messiah was true, and that certain wisemen of the East had been His star. Many said, "Surely, Christ is here," but as they expected a glorious Christ, who by His very presence would annihilate their oppressors at a glance, they looked for a worldly deliverance. They would hardly recognize the humble Child with Joseph and Mary, who had come to render homage to the Most High, and not to boast of the glory which God had bestowed upon Joseph and Mary. After the seven days of the solemnity when they had offered a sheaf of barley, the first produce of the new harvest, and had eaten the unleavened bread as a symbol of the purity of their hearts, when the Lamb without spot had been immolated and they had partaken of it standing with their friends and relatives, then the homeward journey commenced.

The crowds were so great that the Blessed Mother and some of her relatives became separated from the others. They passed the first resting place because the night was so beautiful and when they came to the next where all were to meet, the fear which took possession of the Blessed Mother was like death when she saw that Jesus was not with the others.

Her first question to St. Joseph was: "Where is Jesus? I thought He was with you, as did all our friends."

And St. Joseph replied with a dismayed look, "And, I was sure He was with you, Mary."

Then those two hearts which loved Jesus so much became greatly troubled. They sought Him among all their kindred and friends. Then to their relatives and friends they said: "We will return to Jerusalem and seek the Holy Child." They had traveled three days and to return again to the Holy City certainly was a hard task. But that did not matter. They were seeking Jesus, and when they found Him, their sorrow would cease. The anguish was crushing.

"Oh, Mary thought, has the time come when I must be separated from my Child?"

Then both lifted up their hearts to God and bowed with humble submission. On and on they went, asking as they passed: "Did you see a beautiful Boy about twelve years of age?" Some remembered seeing Him as they went up to the Holy City, but no one saw Him returning.

"Oh, what a pity," some said, "if anything has happened to that lovely child." Mary and dear St. Joseph did not stop until they came to the Temple. There they saw the vast galleries were deserted, and with palpitating hearts, they entered. They passed on in silent resignation. They were about to penetrate further in order to interrogate the priests, when from the bottom of the immense and magnificent porch of the Hebrews they heard the voice of Jesus. The Holy Virgin dropped on her knees and thanked God for the sweetest sound she had ever heard—the voice of her beloved Son.

Oh, the joy which filled their hearts! Tears of happiness fell from their eyes. They then approached nearer so they could hear the words issuing from His Sacred lips. One of the pillars in aid with gold hid her from view.

There Jesus stood in his simple white tunic, more radiantly beautiful than any angel in heaven when permitted to come to mortals. He stood inspired before the priests and doctors of the law, asking and answering questions. They were astounded at His wisdom, comprehending how weak were their ideas and how imperfect their virtue compared with the high ideals and sublime virtues which the Child spoke of. "Be ye, therefore, perfect, as also your Heavenly Father is perfect."

They were silent before Him. Some were convinced of His mission; others from the hardness of their hearts were still in doubt. Mary and Joseph filled with the grace of the Son of God, whose glance penetrated the highest heavens, listened with holy adoration. The Virgin had heard such things in her own house before, but never uttered in human speech, and that through her Divine Son.

When He had finished he turned and left the doctors so quietly, they hardly knew He had gone. Joseph and Mary left the pillar and advanced toward Him, amazed feeling their own nothingness in the presence of His majesty.

With humble sweetness Mary spoke to Him, "Son, why hast Thou done this to us? Behold Thy father and I have sought Thee sorrowing."

"How is it that you sought me; did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?"

The Holy Virgin felt a trembling seize her. For the first time it was her God who spoke. The ties of earth for a moment disappeared. He had spoken of His Heavenly Father. They were filled with wonder and awe. They understood not the word that He spoke to them.

And His mother kept all those words in her heart. As they journeyed, Jesus was the loving and docile Child, obedient and dutiful to them.

[To be continued]

The Archbishop of Cincinnati has approved of the organization in his diocese of a Catholic Charities League for the raising of a general fund out of which charitable and benevolent institutions in need of monetary help may be assisted.

ABBE PATRICE FLYNN Special Faculties For Army Chaplains.

Our priests have received their special faculties for army chaplains granted by the Holy Father. The following is a summary:

- (1) To administer all Sacraments, excepting confirmation and orders.
- (2) To absolve from all censures of whatever nature with one exception.
- (3) To impart a plenary indulgence to converts from heresy and to Catholics in the hour of death, even if they cannot confess their sins, provided they are repentant.
- (4) To recite the rosary in place of the breviary, if he cannot carry a breviary with him, or for a legitimate reason he cannot recite the office.
- (5) To absolve with a general absolution soldiers called to battle, no matter how great the number, if it is impossible for them to confess their sins singly. They must, however, be sorry for their sins and have the intention of confessing their sins if the opportunity presents itself. (This suggests Father Corby at Gettysburg).
- (6) To celebrate Mass twice every day in the week as necessity or great advantage to the soldiers demands. In cases of extraordinary necessity, he may say the second Mass even though he has broken his fast. A stipend may be accepted only for the first Mass.
- (7) To set aside the usual calendar of Masses and substitute one of the following four: "Trinity," "The Blessed Virgin," "De Requiem" or "Mass in time of War." Special rules as to when each Mass is to be substituted are given.
- (8) To administer the Holy Eucharist to soldiers called to battle, in the form of Holy Viaticum.
- (9) To impart the Apostolic blessing in the usual form of the Church to all the faithful who have confessed their sins and received Communion, or who are at least repentant, who call upon the Holy Name of Jesus and who patiently accept possible coming death from the hand of God as the price of sin.
- (10) To bless scapular medals for soldiers so that they may receive all the indulgences attached to the wearing of them, whether they have been previously enrolled in the regular scapular or not.
- (11) To reserve the Blessed Sacrament on battleships and in military hospitals or places in a camp convenient thereto, provided the altar is decently arranged and a priest is stationed there, and Mass is celebrated at least once a week and a light is kept burning.
- (12) Army and navy chaplains may grant faculties to hear confession to other priests who may come to help with confessions.

Wednesday evening April 17th, long before 8 o'clock when the Abbe was scheduled to give his address, every available corner of the hall was filled. Hundreds were content to stand in parts of the hall where a view of the stage was impossible. Outside in the rain nearly three thousand clamored to be let in. Finally at 8 o'clock Abbe Flynn appeared at the entrance to the hall and gave a ten-minute talk to those who had hoped to hear him at length.

From 7:30 until 8 o'clock the Park Band gave a concert and there was singing under the direction of Jesse B. Millham. The stage was decorated with the Allied flags and with flowers. In front of the speaker's rostrum was a plaster cast of Albert, King of Belgium. Arthur E. Sutherland, former Supreme Court Justice, presided and introduced Abbe Flynn. As the priest advanced to the front of the platform the band played the Marseillaise, at the conclusion of which he gave the French salute, for he has the rank of captain in the French army. As the last note of the national air was sung the audience showed in no uncertain manner just how it regards its wonderful ally. One enthusiast in the gallery rose and screamed, "Vive la France!" Song sheets and handkerchiefs were tossed into the air.

"I am proud and glad to be in Rochester," began Abbe Flynn. "Rochester once had as a visitor our Lafayette. He was here. He brought with him the very spirit of France. I am proud that France helped America to gain her independence. May I say that at Yorktown, when the decisive battle was fought and won, 60 per cent. of the soldiers were French."

"Now you people are paying what you are good enough to call your debt of gratitude. You are coming over to us. I cannot help but think of the words of your general, your general is a favorite over there, words which I believe will go down in history. When General Pershing came to Paris he went to Lafayette's tomb and placed a wreath of flowers there, saying these simple and sublime words, 'Lafayette, America has come; here we are.'"

"What do you want me to tell you to-night? I have not come here to discuss or argue about the aims of the war. I can't tell you when the war will end. It may end in two months; it may be two years; but we are absolutely sure it will end in victory."

At these words of the priest everybody in the hall stood up and cheered. Mr. Dossenbach and his musicians added a few triumphant notes while the hall resounded with the applause. Abbe Flynn stood until it was quiet again, and then he said with a smile, "I thank you in the name of France."

"I have come to tell you facts and some of my poor personal experiences at the front, in the first-line trenches, on the fire step, at the listening posts, forty or fifty yards from the German lines," he continued. "I'd like to tell you to-night what I hear. I hear voices from over there—and it's not so far away, my friends. I hear their voices calling me from over there and I am ashamed of being here to-night, happy and contented."

"In a short time we shall all go home and go to our comfortable beds, while my boys are out there in the trenches. What sort of night are my boys spending in the rain, in the mud, in danger and in death? I hear from France a cry of distress, of war, of suffering, of death and of blood. But I also hear a cry of hope and of confidence and of absolute victory. I hear a cry and prayer from France to America for help, help, help by all means."

Mayor Edgerton, who was honorary chairman of the meeting, delegated to Bishop Thomas F. Hickey the task of thanking Abbe Flynn for his visit to Rochester.

Late News of Ireland

At Portadown, S. Evant, Inspector of Factories, prosecuted Messrs. H. Robb, Ltd., for having excessive humidity in their weaving factory. Mr. Evant said it was the first prosecution of the kind in Ireland. A penalty of £5 and costs was imposed.

The unexpected demise of J. Devlin is deeply regretted in Killeshandra. He had just finished tea and retired to bed when the fatal attack occurred. There was a large attendance at the funeral.

The Ennis Branch of the Gaelic League has passed the following resolution: "That we, the members of the Ennis Gaelic League, are surprised to find that the books of the Very Rev. P. Canon O'Leary are boycotted in the program of the National University of Ireland. We consider that the works of a man who has done as much, if not more, than any living Irishman for the revival of our native language deserve better treatment, and we wish to enter our emphatic protest against the boycott."

The death is announced at Old Lough, Sussex, of Hardress Standish O'Grady, 5th Viscount Guilford, aged 77. He had a seat at Cahir, Kilmallock, and was a D. L. for Co. Limerick. Not having married, he is succeeded by his brother, Hon. Frederick Standish O'Grady, Ingleside, Wilt.

District committees have been established at Castlewellan and Downpatrick. At the latter center five branches are working. The officers are: President, Father H. Boyle, P. P.; vice-president, Dr. Moore; secretary, Father J. Byrne, C. C.; treasurer, Edward McGrady. At Castlewellan James Fitzpatrick (Gargory) is acting as secretary, and branches are opening at Gargory, Leitrim, Drumard and Castlewellan.

The death has taken place, in his 40th year, of Patrick J. Farrell, formerly of Castle Street, Dalkey, and Main Street, Bray. Deceased was for some years a member of the Dalkey U. C. He left for Australia in 1915 and was returning to Ireland in March of last year when the vessel in which he voyaged was torpedoed and he had spent three days in an open boat, the after-effects of which led to serious illness, from which he never rallied.

Mr. O'Donnell was informed in Parliament that the department had specially provided an instructor in flax growing for Kilmoglin district. The flax there had been grown for the Fibre Corporation, Dromore Co. Down, who took over the crop and provided for scutching.

While going from Belmullet to Ballina on the motor mail van, Mary Daly, Bellina, fell off the car and was killed.

Died—At her daughter's residence, Longwood, County Meath, Mary Ann, wife of James Cribbin.

In view of the large acreage under wheat in Carry [County Sligo] district, steps are being taken to have an old flour mill, dismantled some years ago, renovated and liberal promise of financial support have been secured.

Dr. C. Moloney, M. O. Mullinagh, has died. Limerick Co. C. and Tipperary Guardians adjourned as a mark of sympathy with T. F. Ryan, Co. Surveyor on the death of his wife, and Croom D. C. expressed sympathy.

J. Concannon, contractor, Athlone is carrying out extensive improvements to Glasheen Catholic Church, Athlone, for Rev. Thomas Gaughran, P. P. The work is to be the plans of J. V. Brennan, architect, Bank Chambers, Belfast.

Foreign Mission News

The Propagation of the Faith Society, 348 Lexington Ave., New York City.

"The spur that urges missionary Bishops and priests, whether they live near the Arctic Circle or the Equator, to take long, fatiguing journeys over frozen wastes or through the jungles of the tropics is the same—to watch over their widely-scattered children and keep them safely within the fold."

From Africa comes the sad news of the death of Bishop Leclaptois, W. F., Vicar Apostolic of Tanganyika. Stricken with apoplexy, he lived but a short time after the attack. The obsequies of the dead prelate were solemn and impressive. A company of soldiers attended them and also a large number of Europeans. The native Christians showed profound grief at the loss of a spiritual father who had looked after their welfare for more than twenty-three years.

A statue to the memory of Constantine, the first Christian Emperor, has been erected in Algeria. It is placed in what was formerly the city of Cirta, and which was destroyed by pagan hordes early in the IV century. In 313 Constantine restored it, and it was afterward known by the name of the great defender of the Cross.

Wonderful to relate, the Christian population of Banguelo, in N. Rhodesia, has risen from 6,000 to 19,000 since 1913. Bishop Larue, of the White Fathers, writing from Chilubula, states that this is in spite of the fact that many of the priests were called away by the war. After the coming of peace it will be necessary to replace the poor straw-thatched chapels with decent churches, if this godly flock is to be properly cared for.

OUR ALMS LOSE NOTHING ON THE WAY TO INDIA.

Fr. S. Frappe, S. J., has been authorized by his bishop to make an appeal for St. Michael's College, Batticaloa, in the Trincomali diocese, Ceylon. What has impressed him is the length our money goes in India. He writes: "Let me point out the wonderful efficiency of American financial help in India. The buying power of American money increases as it reaches these shores. Happy Americans, who by taking four dollars out of their pockets are able to put five into our college, was just started when the war broke out. It is still incomplete, and the jungle growth is beginning to creep over the place. Part of it needs a roof, other parts flooring. But we manage to accommodate 250 boys, though they have not the needed implements for a scientific course. If well-prepared, they can secure lucrative positions, and it seems pity to deprive them of the means of earning a living."

TOLD BY A SISTER OF CHARITY IN CHINA.

One day while I was passing by a new building I heard a weak cry like that of a baby, and looking all around I saw at last in the corner of the garden a small bundle of straw. I called the two Sisters who were with me, and together we examined the bundle.

Imagine our surprise to see a tiny baby, less than an hour old, in the midst of this rough cradle. It was in a pitiable state, covered with dirt. Luckily, it had fallen into our hands, otherwise in a short time it would have been dead. The Sisters quickly ran to the convent with the bundle, washed the little body, and then gave it baptism. It is now well and strong.

The distinguished French priest and author, Abbe Klein, thoroughly well known and appreciated in America, is now, if report be true, attached to the American Hospital at Neuilly, France.

LARGE CLASS IS INITIATED

Musa Caravan, Order of Alhambra, Holds Annual Ceremonial.

The largest class of candidates in the history of Musa Caravan, Order of Alhambra, was initiated into the order on Tuesday night of this week, when the annual ceremonial was held in Concordia Hall, Clinton and Clifford avenues. Edward J. Walsh, grand commander of the Rochester caravan, presided. A number of national officers, several delegations from nearby caravans and members of the order who are in the service were present for the initiation.

In connection with the ceremonial an elaborate historical pageant was presented with special scenery, costumes and electrical effects. This part of the program was in charge of Don C. Manning.

Following the initiation and pageant a banquet was served.

At the numerous military camps thousands of Catholic soldiers assist at the Masses said every Sunday.