

# Religious Lack In Public Schools Causes Delinquency

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## On Guard!

By Rev. Patrick J. Flynn

Jimmy Jemall, the "Inquiring Photographer" of the *New York Daily News* tried to find out one day this week what the "little ones" want this year for Christmas. In St. Agnes' Hospital for crippled children at White Plains, the "Inquiring Photographer" found little six-year-old Peter Warner propped up in his white bed. . . . "Fotographer" Jemall asked the smiling crippled lad the old question: "What do you want Santa Claus to bring you for Christmas?" . . . Peter had his answers to this question ready for a long time. . . . Besides a toy fire engine, he told "Fotographer" Jemall, "and I want SOLDIERS and SAILORS to put on my bed to play with. I WANT TO BE A SOLDIER TOO, but I have to lay down most of the time."

The safest years are always fought in the nursery. . . . The BEST BATTLES ARE ALWAYS FOUGHT IN TOYLAND. . . . At six, little Peter Warner wants toy soldiers. . . . At sixteen the little cripple boy may still want to be a REAL SOLDIER. . . . But when he is twenty-six, the little boy will begin to understand that even Toyland stands in the shadows of the battlefield. . . . that the high romance of boyhood foregoes with headless musketry the blood of North Africa, Italy and Tarawa. . . .

Thousands of our fighting men will spend this Christmas of 1943 behind guns and in foxholes. . . . As the dawn of Christmas morning penetrates reproachfully the smoke of world battle, our servicemen will recall, perhaps, the days when they were young like Peter Warner. . . . They will recall the Christmas when they too were six and still believed in Santa Claus and wanted toy soldiers and toy guns to carry on their glorious wars on the battlefield of the parlor and behind the bastion of the family Christmas tree. . . .

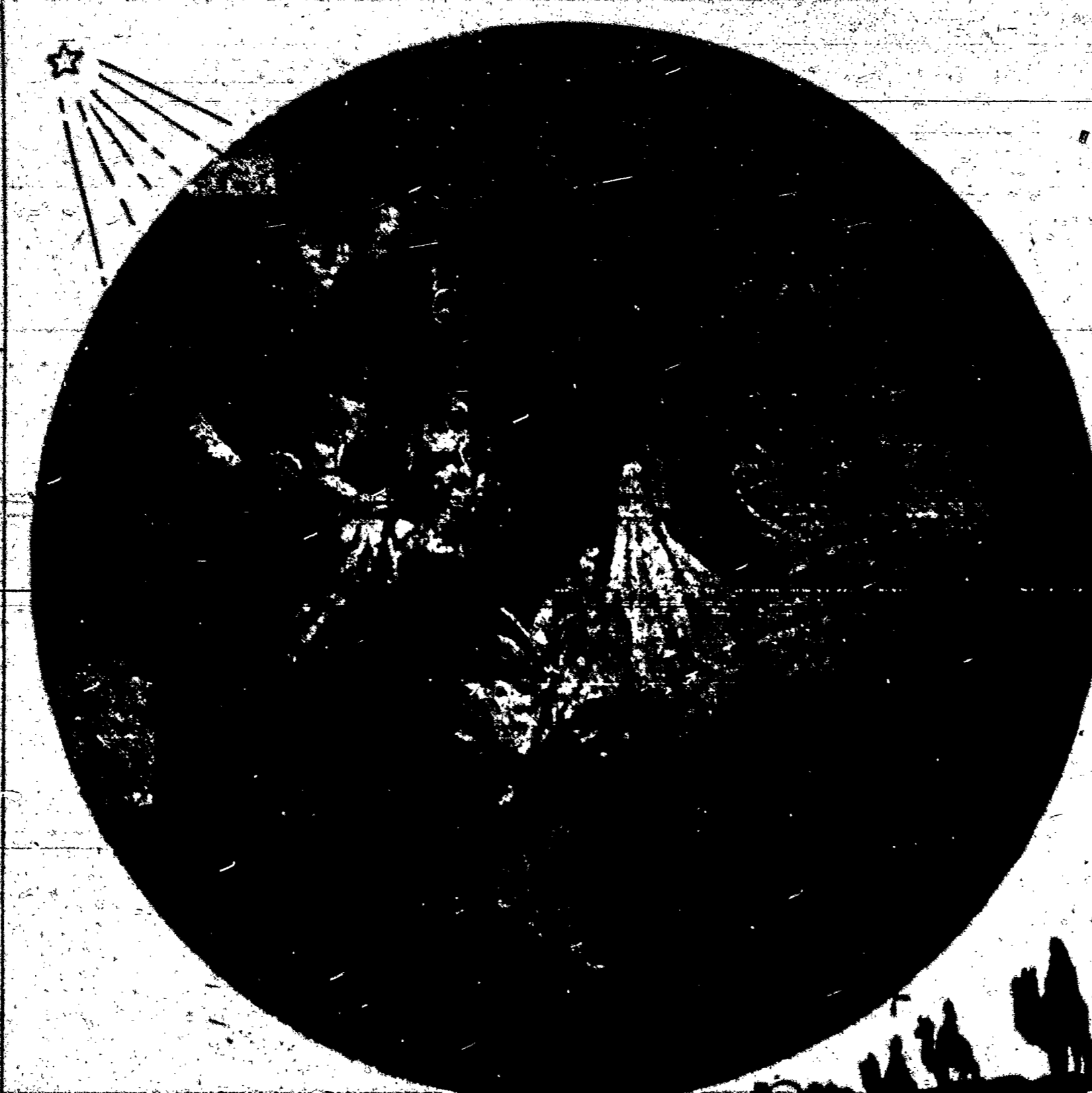
There is a Christmas war story that we only dreamed, and yet it must have happened. . . . At least it could have happened and may happen again this Christmas. . . . It's an advanced American machine gun position (on any front). . . . The Christmas dawn discovers the Yank unit just as it has unlabeled repelling a strong enemy patrol. . . . The Captain studies the scene through his field glasses while his sweating men still cling to their smoking guns. Finally the Captain is satisfied. . . . "They're gone. . . if there are any left to go." He gives the order to relax and his men sit back from their guns and begin to smoke. . . .

A young Sergeant and a Corporal join the Captain for a smoke. "Anybody hurt?" he asks. "No, sir," the Sergeant smiles. . . . The Corporal strains his eyes to see where the enemy dead have fallen and then turns to the Captain. . . . "A tough way for those fellows to spend Christmas, isn't it, sir?" . . . The Captain nods silently. . . . he watches his men as they inspect their guns. . . . "Machine guns," he mutters. . . . "Suddenly he asks his two comrades a question, "How old are you fellows?" . . . "I'm 19," the Corporal admits shyly. The Sergeant confesses that he has seen 21 summers. . . . The Captain laughs, "Mere youngsters! You're too young to remember." Then the Captain begins his story. . . .

"In 1917 I was only six years old, and America was in World War I. We kids who were old enough were full of war. Every day after school we fought imaginary battles in the backyard against the enemy and always we won (in our imagination) major

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# Midnight Masses, Around World To Unite Diocesans, In Spirit



## Radio To Carry Midnight Rites From Sampson

From the altar of the Pro-Cathedral to the far-flung outposts of America's expanding battlelines, the clergy and laity of the Rochester Diocese will gather on this Christmas Eve for Midnight Mass.

Although this third wartime Christmas will find members of many diocesan families separated by oceans and continents, they will be united in spirit for a few peaceful moments when the midnight hour strikes tomorrow.

The Most Rev. James E. Kearney will pontificate at the Pro-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Midnight Mass also will be celebrated in all other churches in the Diocese.

At the same time, thirty-six chaplains from this diocese, scattered across the globe, also will offer Midnight Mass, some within earshot of the front lines, others on ships at sea, others in the jungles of the South Pacific and still others in camps and stations everywhere.

Fr. Waters in England  
Just back from the Italian campaign, the Rev. Edward J. Waters hopes to celebrate Midnight Mass in a blacked-out English Church with the assistance of a choir recruited from American troops in England.

At Sampson, the armed forces' largest training station in the Diocese, there will be four Midnight Masses, including three solemn High Masses, one of which is to be broadcast over WHAM and a High Mass in Caldwell Chapel.

The great majority of the approximately 25,000 men and women

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## Religious Need First Consideration In Navy Says Chaplain Wheaton

AUBURN — Lieut. John K. Wheaton, Senior Catholic Chaplain at the Sampson Naval Training Station, Catholic Chaplain on the U. S. Cruiser Helena and a priest of the Rochester Diocese, was the guest speaker on Tuesday evening at a meeting in Lyceum Hall sponsored by the Holy Name Society.

Lieut. Wheaton was introduced to his Auburn audience by the Rev. Richard T. Torney, moderator of the Holy Name Society of St. Mary's, and a former parishioner of the parish where Father Wheaton received his first appointment after his ordination in June, 1934. Father Wheaton told his experiences in the Navy and the duties of a Navy Chaplain.

Chaplain Wheaton said in part: "From the beginning of history the sailor has been a man of strong religious convictions. The Navy from the very beginning has assigned to her ships chaplains to provide for the religious needs of

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## The Story of the Nativity From the Pen of St. Luke

(The ageless story of the Nativity as recounted by St. Luke is regarded as a classic example of news reporting even to this day. The user simplicity with which St. Luke approached the greatest story in history can well stand as a model of journalism for all time. A physician by profession, St. Luke wrote the following account about twenty-four years after Christ's Ascension.)

And it came to pass, that in those days there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that the whole world should be enrolled.

This enrolling was first made by Cyrenus, the governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; because he was of the house and family of David.

To be enrolled with Mary his espoused wife, who was with child.

And it came to pass, that when they were there, her days were accomplished, that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him up in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds watching, and

keeping the night watches over their flock.

And behold an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the brightness of God shone round about them; and they feared with a great fear.

And the angel said to them: Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, that shall be to all the people:

For, this day is born to you a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord, in the city of David.

And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God, and saying:

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## Kula Gulf Action Wins Purple Heart For Father Wheaton

Sampson Naval Training Station — "For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States," the Order of the Purple Heart has been awarded to Lieutenant John K. Wheaton, Senior Catholic Chaplain at the United States Naval Training Station, Sampson, N. Y.

Injured last July when the U. S. Cruiser Helena was struck by a Japanese torpedo, Father Wheaton received the Purple Heart last Sunday from Capt. Harry A. Best, USN, Sampson's commandant. A crowd of 2500 bluejackets witnessed the presentation ceremony which were broadcast from Sullivan Auditorium.

Prior to entering naval service Father Wheaton was assistant pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Rochester. When the Helena was sunk off Kolombangara Island during the Kula Gulf battle, he managed to reach Jap-held Vella-Lavella Island after three days in the water. Friendly natives on Vella-Lavella sheltered Father Wheaton and his shipmates until a destroyer effected their rescue.

Learn Patience  
It is part of the discipline of the life of prayer that we are obliged to learn to be patient with it and patient with ourselves. Father E. W. . . .



Bishop Kearney  
Extends to All of Our Readers  
His Sincerest Wishes  
For a Holy and Blessed Christmas