

Library Signpost

O Come, All Ye Faithful

By Rev. Benedict Ekmann

Pope Pius XI wrote that there is nothing which instructs the faithful so well as the Christian faith as their celebration of the feasts of the Church.

"All Europe celebrated the Nativity at Christmastide, not as the memory of a long past event but as something which was actually happening.

This lovely aspect of medieval devotion is especially conspicuous in the French, Italian and Spanish carols I will regale you with two striking examples.

This French carol expresses a gracious intimacy between the simplicity of earth and the simplicity of Heaven.

Come and see the Holy One!
Mun ye without ceasing:
All the world with us doth run.

One to Him doth bear a lamb,
One a cheese doth carry!
One a little calf doth lead.

I myself as well as they,
Loving Gifts would proffer!
Come with me O come away.

This rugged carol from the Exancon district of France reveals the poetry of the commonplace when the light of heaven shines upon it.

Up and shake thee, Peterkin!
We must go and see this Child!
Hark at Tom and Tony's din.

See the crowd that goes along
Every one with gift and song
You're too late to pick your best!

What a slacker thou to don
'Drat' my gaiters both be wet!
Shalt be never clad? 'Come on!

Now then, gossip, I am sped
Don't stop staring at that pig!
If the stars baint overhead

Master Joseph, right good day
You be very welcome here
But what ever made you stray

All the best we have to give
Was His own before tonight.
Now He takes our every grief

(I am indebted for these carols to Sir Richard Terry's Two Hundred Folk Carols, published by Burns, Oates & Washbourne, London, 1933.

PRAY FOR HIS CANONIZATION



Catholics of the Archdioceses and Dioceses of California, upon the request of their Ordinaries have inaugurated a crusade of prayer for the early canonization of Father Junipero Serra.

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effectively his duty that was to lead "all mankind to see the Salvation of God."

Wise men today will follow John, will not be led aside by the great ones of civic and worldly life from the great business of seeing the Salvation of God.

'Quiz' Corner

Do people have to spend years in Purgatory, according to their sins in this life?

We know nothing about the time of detention in Purgatory but we can infer from the awfulness of sin that many souls suffer for long periods.

If there is a Providence, why do poverty, illness and other physical evils exist in the world?

Physical evils exist partly as a result of the imperfections of creatures, partly also as a punishment for sin, and to sanctify the good and detach their hearts from the things of the earth.

Suffering may be a blessing in disguise, for it is the fruitful source of merit, the greatest sufferers being the greatest saints.

Please explain what is meant by the Ember Days. The Ember Days are three days at the beginning of each of the

four seasons of the year. They are set aside by the Church as days of fast and abstinence to thank God for the blessings of the seasons gone before and implore His blessing on the new season, and at the same time to atone for our sins.

Is it true that a layman may be elected Pope?

Theoretically speaking it is true that any male Christian who has attained the use of reason may be elected Pope. It has been the custom for centuries to elect a member of the Sacred College of Cardinals.

Brushing Up On History

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

Raymond Gram Swing who seems to be something of a classical scholar even though it were convenient for him to remain in a broad bracket.

The French seem that to say the Romans had been with us for a long time. They were for the most part in fact the Romans who were to have dominion over the Mediterranean world.

From the middle of the third century B. C. to the middle of the second, Rome fought it out with Carthage and won. The City of Carthage was the present capital, Tunis, was obliterated, and set to the ground.

As for Egypt, it became Greek under Alexander in the fourth century B. C. and remained under the Ptolemies until the days of Cleopatra, Anthony and Octavian Augustus.

From that time on and until the coming of the Vandals, that is to say for 500 years, North Africa was Roman. Like Rome it became Christian and with the new religion came a new intellectual birth.

All these reminiscences of what we learned at high school and in college swarmed into my mind that night when Raymond Gram Swing mentioned the word "Carthage."

It makes my thoughtful person wonder if this sort of thing must go on forever. And the chance of it is that the scourge of war never yet to have been lessened—not to say removed—by Christianity.

FIVE and TEN Years Ago

From Dec. 15, 1937, Edition. Prayers for the complete recovery of His Excellency, Bishop O'Brien, stricken with serious illness, were asked throughout the diocese in an official bulletin issued by the Rt. Rev. Mgr. William H. Hart, Vicar General, of Rochester.

From Dec. 14, 1937, Edition. Creation by the Holiness, Pope Pius XI of the Archdioceses of Newark and Louisville and of the Dioceses of Paterson, N. J.; Camden, N. J.; and Owensboro, Ky., was announced at the Apostolic Delegation in Washington.

"Events such as this gathering are encouraging because they prove you are working to keep Christ in the world," His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, told 275 clergymen at the second annual Catholic Societies dinner in Mark Twain Hotel.

Quote--End Quote

We have no faith in that secret weapon story. The weapon might be possible, but not the secret. Worcester Gazette.

You cannot prevent the blades of sadness from flying over your head, but you may prevent them from stopping to build their nest in your hair. Chinese proverb.