

Priest in Army

HARTFORD, Conn. — The Rev. John A. Kelly, assistant at St. Joseph's Cathedral, is joining the Army Chaplains' Corps. He attended schools here and in Baltimore.

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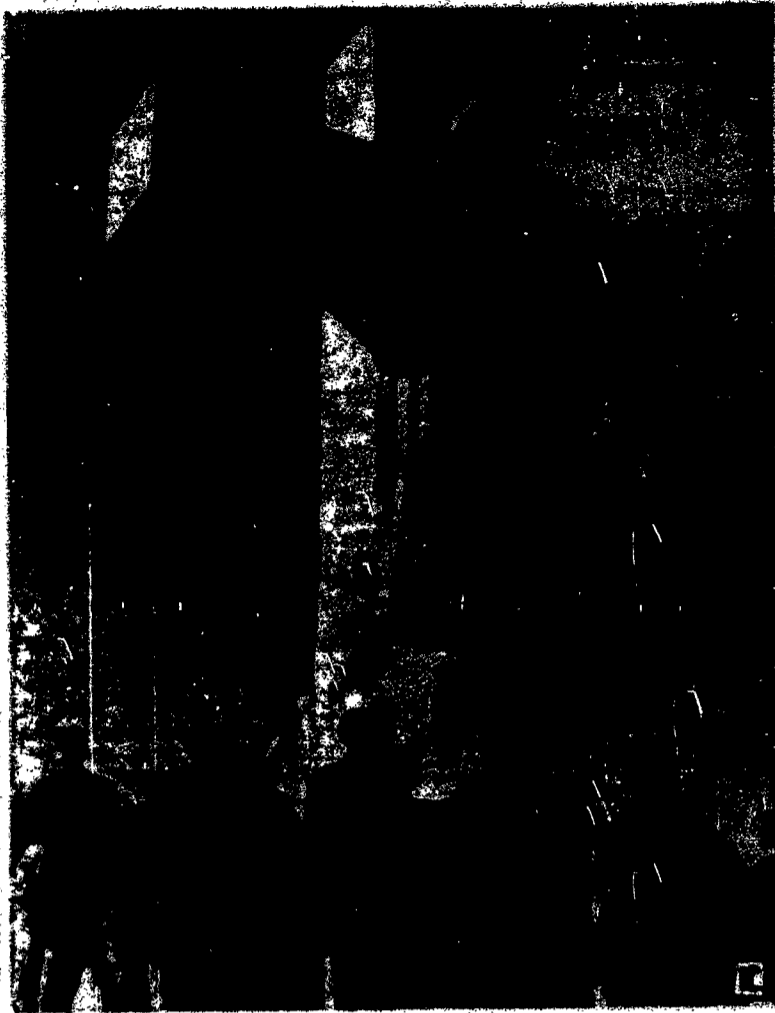
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SOLDIERS HONOR CHRIST THE KING



Soldiers stationed in the U. S. Armed Forces near El Paso, Texas, participated in the annual pilgrimage to the top of Mount Cristo Rey, on the Feast of Christ the King. Stations of the Cross were said going up the Mount and Holy Hour in English and Spanish was held at the top. Transportation from El Paso to the foot of the Mount was furnished by the National Catholic Community Service (N.C.W.C.)

Christmas Can Be Joyful

BY ONE WHO HAS TRIED IT

We hear on all sides today the discussion as to how Christmas should be celebrated in the midst of war. Some have even gone so far as to say it should not be celebrated in the

midst of war. Some have even gone so far as to say it should not be celebrated at all, as a spirit of joy is out of place in the world of sorrows.

But these are mostly the ones who celebrate in a round of worldly gaiety and that is out of place. For those of us who are blessed with the gift of Faith, this Christmas brings the realization that the past year has given us greater opportunities than ever to present rare and valuable gifts at the Crib of Bethlehem.

Most of our hearts have been touched with sorrow by this terrible war. Some are light ones caused merely by loneliness for a loved one who has left home to battle for all that we hold dear. Accompanying that loneliness is a fear that he may not return. Others have already realized that fear and carry a sorrow that seems to overshadow the spirit of Christmas.

Such ones say, "We cannot even exchange greetings or gifts. They express too much joy." We cannot express too much joy on the coming of the Infant Jesus, our Redeemer. Ponder the meaning of the word "Redeemer." It is His birthday. Let us heap our gifts at His Sacred Feet.

O, what a rare opportunity! We all have something to offer no matter how insignificant it may seem to us. The smallest and poorest gift can be made attractive by its wrapping as we all know.

So this Christmas let us enhance the beauty and value of what we have by remembering that none of us can ever lay claim to the magnitude of the sorrows of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and beg of her to wrap your sorrows around and around with those of her own heart and lay them at the feet of her Divine Son on His Birthday and I promise you that the day will bring you greater joy and happiness than you have ever known.

War 'Blacks Out' Bethlehem

(N.C.W.C. Christmas Suffragan)

The little town of Bethlehem was "blacked out" by war-time regulations last Christmas Eve. Some observers reporting this fact, suggested that, under these conditions, Bethlehem might have looked more like El Sid at the time of Our Saviour's birth than it has for many years. The town, which has

A Birthday Gift For The Infant

I searched my heart for a birthday gift To bring to the Infant Jesus Reflecting on all the wondrous gifts He came on Christmas to leave on.

When I opened the door of that poor, frail heart, 'Twas as dark as the midnight skies, And crowding my path were cares and fears That seemed to blind my eyes.

Then God flashed on the light of Faith, And it hooded my cold, chattered heart, And I swept those cares and fears to the wind— In my gift they'd have no part.

Then through the golden light of Faith, Came stealing Hope and Love, Till my poor heart seemed to gleam and glow With those precious gifts from above.

With the light of Faith, and the flower of Hope, And the warmth of a Love sublime, I knelt at the Crib of Bethlehem To offer this heart of mine.

'Twas the only gift I had to bring, But the Infant smiled at me, And lifted His tiny baby hands To accept it willingly.

The thought of my unworthiness Would have made me turn away, But the welcoming light of His Mother's smile, Bid me to kneel and pray.

M. E. P.

In the heart of the diocese, the Diocesan Retreat House conducted by the Redemptorist Fathers on Seneca Lake, Geneva.

stated, has been changed but little by the years.

One reporter noted that, with the town "blacked out," the stars shone with a striking brilliance against the darkened sky. There were no shepherd's campfires to be

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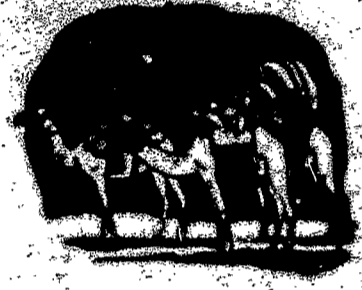
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Rev. John S. Randall

50 Chestnut Street

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MAY THE TRUE SPIRIT OF Christmas FILL ALL OUR HEARTS

When the world seems darkened by hate, greed, and want . . . may the significance of Christmas be revealed to us all; and to those in all corners of the earth. May we again understand the meaning of brotherly love and "Peace on Earth Good Will to Men."

Sibley's Will Be Closed Christmas Day And All Day Saturday December 26th Open Next Monday From 12 Noon to 9 P. M.