A Blessed Christmas

Peace on Earth

By ST. LUKE

AND there were 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 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:

Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace to men of good will.

And it came to pass, after the angels departed from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another: Let us go over to Bethlehem, and let us see this word that is come to pass, which the Lord has showed to us.

And they came with haste; and they found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger.

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McCollum Case Ruling Limits Religion Liberty, Says Educator

Cardinal Of Belgium Hits StateControl

Brussels— (RNS) —A call to Catholics to form a solid bloc against government attempts to secure control of education was sounded here by Joseph Cardinal Van Roey, Archbishop of Malines and Primate of Belgium, at the second national congress of Belgian Catholic Action.

CARDINAL VAN ROEY charged that the Ministry of Public Instruction has already "executed a methodical and crafty campaign to undermine the successful work of all Catholic institutions by laying hands on the technical and professional schooling the Church has undertaken with so much sucess."

"In raising the issue of Catholic education and State control," he said, "I do not wish to enter into any political debate, for I know that I stand on ground that concerns the Church far more than the State. Education, by the divine mission given to the Church, belongs naturally to the Church."

THE CARDINAL'S address was given front-page prominence by newspapers throughout the country because of its bearing on the coming elections. One of the major election issues concerns reported plans by the government to build new schools in virtual rivalry to Catholic schools.

"What are the results of this campaign?" Cardinal Van Roey asked. "Only a bitter struggle between the Church and State schools, accompanied by increasing expenditures. Those who would really suffer are the children, for without Christian education, man would be nothing but a pagan loaded with more or less necessary intellectual juggage."

Cardinal Van Roey asserted that so far the State campaign has met with "little real success." He said the Malines archdiocese has 19,000 children in its church schools, whereas there are only about 14,000 in State institutions in the same territory.

"HOWEVER," HE added, "although these figures are highly encouraging, the threat of government control still remains."

Declaring that justice is all the Church in Belgium desires, the Cardinal called upon the State to accord the fullest liberty to the Church's educational program, "for the good of the country."

Msgr. E. Rawlinson Mourned in Corning

Corning—(Special)—Solemn Pontifical Mass of Requiem for the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edmund A. Rawlinson, pastor of St. Patrick's Church in this city, was celebrated Tuesday morning (Dec. 21) in the parish church by His Excellency Bishop James E. Kearney.

Monsignor Rawlinson's death Saturday (Dec. 18) in the Corning Hospital following a month's illness, climaxed a priestly career of over fifty years. He had served as pastor of the Corning church for the past twenty-seven years.

IN A SHORT eulogy following the Mass, Bishop Kearney lauded the Corning churchman for his "intense spirituality" and "innate humility."

"All he would want is the assurance of our prayers as a memorial of his work," the Bishop declared. "Although he asked that there would be no eulogy, no Bishop nor friend has the right to remain silent on so sad an occasion when a great man, a great American and a great priest of God has passed away.

"Monsignor Rawlinson was every inch a priest, every moment a priest; that sums up his whole life. Whether at the altar, in the pulpit or going about his parochial duties, he was distinguished for the priestly consecration of every fiber of his being."

MSGR. RAWLINSON

Choosing one incident to mirror Monsignor Rawlinson's

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Dr. Shuster Claims Court Curbs Right

New York— (RNS) —Dr. George N. Shuster, president of Hunter College of the City of New York, contended here that the Supreme Court decision in the McCollum case "manifestly circumscribed liberty."

(In the McCollum decision the Supreme Court ruled that religious instruction cannot be given in the public schools.)

DR. SHUSTER spoke to clergymen and educators of the Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish faith gathered at the Jewish Theological Seminary for a meeting of the Institute for Religious and Social Studies centering around the theme, "Freedom and the World Order."

It is evident that the Supreme Court decision in the McCollum case shocked many young people from finding out what religion had to say to them," he declared. "One need hardly demonstrate so obvious a fact. But the decision also manifestly circumscribed liberty. For the public school is, for our time, not an academic institute merely. It is also a community center in which people meet to listen to political discussion or to hear music or to attend lectures or to dance.

"When one says that only religion is to be excluded from the building — not from the academic routine as such — one is plainly isolating one interest of the public from all others and saying that it alone is taboo. I believe that words have ceased to mean anything if the McCollum decision does not signify that religion has been unilaterally deprived of freedom."

Taking issue with defenders of the "secularist position" who hold that divergence of creed is a potential disturber of "community peace," he said:

"**DURING RECENT** years, nobody I have ever heard of in the whole of the United States has been slain during an argument over religion but hundreds of individuals have been murdered during political brawls.

"If one can secure the use of a public school for a meeting of Communists, who are certainly not interested in the fostering of unity or peace, by what absurd logic does one reason that a group of Methodists, for example, would endanger the national outlook or tradition?"

Bishop, Fr. Graham Slated At Holy Name Feast Mass

The Very Rev. Harry C. Graham, O.P., of New York City, national director of the Holy Name Society, will preach the sermon at the annual Pontifical Mass to be celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Kearney on the Feast of the Holy Name, Sunday, Jan. 2, at 11 a.m. in Corpus Christi Church, Rochester.

FATHER GRAHAM, editor of the national "Holy Name Journal," as well as national head of the Holy Name, is coming at the invitation of Bishop Kearney.

Approximately 2,000 men, including Holy Name officers from throughout the diocese and delegations of men from all parishes in Monroe County, representing the Rochester Deanery Holy Name Union, are expected at the Mass.

CORPUS CHRISTI Church was selected for this year's observance of the Feast of the Holy Name on the invitation of the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William M. Hart, P. A., V. G, pastor. Cooperating in plans for the observance are the Rev. Patrick J. Flynn and the Rev. Arthur F. Fiorack, spiritual director and assistant spiritual director of the Rochester Diocesan Holy Name Union.

It will be the third annual such observance of the Feast. Large crowds of men attended the last two, held in St. Michael's Church and St. Monica's Church.

FATHER GRAHAM

Details of the celebration are being handled by members of the Rochester Deanery Holy Name Union executive committee, headed by Edward A. Lorscheider, assisted by the Diocesan Union executive board, of which Lewis A. Schur is president.

"I Am Mediatrix of Grace!"

Blessed Virgin's Apparitions Reported

(The following account of a postulant who is reported to have seen apparitions of the Blessed Virgin at a Carmelite convent in Lipa, Philippine Islands, is under study by theologians and the Bishop of Lipa is withholding public comment pending the results of the theologians' investigation.)

Washington—(NC)—"I have just been talking with the Blessed Virgin," the Rev. Patrick Shanley, O.C.D., Vicar Provincial of the Philippine Islands, quotes a young Carmelite postulant whom he visited at her convent at Lipa in the Province of Batangas. "It gave me quite a strange feeling," Father Patrick adds.

Father Patrick quotes the postulant in an article written by him and appearing in the November-December issue of the magazine Mount Carmel, published here by the Discalced Carmelite Fathers.

The article tells of a series of visions said to have been received by the postulant, Teresita, during last September and of accompanying showers of the petals of red roses, which "do not grow in this country."

FATHER PATRICK'S article starts:

"On Sunday, September 12, the Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary, at about five o'clock in the afternoon, a Sister who was taking a walk in the garden suddenly remarked that a vine shook and, as there was no wind at all, it attracted her attention.

"She approached and heard a woman's gentle voice saying: 'Fear not, my child. Kiss the ground. Whatever I shall tell you to do, you must do. For 15 consecutive days come to visit me here in this spot. Eat some grass, my child.' The Sister did not see anyone. She only heard the voice.

"Next day, Monday, at five o'clock the Sister returned to the place. She knelt and recited the Hail Mary. She had only reached the words 'full of grace' when she remarked that the vine was moving and, lo and behold, she saw a Beautiful Lady with her hands clasped on her breast, a golden rosary hanging on her right hand. She was stooping slightly. Her dress was pure white, simple, held in at the waist by a narrow cloth belt. Her feet were bare and resting on clouds which were about two feet above the ground. Her face, of indescribable beauty, was radiant."

On Tuesday, Father Patrick goes on in the article, the vision had requested that the garden nook be blessed on Wednesday, and as Alfredo Obviar Aranda Auxiliary of Lipa, went to it the postulant said the apparition gave her the following message for all the Sisters:

"Come often and visit me. Make this a sacred place. Gather the petals, my children. I bless you all."

Father Patrick's article then goes on:

"On Sunday, September 26, the last of the fifteen days, the Lady repeated her counsels to her little one:

"My child, you must love and obey your Mother Prioress. Tell your sisters to love one another as true sisters, to practice humility and simplicity, the virtues I love most. Tell them to love and obey their superiors and not to forget the things I ask.

"I shall not ask bigger things from you, as you expect, because you are my little ones. Do not forget to consecrate yourselves to me on October 7. Be very good.

"I am MARY, MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE. I shall always bless the Community morning and evening." Blessing the Sister, she disappeared.

"On September 30 rose petals were strewn in the cells of the monastery. On October 3 a shower of flowers fell on the staircase. Occasional showers followed within the cloister. On November 11 the petals fell outside and were seen by some visitors."

Father Patrick writes that when he reached the convent during the incidents, crowds of people had gathered outside it. After he retired to his room following Mass the next day, a Sister Elizabeth knocked on his door and said: "Father, the petals!"

"WHEN I LOOKED out the window," he relates, "I saw crowds of people at the other end of the building, with their hands cupped and raised heavenward to catch petals and a photographer with his camera raised skyward. . . .

"I SAW THESE THINGS WITH MY OWN EYES, but I did not see the petals until afterwards. They are red and botanists say they do not grow in this country . . . I spent the night with the Redemptorists, who are inclined to believe in the apparitions. The whole argument seems to be proved by the petals, for one may doubt visions, but how will he explain away the petals?"

The next day, he goes on, he went to speak to the Sisters.

"They impressed me very much as being very happy and jolly,

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Churches Hit By Thefts in Slovakia

Bratislava, Slovakia —(NC)— A series of thefts of gold chalices, monstrances and other sacred objects from Catholic churches in Slovakia has been reported in the papers here.

Recently burglers broke into the cathedral at Nitra and stole 13 gold chalices and several monstrances. One of the chalices had exceptional historical value, dating back to the sixteenth century. Three other chalices dated back to the seventeenth century. Some of the objects were stolen from the tabernacle on the main altar, which was forced open. Others were taken from the sacristy.

Last minute Santas will find the answer to their gift problems at Thorne Jewelers. Good selection of fine gifts still available for everyone on your gift list. 318 East Main, opposite East Ave.—Adv.

Japanese Nun Lectures At Buddhist Monastery

Tokyo —(NC)— A new experience for both Mother Mary Okamura, co-foundress and Superior of the Sisters of St. John the Evangelist here, and for several hundred Buddist nuns was a lecture given by Mother Okamura at the Buddhist nunnery at Tsurumi.

The promoter of the lecture was a Buddhist monk who, as a member of the Bureau of Public Welfare, had attended the recent dedication of the new children's hospital conducted by the Sisters of St. John at Sakuramachi, just outside of Tokyo.

So impressed was the Buddhist by what he saw there that he wanted the Buddhist nuns who had assembled at Tsurumi from all parts of Japan for a conference on social work to hear about the work of the Sisters of St. John at first hand.

At the lecture, the Buddhist nuns asked Mother Okamura to describe the life and work of Catholic Sisters and so interested were they that 50 of them paid a five-hour visit to Sakuramachi the next day. There they bought a large number of Catholic books.

Before they left they received a lecture on the basic principles of Catholicism, given by Father Punsman, S.V.D., and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, which was attended by every token of deepest respect by all the Buddhist nuns.

Airport Closed to Protect Cathedral

Paris —(NC)— The French Cabinet has decided to close down the large airport near Chartes. This decision, which will entail the expenditure of one billion francs, is understood to have been taken in order to protect the Chartes Cathedral from aerial damage.

Chartes Cathedral is one of the most glorious monuments of the Middle Ages and possesses the most beautiful collection of stained-glass windows in the world.

Catholic groups and artists' societies have on many occasions demanded abandonment of the airport, which was bombed 44 times by the Allies in World War II. Fortunately the cathedral tower was never hit, although it is less than a mile away.

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