

Greetings
The staff of the Courier-Journal extends to our readers the Season's Greetings.

THE CATHOLIC Courier-Journal

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

27,171
1948

38TH YEAR ROCHESTER, N. Y., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1948 13 Pages Ten Cents a Copy

Pontiff Asks End Of Class Hatred In Yuletide Encyclical

Vatican City — (NC) — In a trenchant message to the world His Holiness Pope Pius XII today called for prayer and a return to God to end the strife that marks the world at this third Christmas season since the end of hostilities.

ON GUARD

The Great Story
Shepherds Surprised
The Church's Story
By REV. P. J. FLYNN

The Story of Christmas enjoys an imperishable greatness wherever men are found. The world never tires of telling what a few shepherds discovered in a cave. A Mother with her child whose birth was heralded by an angelic choir and a glowing star.

AND AS OFTEN as we read the story of Christmas we find in it the thrill of the first time. It is always a historic fact full of endless surprise.

Even today after hundreds of years, the story of Bethlehem is almost as sensational as that night long ago when it first happened.

Walk into the street and tell the first story you meet about the night that God slept in a cave for the first time like any peasant or pauper.

This is a sensational revelation when we think it over. It is a truth as staggering today as it was on that first Christmas night when Seraphim whispered the solemn secret to silent shepherds in the hills behind Bethlehem.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY is not important because it is the story of the birth of a child. Children are born every day. Neither do men remember the Christmas Story simply because a child was born in a cold cave. Children have been born in caves and other humble corners of the earth since the beginning of time.

No men do not sing of Bethlehem because they found a strange child in one of its caves. They remember Bethlehem because there they found God sleeping in one of those secret shelters where sheep hide from the storm.

This is why we remember Christmas. It is the birthday of the Child who is God. It is the day on which God was born like a common tradesman. It is the day when the Creator of the world came into our midst in the guise of a carpenter's son.

Today men the world around grow solemn on Christmas night. They are impressed, or so much because shepherds once found God in a cave. They are thrilled and surprised anew at the thought that anyone should ever meet God anywhere.

Looking across the centuries we see in vision an infant stretching forth a clenched fist from his crib as if already he were impatient to seize the cross. We are awed when we realize that this infant is God.

STRIP THE DRAMA of Bethlehem of its divinity and the story which has stirred millions becomes meaningless. See in the Mother and Child only another pleasant domestic scene and the Christmas Story loses its importance.

Only when we look at Bethlehem through the eyes of the Catholic Church can we understand the truth of Christmas. The eyes of the Church are the eyes of history and the Church is our only authoritative witness to what happened on a night almost two thousand years ago at Bethlehem.

It is the Church's proud boast which nobody can contradict, that she learned the details of the first Christmas from Christ's Mother herself. And the Mother's Story and the Church's Story is the Christmas Story. It is this: The Child born in Bethlehem's Cave is the Son of God.

This is the only explanation that explains Christmas.

ONLY WHEN we see in the Mother of Bethlehem also the Virgin overshadowed by the power of God we understand why the world is still filled with song each Christmas night.

When the shepherds stumbled into the cave and looked upon the smile of the Child they were seeing for the first time the laughter of God.

Only when we understand this do we understand Christmas.

The Babe Plays Santa



Refusing to permit his poor state of health to interfere with the assignment, Babe Ruth, baseball immortal, donned full Santa Claus regalia and brought the Christmas spirit to little people watching the Sister Kenny Christmas Party at the Hotel Astor. The Babe handed out baseballs and other toys to three-year-old Jim McCall, while Jane Greenfield, who is also three, looks on approvingly.

Tito Murder Of Priest Revealed

Bari, Italy — (NC) — The murder of another Catholic priest, the arrest of a priest on charges of teaching catechism to children, and the eviction of 35 nuns from their convent are reported in dispatches reaching here from Yugoslavia.

The reports note that these acts of violence against the Church took place at or about the time when seven American Protestant clergymen visited Yugoslavia at the expense of the Tito regime. The report on their "eye-witness investigation" of the status of religious life declared they found no evidence of religious persecution.

The murder of the priest—the Rev. John Stanjovic—took place in the town of Vrhovna on the night of September 11. The killing, a group of armed men, came to the parish house shortly before midnight. Some tried to force their entrance through the front door others ran to the side of the building and by means of a ladder climbed to the window of Father Stanjovic's room on the second floor.

AS THE INTRUDERS broke through the window, Father Stanjovic attempted to flee but was struck down by bullets. Although wounded, the priest managed to get down the stairs and into the kitchen where he tried to barricade the door.

The killers' accomplices, meanwhile, had succeeded in smashing down the front door. Rushing into the house they found the wounded priest and shot him to death, holding their weapons directly against his head and body. The murderer fled after beating unconscious the priest's housekeeper.

Another priest had been arrested and fined in Yugoslavia on charges of teaching catechism to children assembled in the Catholic church. The priest in question was taken into custody last June following instructions of his bishop to give their First Communion. During the past year, three priests have been arrested by the Communists in Slovenia, one of the constituent parts of Yugoslavia, for giving religious instructions to children in their churches.

Although, theoretically, no regulation exists against religious instruction for children, the Communist authorities have rendered such teaching practically impossible by forbidding instruction in the churches and insisting that it be given in the schools.

Any priest who, in the face of these obstructions, resorts to instruction of children in a church is subject to arrest.

History Winners

Boston — (NC) — Seventeen of 23 prizes, including the two top honors, in the Boston competition in the Hearst American History Contest went to students of Catholic schools here. Joan M. Butler, senior at St. Augustine's High School, South Boston, won first prize.

American Audiences See First Television Masses

Philadelphia — (NC) — The entire ceremony of a Solemn Mass in the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul was televised and telecast Sunday by Motion WPTZ, the Philco Television Station and was believed to be the first time the Holy Sacrifice was seen and heard on the air anywhere.

The officers of the history-making ceremony which was part of the station's pro-Christian programs were the Rev. Francis P. McVeigh, assistant rector of the cathedral, celebrating the Rev. Joseph A. O'Connell, dean, and the Rev. John J. Baydt, sub-deacon. The sermon was preached by Mgr. Hubert L. Cartwright, cathedral rector. The Rev. Thomas J. Healy was master of ceremonies.

For the benefit of non-Catholics and others in the television audience, who were unfamiliar with the ritual, a running commentary was given by the Rev. Edwin L. Gallagher.

The musical program during the ceremony was given by the Cathedral choir of men and boys.

The Holy Father called on "all Christians, and especially those who are in the flower of their age, to visit in goodly numbers the Holy Crib and there pour out their prayers, to seek of the Divine Infant that He may deign to extinguish and remove the torments which are threateningly shaken in hatred in seditions and tumults.

Air Force Needs Catholic Chaplains

Washington — (NC) — The Air Force needs 77 more Catholic chaplains to meet its designated quota under the program which aims at an Air Force strength of 401,000 men by July 1, 1948.

At present there are 84 Catholic chaplains on duty with the Air Force. Of 349 Protestant chaplains authorized for the 401,000-man air branch, 22 are now on duty, of 19 Jewish chaplains authorized, 5 are now on duty.

Air Force chaplains are currently collecting tons of food and clothing for shipment to devastated areas overseas.

Express your sympathy with Flowers. Call Main 1865, Blanchard Florist of 58 Lake Ave., where you really get best value. Daily deliveries to all sections, including hospitals. (Adv.)

New Apparitions Of Virgin Reported

Brussels — (RNS) — The small village of Hoyt, in the heart of Luxembourg, has become a center of pilgrimage for Catholics from many parts of Europe following a reported apparition of the Virgin Mary to three small children.

Scene of the reported vision is a grotto dedicated to Our Lady of Consolation, surrounded by seven smaller grottoes, named after patron saints.

On All Souls' Day in November, ten-year-old Kerline Winstudy came to the grotto to pray for her father, dangerously ill in Switzerland. Returning to her grandmother's home, where she was staying, the child claimed she had seen the Virgin at the entrance to the first of the minor grottoes.

The girl returned to the grotto later in the day, accompanied by her younger brother and their small cousin, Jean Denier, aged eight. All three came back reporting they had seen a "lady" whom they believed was none other than the Blessed Virgin.

The children's families tried to guard the secret, but a week later the story had spread and large numbers of people came to the scene in the hope of witnessing the apparitions.

Many stories have been told regarding the supposed apparitions, and all are being carefully checked by specialists. In one apparition the Virgin is described as having told the children to return daily until Dec. 25 and to have a chapel built on the spot within six months.

According to the youngsters, the Virgin appears in varying garb. On certain occasions she wears robes associated with the Virgin of Lourdes. Sometimes she appears as a queen, with an engine of light. At other times, she comes as the Mother of Sorrows, with Christ's body on her knees, or clothed in a brownish dress with red belt, crying tears of blood. She has also been described as carrying a chalice, or as appearing in various scenes from the life of Christ.

The children assert that the visions came to them not only in the grotto, but also at school, in church and even at home. One Swiss Catholic was so impressed by the behavior of the children that he sent a cheque for 50,000 Swiss francs to have the chapel erected at the shrine, as the Virgin supposedly wished. Church authorities have made no attempt to explain the occurrences. Medical examination of the three children has indicated they are quite normal.

Mourning



The Rev. Monsignor William F. Bergan, P.A., Chancellor of the Rochester Diocese for eleven years, died Tuesday, Dec. 20, at St. Mary's Hospital. He entered the hospital five weeks ago.

Final rites of the Church were administered to him early last week by His Excellency Bishop Kearney, assisted by Monsignor William M. Hart, vicar general.

SOVIET CHECK SAID POSSIBLE

Notre Dame, Ind. — (NC) — A policy of wise statecraft by the United States, disregarding exaggerated Russian statements and political and economic maneuvers is the only hope of containing and reducing Soviet power according to Dr. Waldemar Gurian, professor of political science at the University of Notre Dame.

Dr. Gurian expresses this view in an article, "Thirty Years of the Soviet Regime," in the winter issue of the Review of Politics, published here.

"Russia's policy today is a throwback to a narrow and suspicious nationalism," Dr. Gurian writes. "Russia actually favors a policy of dividing the world into two camps. On the one hand Russia fears attack by capitalist enemies. On the other she must expand to prove how successful her regime is."

Stressing that it is possible that Russian leaders may increase present world tension, in order to retain its power, Dr. Gurian asks: "Do they fear that a normalized world will be the end of their regime? Can the engine, which started the revolution in the name of freedom and resulted in a regime of slavery dealing with men as parts of mechanisms, ever stop? Our hope of stopping it is a wise statesmanship which disregarding hysterical Russian statements and maneuvers, will firmly contain and reduce Soviet power."

Priest Appointed Mission Director

Ardenmore, Va. — (NC) — The Rev. John K. Connelly, former chaplain in the Regular Army with the rank of Colonel and priest of the Sacraments, has been appointed director of mission activities for the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Schmitt) Fathers, at their second U. S. headquarters here.

Father Connelly, who has been a member of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith since 1934, was assigned to this post because of the great interest in the Pacific mission. The twenty-third mission station in the Holy See of the Supreme Military Order of Maltesers, Major William H. Hunsicker, Canon of St. Peter's, has received notice of the appointment.

Monsignor Bergan, Chancellor, Dies; Funeral Saturday

The Diocese of Rochester mourned today the passing of one of its most distinguished administrators—the Rev. Monsignor William F. Bergan, P.A.

The prelate, who served as chancellor of the diocese for the past eleven years and pastor of St. Michael's Church, Rochester, since 1936, died Tuesday, Dec. 20, at St. Mary's Hospital. He entered the hospital five weeks ago.

Final rites of the Church were administered to him early last week by His Excellency Bishop Kearney, assisted by Monsignor William M. Hart, vicar general.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 in St. Michael's Church. His Excellency Bishop Kearney will be the celebrant and Bishop Walter A. Forry of Syracuse, a lifelong friend of Monsignor Bergan, will assist at the obsequies.

The body will be taken to the church Christmas afternoon and will be in state until the funeral. Followed by the body on Friday evening at 8 o'clock.

Death came to Monsignor Bergan less than three months after he had been elevated to the rank of Preliminary Apostolic by Pope Pius XII in recognition of his services to the Church in this diocese.

On November 11 he was elevated to the rank of Preliminary Apostolic by the papal bull of his new rank, including the military, civic, provincial and royal, at present, ceremonial of the Sacred Heart Pro-Cathedral. On this occasion which was the 25th anniversary of his elevation to the rank of Preliminary Apostolic, Monsignor Bergan delivered the congratulatory message to Bishop Kearney, who was also marking his tenth anniversary of appointment to the Rochester Diocese.

His elevation to the rank of Preliminary Apostolic was the result of his long and distinguished service to the Church in this diocese.

His death today brought to a close a life of distinguished service to the Church and to the people of Rochester.

Monsignor Bergan was born in the town of Ardenmore, Va., on June 15, 1887. He was educated in the diocese and at the University of Notre Dame, Ind., where he received his doctorate in divinity in 1914.

He was ordained to the priesthood in 1911 and served in various parishes in the diocese before being appointed to the Rochester Diocese in 1936.

He was a member of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and the Society of the Holy Sacraments.

He was a devoted family man and was survived by his wife, Mrs. Bergan, and several children.

His funeral will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in St. Michael's Church. Bishop Kearney will officiate.

The body will be in state at the church until the funeral on Friday evening at 8 o'clock.

Monsignor Bergan was a member of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and the Society of the Holy Sacraments.

He was a devoted family man and was survived by his wife, Mrs. Bergan, and several children.

His funeral will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in St. Michael's Church. Bishop Kearney will officiate.

The body will be in state at the church until the funeral on Friday evening at 8 o'clock.

Monsignor Bergan was a member of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and the Society of the Holy Sacraments.

He was a devoted family man and was survived by his wife, Mrs. Bergan, and several children.

His funeral will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in St. Michael's Church. Bishop Kearney will officiate.

The body will be in state at the church until the funeral on Friday evening at 8 o'clock.

Monsignor Bergan was a member of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and the Society of the Holy Sacraments.

He was a devoted family man and was survived by his wife, Mrs. Bergan, and several children.

His funeral will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in St. Michael's Church. Bishop Kearney will officiate.