

### Dominican Priest To Give Triduum At Old St. Mary's

Triduum in honor of the Immaculate Conception will be conducted by the Rev. Anselm Townsend, O. F. M., of New York City at Old St. Mary's Church, beginning Sunday, Dec. 6.

Services on Sunday Monday and Tuesday evenings will begin at 7:45 p. m.

The Rev. Dr. George F. Kettell, pastor of Old St. Mary's announces that non-day Mass will be celebrated Tuesday the Feast of the Immaculate Conception beginning at 12:15. Other Masses will be celebrated by 6, 7, 8 and 9 o'clock.

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## A Visit to Bethlehem

By REV. GERARD W. SPRACHER (Written for NCVC Christmas Supplement)

In his simple and touching manner St. Luke tells us the story of the birth of Our Divine Saviour. And Joseph also went with Mary 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 his child. And it came to pass that when they were there her days were accomplished, that 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.

The distance between Nazareth and Bethlehem is about sixty miles over ground that is for the most part rough and mountainous. The journey places the first journey in the month of December, a time when a rainy season is in its height. Every mile of that journey there must have been a hard step. Yet we cannot picture Mary as anything but joyful, magnifying God in her heart as she recalls over a lover again the sweet words of the Lord: "The Lord is with me."

Auto Bus Used Today The same journey today over modern roads takes only a few hours. A Jerusalem we change to an auto. Jerusalem Bethlehem. After we have reached Bethlehem we are met upon the delightful hills to the south of the Holy City. As Guerin writes: "The general aspect of Jerusalem and the memories which this city recalls evoke a deep and silent emotion which is full of grandeur but at the same time sad the pilgrim experiences different sentiments in general aspect of Bethlehem. An indescribable serenity and a gentle cheerfulness hover over this graceful little town which instead of being a city of the dead, as it is called, is a city of the living. It is the only place in the grotto where the manger is still used throughout the year. The Holy Sacrifice is offered there from midnight until dawn.

At the other end of the grotto we emerge into a passage hallowed by centuries ago. Here at the altar has been dedicated to St. Joseph in memory of the angel's warning to fly into Egypt. Further on the Holy Innocents also have a chapel where the tradition says that the child Jesus was slain. Here of an ancient and faithful words its way through the sanctuaries can be heard the children's choir singing the "Salve Regina."

Beautiful Valley We cannot leave Bethlehem without a visit to that beautiful valley to the east of the town where angel voices announced to the shepherds the birth of Our Saviour. Here at the birth of Our Saviour the shepherds cleaned in those happy fields and the boy David had tended there the father's flocks. How fitting then that in this valley the shepherds should be the first to receive the glad tidings: "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to men of good will."

It is hard to tear ourselves away from the magic of those green hills that once echoed to angel choirs. We are happy as we realize that this Christmas, 1900 years after not just a handful of shepherds but millions in every part of the earth will kneel before a manger to adore the birth-day of their Saviour.

### DICATE CATHOLIC SEAMEN'S CLUB



Rev. Robert P. Dugan, director, leads in a song at the recreational center for port of New York seamen and longshoremen, established by the Shrine Church of the Immaculate Conception, New York City. His Eminence Patrick Cardinal Hayes formally dedicated the club on October 27.

### Alhambra Sets Dinner To Honor Emmett O'Neill

Retiring Grand Commander Emmett J. O'Neill of Nizza Caravan, Order of the Alhambra will be honored at a testimonial dinner, Tuesday evening, Dec. 2 at Terrace Gardens, Ridgeway Ave. Past Grand Commander O'Neill has just completed two years as head of the local Caravan. His services to the Alhambra will be reviewed in an address by District Attorney Daniel J. O'Mara, a past grand commander of the Caravan. The toastmaster will be Daniel J. Fitzgerald who also held the highest office in the Caravan at one time. Present Grand Commander James M. Ryan will preside. Arrangements for the dinner to which the Alhambra are inviting men friends are in charge of San. James M. Graham, Charles G. Mahon, Thomas J. McCarthy and Clarence M. Lofkin.

### Commodore Barry Stamp To Go on Sale

Washington, D.C. A United States postage stamp honoring Commodore John Barry Irish Revolutionary patriot of the American Revolution will be placed on sale December 15 with the first stamps of the Army-Navy, heretofore issued by the Post Office Department it was announced here today.

### On the Front Against Communism

Under an occupational group system it would be one practical way to offer a wide diffusion of private property to restore to the individual the position that it once held in American life, an American aspiration. Organized Social Justice (N.C.W.C., Washington, D.C.)

### French Prelate Rebukes Reds

PARIS - Secretaries of the Communist Party in the region of Nord have addressed to His Eminence Achille Cardinal Lienart, Bishop of Lille, an open letter in which they protest against recent statements of the Cardinal denouncing the Communist menace.

### Says Uncle Dave: A Prayer For Spain

We are in the midst of the season of Advent and the feast of Christmas is approaching. The young Catholic soldier who was in the American Army on the Rhine following the great war, wrote on Christmas night, 1919, as follows: "Surely the whole world appreciates this first peace Christmas after the war. But I feel that perhaps there is no one who appreciates peace so much as a soldier who has come face to face with war's consequences. What does it mean to me? What if I were this very night crouching in a shell crater, listening to the muffled sounds of the wind in the barbed wire, and expecting every moment to be blown to atoms? Instead, God has given us peace and I am able to sit here in the comfort of a warm room and let down my thoughts in a pleasant means of adding to my Christmas night. And so I feel that I appreciate for the first time from the Gospel of St. Luke: '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 tragedy of Spain, particularly as the season of Christmas approaches, brings to mind those observations of a young soldier in the first Christmas after the war. Let us not forget the message of our Bishops asking prayers for Spain.

### Children's Book Club Suggests Christmas Gifts

"What shall I give to the children?" is the question wrangling these days to say nothing of parents and grandmothers, uncles and grandfathers. And the answer is "Give them a membership in the Pro Parvulis Book Club."

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### Priest Returns Home Finds Father Dead

BOSTON, The Rev. Francis Fitzgerald, O.S.B., left Madrid, Spain, last week for his home in New York City. He had been in Spain for several months, celebrating Christmas Day with his family.

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