

Library Suggest

'O Come, All Ye Faithful'

By Rev. Benedict Emma

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

All Europe celebrated the Nativity at Christmas-tide, 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.

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

'Come and see the Holy One! Run ye, without tiring! 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 Besancon 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 Archdiocese and Diocese of California, upon the approval of their Ordinaries have inaugurated a crusade of prayer for the early canonization of Father Junipero Serra, the first mission apostle of that State.

EDITORIALS

(Continued from Page 22)

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 civil 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. But to gain merit under suffering we must be patient and resigned.

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. Gills, C.S.P.

Raymond Gram Swing who seems to be qualified of a classical scholar even though a non-Catholic, has taken occasion to remark in a recent broadcast that there had been fighting in Tunisia without any years ago as there is today.

The Punic wars, that is to say the Rome-Carthage wars, three of them, went on for a hundred years with scarcely a break. They were the big struggle in fact the outcome decided who was to have dominion over the Mediterranean world.

Julius Caesar didn't come along until a hundred years after Carthage had been finally laid down, and not until this time did Rome get control of what we now call France.

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 close to the present capital, Tunis, was obliterated, laid flat to the ground, literally plowed under and strewn with sea salt as a symbol that it must not grow again.

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 400 years, North Africa was Roman. Like Rome it became Christian and with the new religion came a new intellectual birth. In fact several of the greatest intellectual lights in Christian history were born in North Africa.

All these reminiscences of a night when Raymond Gram Swing mentioned the word "Carthage." Today our soldiers are marching on the soil of Carthage and Hippo and Tagaste as they fly over it. They will see much sign of the majestic civilization and the splendent culture that once were there.

It makes any thoughtful person wonder if this sort of thing must go on forever. And the chance of it is that the scourge of war seems not to have been lessened—not to say removed—by Christianity. The Romans before Christ were ruthless conquerors and in the wars with the Carthaginians they called the African enemy in savagery and had little. They spoke of Punic Wars "Carthaginian Faith" just as we speak of the Nazi disregard for treaties or of Japanese treachery.

One might have imagined that the moral atmosphere over Europe and Africa would have been changed when herbarium faded, but war continued and treachery and cruelty. It makes one think of the prophetic exclamation "How long, O Lord, how long?" Dare we hope that this latest war in North Africa, in Europe and Asia will be the last? (Copyright, 1942, N. J. W. Co.)

FIVE and TEN Years Ago

From Dec. 14, 1937, Edition: Prayers for the complete recovery of His Excellency, Bishop O'Hern, stricken with serious illness, were asked throughout the diocese in an official bulletin issued by the Rt. Rev. Mgr. William M. Hart, Vicar General, of Rochester.

From Dec. 16, 1937, Edition: Creation by His Holiness, Pope Pius XI of the Archdiocese of Newark and Lancaster and of the Diocese 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 375 Elmira at the second annual Catholic Christmas 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--We're custer "Gazette."

You cannot prevent the birds of sadness from flying over your head, but you may prevent them from stopping to build their nest in your heart--Chicago Herald.