Library Signment:

When Shall We Begin?

By Rev. Benedict Dances

December to point-thy busy for most people. We should all of us beed our Master's weeks to Martha. busy about many things, but one thing is needful. Otherwise, these chosen and precious says of the climbing up to Christman will finde out in futile fussing. We shall have failed to gain the true Christmas spirit, in the only way in which it can be fully gained—by quiet and meditative fre-ing with the Church during her Advent perparations. No matter how bury, we must for our own peace and enrichment of soul take time out for Mass and meditation during this Advent time.

Good cover-all books for this purpose would be the Blissal (of course), preferably the fit. Andrew Missal with its extensive notes and commentary; the Short Breviury, published by the Liturgical Press of Collegeville, Minn., for \$2.85; The Year of Our Level, by Emiliana Lochr, with its excellent short chapters on the Sandays and feasts of this present season; and The Layman's Christian Fran, by Ernest Oldmeadow. Then, too, no good Cutholic will want to miss some reading out of the peoplet lastes in the Old Textoment of the Bible: for Lexica to the great spokesman of the Church's Advent yearnings.

As to the Saints of December, there are not many who have books written about them in English. Here are those I remember:

Dec. 1: ST FRANCIS XAVIER . good biography of him by Margaret, Yee, and one by Theodore Maynard and a play by Penian . and a play by Pennan called A Saint in a Harry. Dec. 4: ST BARBARA

Not a biography, but a grand poem by Chesterton, The Ballad of St. Bar-She has for long been for some obscure reason, the patroness of gunners May she protect our soldiers on all their dangerous mission

e. 6: ST. NICHOLAS . . . I feel there must be tourh on this attractive saint who so dominated the imagination of the Middle Ages and has come even to our own day though quite unrecognitable now. as Santa Claus but I am not acquainted with it

Dec. 7: ST AMBROSE . Some day not far away someone is going to make good the regret-table gap in English biographies of this magnificent Bishop of the fourth century who left an indelible and treasurable mark upon the Church. In the meantime we can read about him in Church Histories, and best of all in the affectionate memoirs of him given by his pupil and son-in-Christ, St Au-

gusting in Books 5 6 and 9 of the Confessions.

Dec 8: FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY You might read Mary of Jeruvalem, by Jean Ravennes Or Father Lynch's A Wemman Wrapped in Silence.

Doe 12: ST. LEXY This Triple-Martyr re-impressed the early Christians that help appear cont-to be inscribed in what were kink of an the Cypticle that were read at Mass; and E has stayed in this day in the Canan aroung the help events manned after the Consecration. I have be a short chapter as her in Father Hardelp's Morning of Christ.

Box M: CHRISTMAS, THE RISTRUMY OF CAR LORD... There are name Christians redictions in the Catholic Knistener Library. And There is, be-sides Lord Common's very fine authorize, A Chris-line's Christians, which I hope soon to place there.

Dec 11: ST. JOHN THE EVANGE ST. . . There is a fine historical electry, steeper, and distinctly, by Abbo Countaint French on St. John and the Class

Dec. W. ST. THOMAS A BACKET . . . T. S. T. of a name of play Murder in the Cathodral contest on the struggle of this four-square Archibiolog of Canterbury with the English King which resulted at least indirectly, in his martyroism.

That's a big reading program even for several Decembers, but it ought at least to show here rish are the possibilities for instruction and inspiration if we personnelly devote currence even a little bit. to the task of purpoing "the one think sendful," in the midst of the many things that here us so have.

The following books have recently been placed in the Catholic Evidence Library, Columbus first Can tre. Rochester:

THE MASS OF BROTHER MICHEL Hides Rest

SEVENTEENTH SUMMER.

SAINTS AT PRAYER. BAYMOND E.F. LEVENTE
THE ROAD TO VICTORY

Archbuhop Francis I. Spelman ILL FARES THE LAND ... Cores McWilliams THE ARMIES MARCH .. John County

THY PEOPLE MY PEOPLE

A BOYE BY E J RAWSIDS RV.D

THE SAINTS OF IRELAND Single de Miscaso
PHILOSOPHY FOR THE MILLIGNS

windswept a novel by Mory Ellen Chase -1. Too have lived in arcadia"... Reminiscences by Elizabeth Bellacel amples

THE SEVEN CIPTS OF THE HOLK GHOST . . Bernard Keity, C.S. Sp. FLIGHT TO ARRAS . . . Antoine de Saint-Exupery PADDY THE COPE ...

NEW HOPE A novel by Fatrick Gallagher YOUNG JOHN TAKES OVER

DARK SYMPHONY ...

- Autobiography by Elizabeth Laura Adams CATHERINE OF ARAGON . . Garret Marringly Note: Next week the column will be devoted to singling out of the current lists of books some good books for Christmas gifts.

= Sursum Corda:

'The Just Waging Of War'

By Rev. James M. Gillis, C.S.P.

That phrase is the heading of a chapter in Gorald Vann's Morality and War. More than once in this column and a dozen times elsewhere I have expressed the opinion call it rather the carefully conaidered judgment after years of reading that Fa-ther Vann of the English Dominicans is as compotent a philosopher as there is on either side of the Atlantic. "There's nothing he has touched that he has not adorned," said Samuel Johnson of Oliver Goldsmith May I be permitted to plagtarize and paraphrase there is nothing that Gerald Vana touches that he does not clarify. In that he is a true Phomist. Unless a man writes clearly he is no

In the chapter referred to Father Vann makes the point that even after a war has been entered into justiy it may be waged unjustly. He quotes Rose Macaulas who had said whatever other nations may do we as human beings who value civilization cannot sanction savagery. She had in mind the use of particularly horrible capons. But Mr Wick-ham, Steed replied that there is no essential difference between bows and arrows 'Greek Fire,' boiling oil molten lead and other weapons employed of old. and mustard gas phosgene Lewisite, thermite bombs flame-throwers and similar modern weapons' He went on to say that gations will not fight with boxing gloves and that "there is no limit to what men will do

At that point Father Vann contributes the comment there is no limit to what men will do, but there is very definitely a limit to what men may do" and remain within the bounds of moral theology With that distinction as a starting point, the learned Dominican proceeds to the fundamental moral principle "it has always been held the means in Cath-olic theology" that the only limit objects of strack as far as human beings are concerned are the combatants, it has always been held that the siangister of non-combutants could be excused only if it were not deliberate and directly willed." But "today," he says "the civil population is the object of deliberate and willed artack. He quotes Marshall Petain, Gen-eral von Altrock and Major Sherman Miles, all of whom agree that in modern warfare the extermination of the civilian population is directly simed at

As a matter of fact Father Vann quotes half a dozen other authorities military or political, who justify direct purposeful attack upon the civilian population of the enemy Especially if the enemy has committed similar arts. Father Vann in reply says quietly "Christian theology is more exigent" and quotes from "A Code of International Ethics," no violation of any prescription of positive law by one of the belligerents will ever entitle the other free himself of all the laws of war and rever to the most cruel methods of primitive barbarism. And he adds "the slaughter of the innocent is not a question of positive law but of natural law." tive law may change with times and customs, but natural law is part of the Eternal Law of God.

who wish to pursue the subj

or more first hand authorities referred to by Father Vann in his "Morality and War" I remember also an article on "Reprisals" in the London "Clergy Re-view" for December, 1960 and a reply in the same magazine for February, 1941. What encrerns me al the moment is the prediction which has appeared in our American press with increasing frequency of late that Hitler in desperation will resort to the use of poison gas perhaps a more deadly kind of gas than any previously known. At present, they explain, he fears to commence that wind of game because he fears reprisals. But when the tide turns he may throw all discretion to the winds and cut toose with all he has, no matter how barbaric or

cruel a weapon it may be
And what shell the Allied Nations do in that
event. Ask the man in the street, ask the man in the armed services, ask the strategists; ask even the usual philosophers and moralists. They will all answer. Do what the enemy does. If he gasses our civilian population, gas his civilian population,

It sounds like common sense. But the problem arraes from the fact that no Catholis mornist will admit that one man may commit a sin because another does, or that one nation may justly do a criminal and barbaric deed because its enemy has already done it.

The theological principle puts us at a disadvanture? Of course But we have to bold to fundsmental ethical principle oven if we perish. The Huly See protested against the bombing of civilian populations in the Spanish Wars and Fether Vann quotes in support of the Papal atterance the declaration of a French Catholic Society to the effect that "no strategic reason can lustify the methods of total tra employed against non-combatants," and that the the massacre of non-combotants becomes if possible yet more revolting when the leaders responsi-ble invoke the cause of Christian civilization." Obviously what is said of bombing may be said with

emphasis of gassing. It puts a civilized nation in a predicament. But so did the methods of the Iroquois and the Sloux when they fought the American planears. Those pioneers did not resort to savagery. Naither must we. We may be fighting something worse than indians. But we shall have to win as civil tians. 'Copyright, 1942, N. C. W. C.) civilized Chris-

FIVE and TEN Years Ago--

From Dec. 2, 1834, Edition Called Doutscher Marien-Ritter-Orden (German Order of the Knights of Mary) existence of a Catholic laymen's organization paralleling the Ksights Columbus in America was revealed in an article in the Augsburger Postsitung, Catholic daily news-

From Dec. 2, 1937, Edition "There will be an essential opposition to birth control as long as there is a single Catholic Christian. This vigorous challenge was hurled by the fler. Ignatius J Cox. S.J. at a crowded mass meeting in Dunn Memorial Auditorium, Elmira, sponsored by Catholic organizations. Futher Cox was answering Mrs. Katherine Hopburn's previous advocacy of birth prevention at an Elmira meeting.

Purchase of the 80-sere George H. Clark Farm in bearsy Avenue by the Diocese of Eochesies was con-

TRANCE BUT IRU Linia-Kaowa Facts for Carbalics By M. J. MARRAY



Feast Days

under, Dre. 4-ST, MICHOLAS OF BAIL Manday, Dec. L.-ST. AURENIE, HISTORY, Translay, Dec. L.-ST. AURENIE, HISTORY, ULASTE CONTROL TO THE DISTANCE OF THE DISTANCE O Salanday, Dec. 12.-0178 LADY SIF OF ANGLEPE.

EDITORIALS

(Continued from Page 23)

Advent has its professful program, but it is a program familed on joy in the coming of the Christ. Its fam weeks effer its a descriptual opportunity which we should not let slip. Propose is the way of the Lord: make straight His paths"!

HOLOCAUST

Horror lills the mind at the contemplation of the great loss of life in the Boston fire. Death through lauraing, through sufficiently through panic, came enddenly and without writing to more seven hundred prople! War dulls the sensibilities, hardens the send to the recovering tale of thousands upon throughful all miss there is beath in battle on land and cea. But no power can take away completely the harror of this story of nearly live handred that went down to death far from the path of war, far from the ented of haitle,

Our prayers and sympathy to the beseared. Our hope that authors the everywhere will look carefully to proper prefection of people in public places. It comes easy to us to take encrything for granted to ired implicitly in ealely arrangements wherears we has This fright should lead people in every community to insist that excelut said constant attention be given to maintiliping safe conditions observer people gather.

MY MESSENGER

Great was the dignity of John the Raptist! From the tips of the Cod Man. Irem Christ, came words of praise of John such se were arrest before speaken not state of any inher. A man of engling chararter, a strict master of himself, in accetic, a stern prescher of the word: a prophet, and more than a prophet, John was the messenger

sent to prepare the way for Christ's public treating of salvation.

My Messenger! God the Father had given him his mission: little soul of John went the divine command. Years of penance and prayer and meditation on God's traits; years of dwelling in the design. away from the haunts of men, away from execute combates all at a lisetime spent in preparation to do Cod's will, to bear Codis, mesnrasur of the spiritual statur of this Mesonager of Godf

John in prison knew the works of Christ, knew the preselling of the Master. But as God's great messenger, he sent his own infiniteis as measureurs to Christ, to ask this if the was the Mestidi of third own walt for another. John would have his followers know by sixoconst contact the Divine Person of Jesus Chilet,

"My Mesonger." God sends John to us shuring this Telly Society of Advent to bring as His message of assured salvation through faith. in Clurist. John's message to us is to prepare in our legate file way of the Lord. John would send us to Clurist, to find pardon for sin in sacramental confession, to find new grace in devois receiving of Holy; Communion, to find peace with God in sincere repeatance of life. we have the grace to wil