

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

Season's Greetings

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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.C.S.)

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 sorrow.

But these are mostly the ones who celebrate in a round of worldly gaiety and that is out of place 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, "I 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.

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

Then God flashed on the light of Faith,
 And it flooded my cold, cluttered 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,
 'Til 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. F.

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 seen on the hills.

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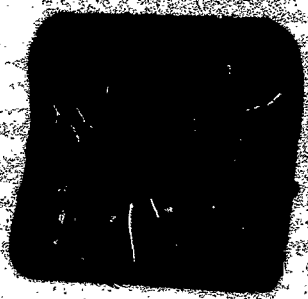
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THE WISE MEN BROUGHT GIFTS TO THE CHRIST CHILD

There came wise men from the east
 And falling down they adored Him
 And opening their treasures they offered Him gifts
 If, like the Wise Men, you would be truly wise bring to the Christ-Child a gift given in His Name.

Make this Christmas more blessed by bringing blessings to the poorest of God's poor.

THE LEPERS
 Missioners are serving more than 25,000 lepers this Christmas in 107 leper asylums.
 Send your donation to:
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 Rev. John S. Randall
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Silly's Will Be Closed

MAY THE TRUE SPIRIT OF

Christmas

FILL ALL OUR HEARTS

When the world seems darkened by hate, greed, and war . . . 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."

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