

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions

EPIPHANY OR LITTLE CHRISTMAS



By REV. WILLIAM A. DOHERTY, C. SS. R.

(This article has been written exclusively for the Catholic Courier, diocesan newspaper, by Father Doherty, Redemptorist priest in charge of the Wednesday devotions at St. Joseph's Church which are conducted each week in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.)

Christmas-tide is waning and the festive joys are becoming memories. Soon the spangled trees will be discarded and the presents that hung upon them will be incorporated into the routine of service. We are fast attaining the day of the Manifestation. Epiphany is not small among the Feasts of the Church although in some localities it is still cherished as "Little Christmas." To most of us, I presume, it is regarded merely as the end of the celebration. Rather than that it should be hailed as the beginning of our happiness. If the eyes of the Gentiles had remained blind to the coming of the Son of God where would they have looked for happiness?

Long ago when the history of the Old Testament was being written, the ears of Israel were listening to the enchanting songs of the Royal Singer or David. Woven into one of his sublime masterpieces were these words: "The heavens show forth the glory of God and the firmament declareth the work of his hands." Centuries later, in another clime, there were men who found in the heavens beauty for their eyes, inspiration for their hearts and knowledge for their minds. The stars were their friends, well-known and loved.

These men were aware of each star's coming and the time of its leaving. Imagine their surprise on autumnal night to behold a stranger on the dark road of the heavens.

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Michael Williams Is Chosen President Of Historical Group

Pittsburgh — (NCWC) — Michael Williams, Editor of The Commonwealth, was elected president of the American Catholic Historical Association at the closing session of its annual meeting held here Friday.

Other officers chosen were: Dr. Jeremiah D. N. Ford, first vice-president; the Rev. John La Farge, S.J., second vice-president; the Rev. Dr. Peter Guldin, secretary; the Rev. George B. Stratemeyer, O.P., assistant secretary; Miss Josephine Lyon, archivist; and the Rev. Dr. John Keating Cartwright, treasurer. Members of the executive council elected were: Mrs. Mary Young Moore, of Los Angeles; the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Splaine, of Boston; Dr. Leo Francis Stock, of Washington, D. C.; Dr. George Hermann Derry, of Detroit; and the Rev. Dr. John Hugh O'Donnell, of Austin, Tex.

Sessions of the association were held at the Hotel William Penn and a joint banquet with members of the American Catholic Philosophical Association was held at the Fort Pitt Hotel.

MUST ENLARGE CHINA SEMINARY

Tatung, China — (NCWC-Fides) — The regional seminary, here, with an enrollment this year of 78 students, has reached the limit of its capacity and must enlarge its buildings to meet the demands of steadily increasing numbers. In two years there will be 100 seminarians and in a very near future, 150. Definite provision for enlargement was made at the meeting of the Ordinaries, here in October.

thought to themselves that the God of Heaven does not prolong his miracles when human means suffice to attain the desired end. The infant King then must be in Jerusalem. To find him all we shall have to do is to enter the first street of the city and inquire for him. No doubt the streets will be strewn with flowers and palms. The populace will be engaged with welcoming festivities. So these Eastern Travelers resumed the road. Their journeying should soon be rewarded with a sight of the Great Child of Destiny.

Not in Evidence
They came to the gates of the city. They passed between the rows of soldiers that guarded the entrance. What a sight greeted them! Where was the pageantry that should have accompanied the birth of the new king? Jerusalem was cheerless. No sign of joy or festivity was in evidence anywhere. People were moving to and fro but with serious mien and absorbed aspect. They would stop and stare at the cavaliers from the East with their precious stones and magnificent robes and perhaps were amazed at their manly beauty. But they were evidently unaware of the reason of their presence in Jerusalem.

One of these magnificent riders stooped over the neck of his camel and asked a question that struck the inhabitants with the force of treason. "Where are we to find the newborn king of the Jews? We have seen his star in the East and have come to adore him." Astonishment ran wild over the countenances of the Jewish throng. They had no idea of what these men were referring to. The Magi themselves were in consternation. Could these people really be in ignorance of so extraordinary an event? They goaded their camels on until they came to ancient palace of King David. There they camped whilst the city churned with excitement over the news that these strangers had brought them. All Jerusalem was troubled the Gospel tells us and the news soon came to ears of the tyrant ruler. Herod himself. Then all the trouble that blew up from the streets of the City settled in his unholly heart brewed unquenchable hatred against this Child of a Virgin Mother.

Their Plans Not Herod's
The Wise men were called to his palace. Treachery was disguised with a bland interest in this new ruler and he told the Easterners to return when they had found the Child and let him know his whereabouts so that he may go and pay it becoming honor. The Wise Men left his presence. Their plans were not those of Herod. They departed through the spacious gates and set out once more on their search. Which way were they to go? The doubt was settled for lot there was their star once again. Glittering with all its radiant beauty it took up the lead again. This time it was to stop above the hallowed spot where the Divine Child was reposing. Where was that spot? That question we shall leave to the theologians to settle. We shall be satisfied with the simple fact of the Gospel that the Wise Men found the Child.

What matters most to us is that they found Him with His Mother Mary. That means all the world to us. It means life or death. It means everything for the meeting of the Wise Men from the East with the Son of God was the moment that God embraced the East and the West in one eternal embrace. It was the gathering of the world to His Bosom and the important thing to remark is that those who were strangers to God before now became friends but the means He used was the arms of the immaculate Virgin. His Son was set for the rise and the fall of many is Israel, as the prophet said, but those that find that Child with Mary may hope to be among those that rise with the Child and its Mother.

Open-Air Catholic Action



Leo A. Codd, attorney of Washington, D. C., and member of the Washington Catholic Exotic Guild, photographed here, explained the Catholic conception of prayer, in one of the downtown parks in the Capital City recently. His audience, for the most part, was composed of non-Catholics. Laymen and laywomen, trained in the art of public speaking and "Catholic Evidence," have organized similar guilds in the eastern, mid western and southern states.

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A LETTER FROM THE FRONT

Missionaries don't want to emphasize or stress the sacrifices they make—though quite real ones—in carrying out the divine command of teaching all nations. Nor was the following letter written with publicity in mind. We find it too good, however, for private consumption and want to share it with our generous mission friends back of the lines:

Regina Paets, Soppo
P. O. Duen, British Cameroons West Africa
Dear Propagation Friends:
I had booked my passage to Europe by a boat leaving here in January. My General Chapter takes place at Mill Hill next July. Well, some days ago my "Big Brother," who is at present in Ireland, sent me a cable saying that he is returning to the Philippines next January. That's all over! He finds out the name of the steamer you are sailing by, then sends out a submarine to sink it. He begs me to "come immediately." You see, like Brother and I have not seen each other for twenty-five years and he wants to have a few days in my company before we make our last farewells on earth. And I have another brother, a missionary also, at present in England. Him, likewise, I have not seen for twenty-five years. And our dear old father—now eighty-five years old—wants to see the three of us together before he sings his "Nunc Dimittis."

Naturally this cable has upset my plans. I had mapped out my work up to January 24, 1934. Now I have to sail November 23, yet the same amount of work remains to be done. Do you know what I am going to do? I am simply not going to do it, that's all. What is it you say of fruit in America? "We eat what we can and we can what we cannot." Well, the same to my two months' work! I'll do what I can. . . . A visit to the States? I don't know. I would like to meet, just for the happiness of meeting them, all those kind friends who have been so good to our mission all these years. On the other hand, they would like to make my visit "worth-while" . . . and I am afraid we should all be embarrassed.

Well, dear loyal friends of the missions, I wish you a Happy, Peaceful, Successful, Joyful and "Grace"-ful New Year.
Your very grateful friend,
(Msgr.) P. Rogan,
Prefect Apostolic of Buea, Mangalore, India. — The Diocese of Mangalore, one of India's richest sources of vocations which has supplied many priests and nuns to other parts of India, now counts three young men at the Dominican novitiate at Rome and two young members in a Roman convent of the Dominican Sisters.

Clipped For Fun
Bride-To-Be: My only worry is about mother. She's bound to miss me terribly.
Friend of the Family: Oh, well, she can't complain. After all, she's had you longer than most mothers keep their daughters.

Pat and Mike were out camping. The first day the mosquitoes were terrible, so they went to the drug store to buy iodine and painted their faces with it to keep off the insects. It was after dark when they returned to camp. Suddenly a firefly whisked by them and they could not believe their eyes. Soon they saw thousands of them in the darkness and Pat cried out: "Look, Moke, they're after us with lanterns now."

He: Dear, our engagement is off. A fortune-teller told me I am to marry a blonde in a month.
She: Don't worry, George. I can be a blonde in a month.

Customer: "Have you got any eggs that you can guarantee there are no chickens in?"
Dealer: (after a pause): "Yes, sir, duck's eggs."

"How's your car running?"
"Not so good. I can't keep it throttled down."
"How's your wife?"
"Oh, she's about the same."

"What was the last card I dealt you, Mike?"
"A spade, Why?"
"How?"
"He spit on your hands before you picked it up."

(From a Lockport paper). The bride was attired in a gown of white wool batiste and satin, and she carried a bouquet of pink roses.

Jimmy was having dinner at his chum's house. At table his chum's mother said: "Now, Jimmy, can you cut your meat?" "Sure," said Jimmy. "Sometimes we have it as tough as this at home."

A radio in a car is a wonderful thing. The other evening we were followed for several blocks by a motor cop but found out later he only wanted to hear Amos 'n Andy.

Mother: Dorothy, did you strike little brother?
Dorothy: Well, somebody's got to do the whipping around here.

Annual Auto Show Set for Jan. 22-23 At Edgerton Park

The 26th Annual Rochester Automobile Show will be held at Edgerton Park January 22 to 27 inclusive. Arthur C. Lohman, executive secretary of the Rochester Automobile Dealers' Association, sponsor of the show has announced.

Mr. Lohman who has guided the past two shows will again act as manager of the 1934 show. Members of the Rochester Automobile Dealers' Association recall that it was in 1908 that the first dealer in "horseless carriages" arranged their first show which was held in Convention Hall.

For several weeks the officers and directors of the dealers' association have been working on plans to make the 1934 Auto Show the most important event of the winter calendar and the first in the Rochester Centennial celebration, a show that will overshadow all its predecessors. Plans for the show are under the direction of S. Cunningham, president of the Rochester Automobile Dealers' Association, C. W. Filds, vice president, E. J. Horton, treasurer, Ed Schorn, secretary, Arthur C. Lohman, executive secretary and show manager, and George E. Vroman, Harry Fischer, T. J. North, directors.

Mr. Lohman predicts that attendance at the coming show will break records due to the continued increasing buying interest in cars and because of the radical innovations being offered in the new models to be unveiled at the show.

"The automobile is one of the industries that is leading us out of the depression," says Mr. Lohman. "Everyone seemingly knows that to sales chart has jumped high above a year ago. Figures show there is an enormous amount of replacement equipment in the motor vehicle industry and the importance of this factor in the appraisal of our economic future in the months immediately ahead."

MISSIONER CONFIRMS 4,000

Upper Nile Africa. — (NCWC) — Father Minderop, a Mill Hill priest of the Vicariate of Upper Nile, Uganda, administered Confirmation to 4,000 persons in the course of a tour made through the north and northeastern parts of the district in the name of the Venerable Apostle, the Most Rev. John W. Campbell, who was absent from the Vicariate.

Whether a man is worthy of confidence or not is something which can be tested only by time. — Proverb.

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