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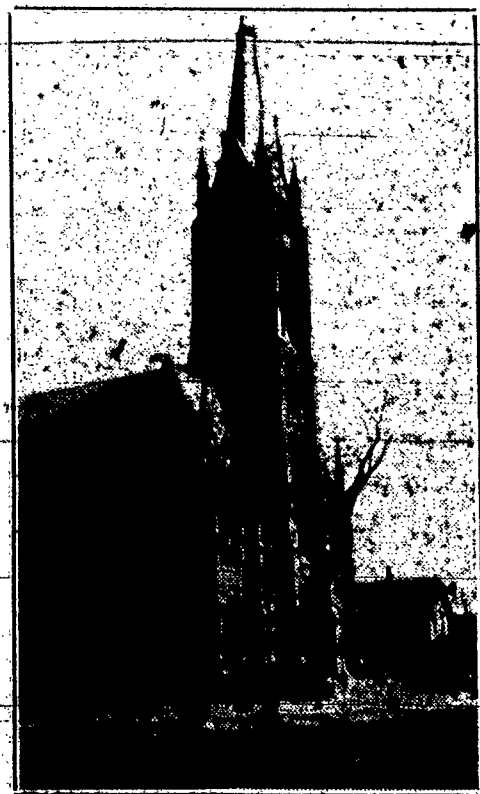
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Thousands of Mexicans Unite In Honoring Virgin of Guadalupe On Anniversary of Her Apparition

Many Indians Participants in Great Religious Festival— Great Throngs of Pilgrims Came from All Parts of the Land

Mexico City, Dec. 19.—Friday marked the 399th anniversary of the apparition of the Blessed Virgin at Guadalupe to a humble Indian named Juan, and the most colorful and elaborate religious festival which has taken place in Mexico since the days of the ancient Aztecs was held at the great national shrine at Guadalupe. Among the worshippers were thousands of devout Indians who had traveled by foot from all over the country. Footsore and weary, they encamped on the slope of the hill throughout the night, and shortly after dawn began the trek to the summit.

Great Throngs at Mass
Before daybreak in the morning Masses were celebrated continuously at the shrine and hundreds of thousands of people attended. Hundreds slept overnight in the patio at the shrine and in the vicinity.

Mgr. Pascual Diaz, primate of Mexico, celebrated high Mass, assisted by the leading church dignitaries of the nation. The interior of the sacred edifice was ablaze with the light of candles carried by the faithful. Hundreds of mothers carried sick babies, praying for their cure, and the intensity of their religious fervor was unsurpassed. Many made the long pilgrimage up the steps to the shrine on their knees.

Another incident hitherto unrecorded in the celebration of this great festival was a number of Russian motion-picture camera men taking films which it was said would be used in a great production shortly to be released in Moscow.

The 400th Anniversary
Friday was the 399th anniversary

of the apparition. Innumerable miracles have been attributed to intercession at the shrine. During the coming year, in celebration of the approaching 400th anniversary, extensive ceremonies are being planned in honor of the Blessed Virgin as patron of Mexico, under her title of "Queen of Guadalupe," and large numbers of high Catholic dignitaries are expected to visit Mexico for all parts of the world for this celebration.

Let Us Give Thanks

Let us give thanks to God today,
For health and strength to labor;
Let us thank Him for the food we eat,
And for each friend and neighbor.
Let us thank Him for the fields of green,
For sweetly blooming flowers,
For wooded hills, for sparkling brooks
And for the leafy bowers.
Let us thank Him for the skies of blue
That daily smile above us.
For He is kind to us, indeed,
He made us, but to love us.
And yet why set aside one day
On which to be thanksgiving?
We, on all days should thankful be—
While we on earth are living
—John A. Twamley

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In The Heart of God

By THE REV. JOHN HENEGHAN

Do you want to find out what is in the heart of God? Look into your own heart for whatever is good and tender and true. Make your tenderness eternal; multiply your love and pity by infinity. If you want to find out what is in the heart of God, what was in the heart of Jesus Christ as He lay a Victim for the world in Mary's arms, what is in the heart of Him Who still dwells amongst us in the Blessed Eucharist and Who daily renews His sacrifice on our Altars.

See how close Mary's head bends over her Child, so that one halo suffices for both. Mary's arms were a living mantrance, as she raised her Child aloft in the cave at Bethlehem and gave the first Benediction of Jesus to the world.

We are now in the presence of the invisible world where the soul is united in secret union with its God; where love and willing hearts are the only jewels that we bring. At the

threshold of Bethlehem—the power of riches ceases, the influence of the mighty ones carries no weight. Humble hearts of faith, the meek, the contrite, the lowly, alone gain audience here.

Give us thy love and thy grace, O Lord, and this is enough—enough for all. The hands of a little Child around the sinner's neck, the hands of a sinner round the neck of God pulling Him down from His throne in Heaven so that he can whisper in His ears broken words of sorrow and of love—this is what Bethlehem means. O Mary, Mother! O Jesus, Brother and God!



Bethlehem's Star Shines in Holland

The Star of Bethlehem is connected with an interesting Catholic custom in Holland. The young men of the various towns get together and go from house to house, carrying a huge illuminated star, typical of the star which lighted the Magi to the Holy Child. From the crowd which follows, as well as from each house, they collect alms. Afterwards they carry the collection to the burgomaster to be used for the poor of the district.

Pastoral Note in Carols

In the growth of Christmas carols, which have come down to us from the Middle Ages and beyond, it is curious to note that one can trace the presence of pastoral influences, suggesting that the shepherds who heard the first carol have ever since brooded over the form.

GENESEE 1123

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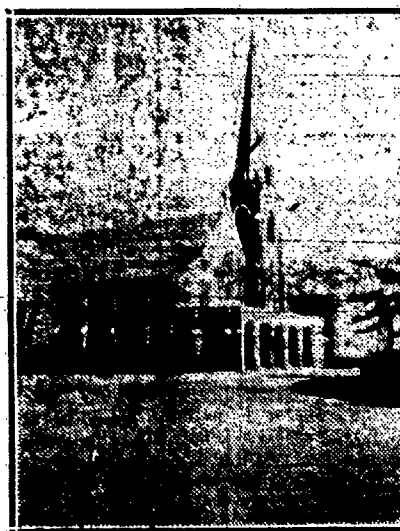
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