

## 15,000 Families Receive Posthumous Christmas Gift from Buffalo Bishop

**BUFFALO (NC)** — It happened just as the late and beloved Most Rev. John A. Duffy, Bishop of Buffalo, had planned it. Into the homes of 15,000 families throughout the Diocese of Buffalo this Christmas season went a present — literally a gift from the grave.

Attractively colored, the gift was a picture of the painting of the Holy Family entitled "Our Lady Of The Home." Inscribed below the picture was this message: "The Christian Family. God established, Christ blessed and by Mary protected, is the sure foundation of our national life." The message was signed by Bishop Duffy.

Preparation of the gift was the last act of Bishop Duffy's life in connection with the Committee for the Christian Home and Family. He planned the gift and wrote the message last summer while confined to bed during his last illness as a Christmas surprise for all families registered in the Committee movement. So well were his plans laid that only about 20 persons knew of the gift until it was distributed, according to Mrs. J. Edmund Kelly, Diocesan Chairman of the Committee.

Father Stanford, who formerly was President of Villanova College, emphasizes six major points in opposition to the proposed permanent policy of peace-time conscription, which would make it "compulsory for all able-bodied young men between the ages of 17 or 18 and 21 years to undergo a year of continuous military training under the exclusive control of the Army and Navy." The points emphasized are:

(1) It is a peace-time, not a war-time measure that is being proposed;

(2) It is possible to be opposed to peace-time conscription on reasonable grounds without being a pacifist, and isolationist or one guilty of short-sightedness as regards National Defense;

(3) It is possible to be opposed to peace-time conscription and still believe that a type of universal military training can be secured in peace-time by other than conscription and under other than the exclusive control of the Army and Navy;

(4) It only beclouds the issue to link with peace-time conscription such matters as physical fitness, developing habits of character and discipline, indoctrinating in the democratic way of life, removing illiteracy and other matters;

(5) It does violence to the meaning of words whether in war or in peace, to call military conscription, the favorite of dictators for more than 100 years, the more democratic method of raising armed forces;

(6) It is most unfortunate in such an important matter to plead the necessity of haste in adopting a policy in the midst of the hysteria and confusion of wartime.

Father Stanford stresses the fact that France, Belgium and other countries in Europe have had compulsory training for years, but that it did not enable them to withstand the German "Luftwaffe" and the "Blitzkrieg." Father Stanford adds: "Now that we are at war on all fronts there is ample evidence that our soldiers have not met better or more intelligent men in Germany, Italy or Japan. Yet these nations have had universal military training for years."

"Peace-time conscription," Father Stanford concludes, "as presently proposed, will be more detrimental than helpful to our country. It will be detrimental to the morale of our youth, it will be detrimental to the vocations and careers of our youth, it will be detrimental to the religion and morals of our youth, it will be detrimental to our political and social institutions."

### Archbishop Spellman In New Series on Battlefront Visits

**NEW YORK (NC)** — The first in a new series of five articles by the Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York and Military Vicar of the U. S. Armed Forces, will be published in the issue of *Cathedral Magazine* for January 20. The first article, tentatively entitled "Report from Italy," is based on the archbishop's most recent visit to the Italian theater of war. Subsequent articles will depict his tour of war fronts in Germany, Holland, Belgium, Norway and England. "Fruits of Victory," a book by Archdeacon John T. O'Connell, is scheduled for

### Archbishop Cites Basic Cause of War

**CHICAGO (NC)** — "This tragic drain upon our manpower and our material will cease only when men reach out for Christ" the Most Rev. Samuel A. Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago, speaking of the war, said in his Christmas message to the people of the Archdiocese.

"The basic cause of any war is forgetfulness of God and His law" the Archbishop continued. "If we dedicate our hearts to the Babe of Bethlehem in love of God there can come a lasting peace. With moral strength we can be strong enough to demand justice and charity, and we shall be less likely to be confused in our quest for true Christian principles."

### Liturgy's Apologetic Value Stressed by N. Y. Prelate

**NEW YORK (NC)** — The Liturgy has "a great apologetic value that convinces those outside of the unity of our faith" and has a "magnetic, supernatural power" as the way to truth, the Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York, said at the opening meeting of Liturgical Weeks in Cathedral High School auditorium here. More than 500 persons from all parts of the country were present at the opening meeting. As for example of the power of the liturgy, Archbishop Spellman pointed to the case of the late Msgr. Hugh Benson, son of an Archbishop of Canterbury. Monsignor Benson was a member of the Church of England, Archbishop Spellman said, when he made a journey through the Middle East. He was surprised to find in every town a Catholic church and in every church, whatever the rite, the same liturgy of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. This fed to a study of the Church that resulted in his conversion.

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