

Greetings
From
Bishop
Kearney

A Blessed Christmas

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To all the readers of the Courier Journal, I am happy to have the opportunity of extending my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the blessing of Christ be upon all of you, your families and your friends, and may the New Year bring to you added grace and blessings. May I promise to all our readers a special prayer of remembrance in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Christmas Day. Your devoted shepherd in Christ.

+ James E. Kearney
BISHOP OF ROCHESTER

ON GUARD! Under The Stars God In The Cave Why Women Is Proud

By REV. P. J. FLYNN

In one sense it is true that all of us are too familiar with the Christmas story to appreciate it. Familiarity, according to the adage, breeds contempt. Fortunately, for us, familiarity has not bred contempt but it has bred complacency.

Today we know the story of Bethlehem so well that we usually run the risk of forgetting it. Even though we remember the simplicity of the facts, we continually make the mistake of overlooking the significance of the facts. That is why the old post was only half right when he said that "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing." The post should have added that the most dangerous thing of all is too much knowledge. In regard to Christmas, the modern world thinks that it "knows it all." This explains, perhaps, why so many of us also "miss it all" when it comes to understanding the truth of Christmas.

The importance of the Christmas story is that it is the story of how God became man.

All the details in the innumerable drama of Bethlehem are thrilling but nothing is so tremendously thrilling as the all-important truth that the Child of Bethlehem is the Divine Child.

We are intrigued by the angels who frighten the life out of some sleepy shepherds on the first Christmas night. Even though angels had often spoken to men before, it is easy to understand why the poor shepherds were upset when they heard the voices of angels coming to them out of the night.

But what should be more surprising to ourselves is the sensational fact that when these angels spoke, they heard an infant crying in the darkness of the cave they were listening to the Voice of God.

Another wonderful detail of the Christmas story is the Strange Star which guided the Wise Men of the East to Bethlehem. Yet, if we know anything about God, we should not be too surprised that He can push stars across the heavens like checkers if He wishes. The baffling fact, therefore, is not that God made a star stand still in the sky. What staggers our little minds is the discovery that the Creator of the Stars, like a tired peasant, dared to fall asleep under the stars!

If the world still remembers with affection the Child who was born so long ago in Bethlehem, it is not because He was born in a cave in the side of a hill. Babies were born in caves and cabins and other humble corners of the earth long before they were born in modern hospitals. The whole point of the mystery and the memory of Christmas is not that the Child was born in a cave. What brings us to our knees is that on

Sanctity Probe Begun Into Life of N. J. Nun

Bayonne, N. J.—(NC)—A search for discourses, letters, diaries and other writings by or about Sister Miriam Teresa, a Sister of Charity who died at the age of 26 in May, 1927, has been started under the direction of Archbishop Thomas J. Walsh of Newark and Bishop Thomas H. McLaughlin of Paterson. In connection with an Episcopal court investigation of her sanctity, which eventually may lead to her canonization.

The search for information is the latest move in a campaign in her behalf which has been going on throughout the United States and in Europe, where many reports of favors and cures effected through the intervention of Sister Miriam Teresa have been received.

Youngest of seven children of Alexander and Johanna Demjanovich, she was born in Bayonne on March 26, 1901 and baptized Teresa. She wanted to be a Carmelite nun, but a lingering illness of her mother kept her at home as a nurse and housekeeper. After her mother's death in 1918, she entered St. Elizabeth's College at Convent, N. J., and graduated with highest honors in 1923. She taught school after graduation until February, 1925, when she entered the Sisters of Charity.

Sister Miriam Teresa's life in religion was short, but was filled with much work and suffering. After her death, her confessor disclosed that she had suffered the pain of the Crown of Thorns from the time she entered religious life until her death. The Holy See authorized Bishop McLaughlin to institute an informal process concerning her life and virtues in 1925.

Kennedy Gets Papal Honors

Boston—(NC)—Two Boston men, Joseph P. Kennedy, former United States Ambassador to Great Britain, and Frederick W. Mansfield, former mayor of this city, have been honored with the rank of Papal Knight. The honor, which was bestowed upon these two men who were born in the same East Boston neighborhood, and later became leaders in their professions, was announced by Archbishop Richard J. Cushing.

Both men were made Knights of the Quersian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, one of the oldest orders of Christian chivalry dating back a thousand years. Mr. Kennedy, 53, was born on Meridian Street, East Boston, and has been cited for his long association with charitable causes and for his recent \$600,000 gift for the erection of a children's convalescent home in Brighton. He served as Ambassador for 1933 to 1939.

Mr. Kennedy, who now makes his home at Palm Beach, Fla., has previously received Papal honors, having been named a Knight of Malta and a member of the Order of Pius IX.

Mr. Mansfield, 63, was cited for his long interest in religious and charitable projects. He is a trustee of many Catholic institutions, and served as legal adviser to the late Cardinal O'Connor.

New Vatican-Spain Protocol Signed

Rome—(RNS)—A new Vatican-Spain protocol was signed here by Mgr. Gaetano Cicognani, Apostolic Nuncio to Madrid, and Spanish Foreign Minister Alberto Martin Artalejo.

The agreement regulates relations between the Spanish state and the two ecclesiastical universities of Salamanca and Comillas. It also contains provisions in regard to various seminaries throughout Spain.

Vandals Theft Sacred Hosts

Budapest—(RNS)—Catholic authorities in four towns of the Trans-Danubian area have reported a series of sacrilegious in local churches where burglars have broken in and seized sacred hosts from the altars. The towns are Tolna, Villany, Noered and Jankabai.

It is believed the outrages were committed by a single group of individuals. In each case, only hosts were stolen, the altars to which they were kept and other sacramental vessels being left untouched. Parish priests in the four towns complain that police authorities have shown indifference in interest in the matter.

Anti-Clericalism Scored in Italy

Vatican City—(Radio NC)—Strong resolutions condemning manifestations of anti-clericalism in Italy, particularly in the form of scurrilous publications insulting in vulgar attacks on the Holy Father, Bishops and priests, have been passed at a meeting of national and diocesan directors of Italy's Catholic Action held in Rome.

Expressing the gratitude of the Italian people for the aid given to them by the Pope, Bishops and priests during hard and difficult times, the resolutions call on all citizens to preserve that civic dignity which is so necessary in these days of reconstruction.

Truth About Zagreb New Light Shed On Prelate's Trial

(From sources of undoubted authenticity, N.C.W.C. News Service presents a thorough analysis of the trial of Archbishop Alojzije Stepinac of Zagreb. Under three headings: (a) Background to the Trial, (b) Law on Crimes against the People and the State, and (c) The Trial of Archbishop Stepinac, the author of the document compiles all the facts that mark the "trial" as an unparalleled perversion of justice. This installment contains the first two sections of the document; the final section will be presented in the following two weeks.)

Carols Banned In Soviet Zone

Basel, Switzerland—(NC)—The popular hymns "Silent Night, Holy Night" and "O Sanctissime" have been banned at all public Christmas celebrations in kindergarten in the city of Schwerin in the Russian zone of Germany by order of the communist-controlled youth organization, according to the British News Service in Germany which quotes the Norddeutsche Zeitung of that city.

The report also states that the teachers have received orders not to present Christmas plays featuring angels, and adds that the newspaper has protested against this ruling on the grounds that it runs counter to freedom of worship.

ABP. STEPINAC SENT TO HOSPITAL

Chicago—(NC)—According to news received here by the Croatian Information Bureau, Archbishop Alojzije Stepinac has been transferred from Lepoglava prison near Zagreb to the Hebro hospital in Zagreb.

The Archbishop is said to suffer from exhaustion, according to the Information Bureau, "the harsh treatment which has been his lot" since he began his term of 10 years imprisonment at hard labor.

The Archbishop has refused to take any food because of his fear that it might be poisoned, states the dispatch, which is based on information furnished by Dr. Ivan Palitko, Archbishop Stepinac's court-appointed defense counsel at the trial. Dr. Palitko has just reached Italy.

Some previous dispatches by regular news agencies reported that the Archbishop was believed to be suffering from tuberculosis and that he may be transferred to a hospital. Other dispatches, however, quoted an authoritative Catholic source in Belgrade to the effect that the Archbishop's health was "basically sound" and that prison conditions were "as comfortable as they can be under the circumstances."

Christmas Story Card. Mooney's Kin and Jap To Hear Midnight Mass in Tokyo

Tokyo—(NC)—Two young Catholic civilians, one an American, the other a Japanese, going to Midnight Mass in downtown Tokyo this Christmas no doubt will reminisce about last Christmas in the same cold, war-torn city.

Last Christmas they also went to Midnight Mass together, but then only one was a Catholic—the American, Bernard Gregory of Detroit. He was in the Army and the Japanese youth was employed in an Army mess hall on the outskirts of Tokyo.

That Christmas Eve, first of the American occupation in Japan, young Gregory and some of his companions were in a happy frame of mind. Yes, they were far away from home, and Tokyo was "the most comfortable place on earth." But there would be Midnight Mass and they all planned to go.

"I Not Happy"

The Japanese had watched them and wistfully listened to them. He had sorrow in his own home. Suffering stalked through his city. At length in the English he was trying hard to master, he said: "You very happy. I not happy."

The American soldiers tried to tell him what Christmas meant to Catholics. They finished by inviting him to come along with them to Midnight Mass.

Hibuya Hall in downtown Tokyo was crowded with American soldiers. Japanese Catholics also were there. In passage ways and tobacco soldiers' kennel going to Confessions,

Vigil at the Bethlehem Manger



As Christmas approaches, the Rev. Robert E. Minogue, R.C.M. of Washington, D. C. is pictured keeping a vigil at the Manger of the Manger in Bethlehem on the very spot where Christ was born.

Church in Labor Field to Stay

Boston—(RNS)—The Catholic Church has entered the field of labor law, "to secure working conditions for its members," according to a statement issued by the National Council of Catholic Bishops.

In an endorsement of the newly formed Catholic Labor Field of Boston, Archbishop Cushing said he hoped that "some labor leaders do not want to be in the field of labor law, but we are here to stay. The battle must be fought."

The archbishop revealed he had challenged public statements of Daniel J. Tobin, president of the Teamsters' Union (A.F. of L.), that "the Church had no right to enter the field of labor."

"The Church must stand against economic and social conditions that are unjust and against the exploitation of man by man," the archbishop said. "We do not think we have a solution to every problem, but we think we have the principles from which good solutions can spring."

The Catholic Labor Field of Boston, which was organized following a protest by Catholic workers against the union of Communist elements in the local labor movement, is a branch of the National Council of Catholic Bishops.

The field, formed by the archbishop, includes the Rev. Joseph A. Robinson, chaplain, and a staff of Catholic workers, who are based on mutual understanding, according to President John J. Hannon.

Some non-Catholic workers have joined the field, which "will not identify itself with any labor organization or any political party of view," Hannon said.

Dr. Tiso Takes Stand To Deny All Charges

Bratislava—(NC-Radio)—The trial of Mgr. Joseph Tiso, former President of Slovakia, and two members of his wartime government, now under way before the Slovak People's Court here, is detrimental to the relations between Czechs and Slovaks.

There can be little or no doubt that the idea of Slovak separatism, that is, the memory of an independent Slovak republic, is still very much alive in the broad masses of the overwhelmingly Catholic Slovak people. It is also a fact that there is still a large measure of sympathy for the former Tiso regime.

The three accused—Dr. Tiso, Alexander Mach, minister of the interior and of propaganda in the Tiso regime, and Ferdinand Durcansky, minister of Foreign Affairs who is tried in absentia—stand before the court as chief representatives of the Slovak autonomous movement. They assert that they used office only as a means toward saving and protecting Slovak independence.

The People's Court, consisting of the presiding judge, Dr. Jozef Daxner, and six lay associate judges, can be considered representative of the idea of a united Czechoslovak state.

It appears problematic whether the trial will achieve its aim. In this connection, it is significant that the broadcasting of the trial was halted two days after its opening because it was feared that the forces of separatism in Slovakia might be strengthened rather than weakened by such radio publicity.

All the members of the People's Court are Slovaks, not Czechs, and it is generally considered one of the most interesting aspects of the trial that Slovaks sit in judgment over Slovaks.

"The 113-count indictment comprising 212 pages, according to four parts. The first deals with the events surrounding the integration of Czechoslovakia in 1939; the charges in the second part arise from the cooperation between independent Slovakia and Hitler-Germany; the third section is concerned with the Slovak abortive uprising in 1944; and the last part charges the accused with crimes against humanity."

Expatriate Slovaks

So far, the proceedings have dealt only with the first section of the official indictment. Dr. Tiso, who took the stand, emphatically denied charges of having conspired with the Nazis to seize power in March 1939, when Hitler occupied Prague and

CIVIL RIGHTS POST TO BISHOP

Washington—(NC)—Bishop Francis J. Haas of Grand Rapids, who served as the first chairman of the Committee on Fair Labor Practices, has been named by President Harry S. Truman as the new chair of the Civil Rights Committee.

The committee, which will make recommendations for legislation and other means of strengthening the Federal Government in dealing with racial problems as racial discrimination and mob violence.

In creating the committee, President Truman asserted that freedom from fear and the democratic institutions which sustain it are under attack in some places from the time the "total endorsement of law and order has broken down, and individuals—some named, some unnamed—have been killed, maimed or intimidated."

The President said that the civil rights situation is inadequate, however the Federal Government and must be speeded and improved. The committee is to submit a written report to him of recommendations for improvement.

Members of the committee include Francis J. Haas, Bishop of Grand Rapids, who formerly was Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, and James A. Carey, secretary-treasurer of the Congress of Industrial Organizations. C. E. Wilson, president of General Electric Company, was named as an alternate.

National Committee Leads New Orleans—(NC)—

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