

# Pope's Christmas Message Sounds Note of Hope

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## Catholic Courier Church Finance Edition

### A REVIEW of the Financial Needs Of the Church in Parish, School and Diocese

#### Financial Statements Parish Income For 1941

This is the season for financial statements. Every kind of business presents to its directors, its owners, at the close of the year or just after it a statement of receipts and disbursements, with an indication of profits made or deficit incurred over the twelve-month period. Not only owners, directors, holders of stock, expect this statement, but the State and the Federal Government want it to check on taxes to be paid; the bank wants it to see that the loan it has made to the business is continuing in safe condition.

The Pastor as Treasurer of the Parish Church Corporation submits to the Board of Trustees, to the Bishop or to his people, a Financial Statement covering the receipts and disbursements for the year that is past. The Board of Trustees are required by their office to receive and examine the statement and sign it. Each parish board is made up of five trustees: the Bishop of the Diocese, the Vicar General, the Pastor, are Trustees ex officio; the two lay Trustees are elected by the clerical Trustees each year from among the members of the parish. The Bishop is required by Church Law to exact from each Pastor the annual Financial Statement and to keep it on file in his Chancery. The parishioners receive the Financial Statement as those most intimately concerned with the material welfare of the parish of which they are members and which they support by their contributions.

Such contributions are sometimes referred to as "gifts." The title is not correct: a gift is something one bestows on a wholly voluntary basis and not in response to duty or obligation. One's contributions to community welfare, in city, state, nation, are made through taxes; taxes are not gifts. One's dues as a member of a society or club, are not gifts; they are the assigned tax on members to meet the expense of running the club or society. Members of a parish acknowledge their responsibility to the parish for all the work that is done for them, in their name, by the parish authorities. They meet this responsibility by the support they give the parish. They are members of the parish because they live within the territory that has been lawfully assigned by the Bishop as proper to the local parish. The parish is founded for them, is conducted for them and in their name, undertakes its religious program for their benefit and for the benefit of their families. Sincere Catholics, loyal parishioners, admit their responsibility to the home parish and meet it honestly by their regular contributions to its support.

The Pastor of a parish is the United States is also the Treasurer of the parish. He cares for its spiritual needs, he administers its temporalities. He arranges the list of Sisters for the school of lay help for parish maintenance, arranges for light and heat and telephone service, looks after erection of parish buildings and repairs as needed on them in a word, he manages the parish plant, caring for all its needs and contracting bills in the name of and for the parish. From the income he receives as Treasurer, he meets these bills, pays interest on the debt, reduces the debt by principal payments, and strives to have some balance in the treasury at the end of the year.

Financial Statements for 1941 are now in the making. Your Pastor is busy on his. It is a matter of deep concern to him: it is a matter of deep concern to you. Look over the Statement carefully, study its elements, learn from it how your parish is doing. Learn from your consideration of all it means whether you are doing your full duty in the contributions you make for parish support.

Your parish has nothing to sell. It was not instituted to make money. Factories and mills produce goods to sell, are run to make money for the owner through sale of needed goods to the community. Some factories produce just one article, some make a whole series of articles. Income from each item is carefully considered in its relation to the gross income and the profit it produces. So with stores, out of the multitude of articles they put up for sale, each one must furnish its part of the gross income and of the net profit the stores make each year.

Your parish has a service to render that can not be bought, that can have no equivalent in terms of money. What it gives, it gives to you and yours freely. God's word and God's grace, God's sacraments and God's blessing, Holy Mass and Holy Communion, your share in the prayers of priest and people, your participation in the merit of all good works wrought by the parish, all these are yours, belong to you, are made available to you by your parish church. These benefits are for all in the parish for those who support the parish as a necessary unit in their religious lives; for those who neglect this duty, or give only a meager response to the call of the parish for adequate support. Zachaeus gladly gave to Christ the hospitality of his home, the bounty of his table; he had not thought that he was paying Christ for His grace and blessing. The good thief received salvation from Christ, though he never was able to give Christ anything in the way of a material return.

Christ insists that we have a part in carrying on His work of mercy in the Church. Support of His Church is a praiseworthy act, a good deed that will bring us manifold blessings. To support the Church in our parish is to do God's will; to withhold our support is to violate God's will. All the good work accomplished in a parish is dependent on the contributions of the parishioners; without their help, the parish could not stand, could not accomplish any good. The obligation falls on each parishioner as an individual responsibility. The great number meet it generously and gladly; a few sidestep it. Yet the charity of Christ is exemplified in every parish ministering grace to all with no questions asked concerning the fulfillment or non-fulfillment of this duty of parish support.

Your Sunday Offering plus that of your fellow-parishioners make up what we know as Parish Income. Other items enter into it, but it is made up principally from what you drop in the basket Sunday morning. Parish Income is the material basis of the good wrought in your district by your parish church.

#### Items of Parish Income

Beside the Sunday Offering stand some supplementary sources of Parish Income. They remain always secondary to the Sunday Offering, but they have a most important part in securing sufficient support for the parish. To give to the Sunday Offering and to ignore these supplementary items, is to deny our parish church part of the support it needs from us. A short review of the more important of these items may be helpful.

Pew rent has been from the beginning an important part of Parish Income. It was a matter of family pride to have a definite pew or sit-

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## Diocese Asked To Mark National 'Day of Prayer'

### OUTDOOR CRIB AT ST. JOHN'S, ELMIRA



CATHOLIC COURIER Staff Photo

This striking Crib on St. John's Rectory lawn is again attracting hundreds of visitors. Twelve feet in height and surrounded by trees, the Crib with its beautiful colored figures of the Holy Family is illuminated at night with red spot lights. Chime music softly flows from the Crib. A rustic fence brings visitors within a few feet of the manger. Designed and constructed by the Rev. Raymond C. Heisel and a parishioner, Joseph A. Buckholz, State Motor Vehicle Inspector, the display was awarded 2nd prize in a city-wide Christmas decorations contest last year.

## Christmas Fittingly Marked By Ladies of Charity

A special observance of the Feast of Christmas by the Ladies of Charity of Elmira followed the admonitions of their founder in bringing joy and gladness to many of God's poor and underprivileged. The Personal Service Committee, headed by Mrs. Walter C. Ervin, visited the Chemung County Farm a few days before Christmas. The occasion was featured by a personal visit with a gift for each inmate regardless of race or creed.

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## Bishop To Pontificate New Year's Day, Will Conduct Holy Hour

Responding to President Roosevelt's designation of New Year's Day as a national day of prayer, His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, will conduct a Holy Hour in Sacred Heart Cathedral on the New Year la. ushered in Wednesday night, and will pontificate on New Year's Day at noon.

(The Bishop's invitation to the people of Rochester to exchange New Year's greetings, Sunday, Jan. 4, and the schedule of appointments for January appear on Page 3, this issue.)

Other churches in the diocese will hold special services with St. Patrick's Church in Elmira of which the Rev. William J. Brian is pastor also conducting a New Year's Eve Holy Hour.

Declaring that this country's strength "is of greater avail as God upholds us," the President requests that the day be one "of asking forgiveness for our shortcomings of the past, of consecration to the tasks of the present, of asking God's help in days to come."

A Solemn Pontifical Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Kearney in the Cathedral at 12 M. on New Year's Day in particular response to the President's request. The Rt. Rev. Magt. George V. Etnnis, pastor of the Cathedral announced Sunday that a special collection for the American Red Cross would be taken up at the noon-day Pontifical Mass on New Year's Day.

The Holy Hour at the Cathedral will begin at 11:30 P. M., Wednesday evening and continue until 12:30 P. M. Services will consist of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament exposed, singing of appropriate hymns and a discourse by the Bishop. Special prayers for the restoration of world peace, the welfare of American boys in service, and for all others who are undergoing hardships as a result of the war, will be offered up.

His Excellency, Bishop Kearney will extend New Year's greetings to the people of Rochester at the episcopal residence, 947 East Ave., on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 4, from 2 to 6 P. M. On that afternoon members of his flock and persons of all creeds and stations in life call to greet Bishop Kearney and

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## Holy Name Members Plan Three-Point Program To Mark Feast Day Jan. 11

A three-point program for appropriate celebration of the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus Sunday, Jan. 11, is outlined today by the Rochester Diocesan Holy Name Union comprising all Holy Name Societies in the diocese.

All Holy Name members are requested by Diocesan Union leaders to participate.

1. Reception of Holy Communion that Sunday morning in the parish church.
2. National broadcast of address by the Very Rev. Harry C. Graham, O.P., on "Church of the Air" Columbia Broadcasting System, at 1 P. M.
3. "Candle Light Ceremony" in designated district churches at 4 P. M.

By a coincidence, observance of the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus falls on the same Sunday, Jan. 11, as does the Feast of the Holy Family designated by His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, as the Annual Family Communion Sunday.

Holy Name members may receive Holy Communion in a body as is

the custom on the second Sunday of the month, but it is recommended that the corporate Communion be suspended this month, and each member receive with his family in accordance with the wishes of his Bishop and his pastor.

In the nationwide broadcast over the Columbia Broadcasting System at 1 P. M., Jan. 11, the Very Rev. Harry C. Graham, O.P., National Director of all Holy Name Societies in the United States, will address the nation in general and the members of the Holy Name Society in particular. The message, it

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A Blessed New Year To All

Your Parish News Pages 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14

WESS STATE TITLE  
Newark, N. J.—Richard W. Geismar, senior at St. Benedict's Preparatory School, won the State Championship in Oratorical Declamation in the State finals at Woodbridge High School.