

Courier Journal

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Christus Apparuit Nobis

Here we have expressed in a few Latin words the lasting significance of Christmas as emphasized in the great mystery of the Epiphany, as amplified over and over again in the history of the Christian world. Christ has appeared to us! Christ has manifested Himself to us! Christ has shown the world His mercy and His power and His glory! Christus apparuit nobis!

So the Church sings joyously on the Great Feast of the Epiphany. Christ has appeared to us! So could the Shepherds sing on the day of Christ's birth. So could the Wise Men sing as they saw in the manifestation of the Child in His house at Bethlehem the promise of the star in the east. The chosen people answer the invitation of the Angel, as they hear the vast army of Angels sing of peace on earth to men of good will; they answer the invitation, hastening over to Bethlehem to see the wonder that had come to pass.

The other nations of the world, the Gentiles, answer the invitation given to them by God through the new star in the eastern sky; they listen to the message of one star while they recall the centuries in which all the other stars have sung the glory of God. God's chosen ones, God's loved ones among the Gentiles, gather in one grand trek to the birthplace of the Christ, to be blessed by the manifestation of the Redeemer of the world, the Son of God made flesh for the salvation of all men.

Christus apparuit nobis! Christ has appeared to us. First to the shepherds, then to the Wise Men, then to all the sons of men, the simple shepherds, the humble who men of succeeding ages, Christ has indeed, appeared. No other fact stands out so clearly in the history of mankind as does the coming of the Christ. The wisdom of God that made us the Saviour, is manifested in the definite and compelling manner in which He has made known His coming to all men. The thirty years of quiet life and the three years of public life of Christ were filled with miracles in word and work all climaxed by the great wonder of the Resurrection; were a continued Epiphany or manifestation of Christ in His suffering and in His glory. His Church has been marked in the world ever since His death as continuing the wonder of His life on earth, manifesting to each generation the unmistakable certainty that Christ has appeared to us. Christus apparuit nobis. May we join with our brothers of the human family in adoring Him and welcoming Him as our Lord and Saviour!

Not Deceived

The answer of the Vatican to the invitation of Hungary to enter into negotiations looking to a better understanding between the two is one in which all honest men may well rejoice. The Vatican is not deceived! It sets in the lying presence of the pagan Communists of that unhappy country only an attempt to give further harm to religion, to exercise to the full the hatred for all that is of God that marks men stigmatized with the Marxian label.

The Vatican is not deceived! It knows there can be no promise of good-will from those who have crowned their series of persecutions of religion by the arrest and imprisonment of Cardinal Mindszenty. No conciliation can be arranged with declared criminals, enemies of human freedom, enemies of God and of God's Church.

Be not deceived! America might well follow the Vatican in its declared understanding of the spirit of the Kremlin. Peace and the things of peace have no part with Stalin and his fellow persecutors. America avoids war with them only because she keeps herself so strong that they fear to attack her. The devil is at work with those who have turned against God. Evil is their program; evil is their intention. Good men, religious men, sensible men are not deceived.

The Holy Family

What a feast for all mankind, the Feast of the Holy Family! In its three members, how the Holy Family appeals to us. In its entirety as the foundation unit of all human society, how this example of the family at its best appeals to all of us!

In its members the Holy Family gives us three persons blessed with grace and holiness above all other human persons. Jesus the eternal Son of God is the Child of the Holy Family, the Son of Mary, the ward of Joseph. Blessed with all the powers of the divinity from all eternity, He shows Himself in His human environment as most lowly among men: first a little infant; then a beautiful boy in all the littleness of one who was subject to Mary and Joseph, of one who grew in grace and wisdom and power; then as a man among men still filled with love for His revered Mother, still led by the gentle direction of St. Joseph. Mary blessed among all mothers, graces the Holy Family as its Queen matching her love for Jesus as her Son, by her reverential awe of Him as the Son of God. Joseph is a true ornament of the Holy Family as he shows all the affection of a true father for the Child of Nazareth, all the respectful love for his charge as the Son of the Most High God.

In its glory as the foundation unit of the human race according to God's rule, the Holy Family is the exemplar of what every Christian Family should be. God's love and God's power, and God's plan for all His earthly children are expressed in every family unit; they have their truest and fullest manifestation in the Holy Family of Nazareth. The ideal of all motherhood, the outstanding example of solicitous fatherhood, the lasting personification of filial devotion, are all presented to us in the Holy Family in the trio of holy ones that constitute it, Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

May the Holy Family be with all of our truly Catholic homes as they honor this Feast by receiving Christ in Holy Communion; as they observe the sacraments of the day in the honor they show their Bishop following his recommendation in a special act of love for the mother of each individual family.

Fr. Higgins Says:

Out-of-Date and Anti-Social. The best friends of the American Communists have been those ultra-conservatives who, even at this late date, are unable and/or unwilling to distinguish between Communism and social justice.



Consider, for example, the Journal's extremely unfortunate editorial of November 29 on the recent convention of the CIO in Portland, Oregon. The editorial starts out by suggesting that it really isn't accurate to refer to the struggle at Portland as a struggle between the "right" and "left" wing factions of the CIO.

"We think those terms are inaccurate," says the Journal, "because they suggest a difference of a character which seems to us not to exist in the CIO — at least it seems not to exist among its leaders."

Philip Murray and the Communists are birds of a feather, says the editorial, and don't let anyone propagandize you into thinking otherwise. Regardless of his little argument with the Communists at Portland — the impact of which, thank God, was probably felt among the working classes of Europe and of Asia even if it wasn't felt on Wall Street — Mr. Murray, we are told, "is for a program of centralized controls which would be totalitarian in character."

MR. MURRAY, in effect, is accused of being a liar. It is suggested in the editorial — and more than suggested — that his opposition to Communism is merely a tactical maneuver, a ploy attempt to throw dust in the eyes of the unsuspecting American public.

Sensing that "it is no longer possible to apologize and associate" with the Communists, Mr. Murray and his fellow "liberals," says the Wall Street Journal, "are denouncing Communism with all the fervor with which a reformed alcoholic denounces liquor. But these people continue to use those measures which are totalitarian, they have fooled themselves — and a great many other people — into believing that if they can describe totalitarian methods in terms of true liberalism, the methods are not totalitarian."

It is perfectly obvious that the man who wrote that editorial didn't attend the CIO convention in Portland. It is also perfectly obvious that he doesn't know Philip Murray and his associates at CIO headquarters in Washington, D. C. I did attend the CIO convention, and I do know Philip Murray and his associates at CIO headquarters. I know them well, and I know that while the Wall Street Journal says about their program and about their personal motives and intentions is an out-and-out falsehood.

PHIL MURRAY is not in favor of totalitarian controls. That's one reason he opposed the Taft-Hartley Act while the Wall Street Journal was vigorously supporting it. Unlike the Wall Street Journal, he happens to concur with the social encyclicals of the Popes and with the recent pastoral of the American Bishops in advocating the only type of economic planning — the Industry Council program — which has a ghost of a chance of forestalling the imposition of totalitarian controls.

He doesn't believe in the sacredness of American "free enterprise"; neither do the Bishops. Apparently the Wall Street Journal does. And if the Wall Street Journal had had its way for the past 15 or 20 years, what's left of legitimate free enterprise would have given way by default to governmental restrictions and controls.

Thanks to the CIO and other like-minded organizations, we have been spared the inevitable consequences of the Wall Street Journal's outmoded and deeply anti-social economic philosophy.

Phil Murray is advocating certain specific governmental controls at the present time. Of course he is. He has to save the economy from the recklessness of the Wall Street Journal and its fellow-devotees of so-called free enterprise. But Phil Murray is looking forward raptly in vain if the Wall Street Journal has anything to say about it to a better economic order in which it will not be necessary for the federal government to save the day for American industry by imposing so many emergency controls.

He is looking forward to the establishment of the Industry Council program, and if the Wall Street Journal wants to refer to this as totalitarianism, then let it count the American Bishops among the totalitarians and make the most of it.

IN THE MEANTIME let its editor come down to Washington for a personal interview with the distinguished gentleman who he has so grossly misrepresented. Let him stop talking like the Daily Worker which has at least one thing in common with the Wall Street Journal — a profound dislike of Mr. Murray and the CIO.

Both papers are doing everything in their power to discredit one of the few organizations in the United States which is able and willing (in cooperation with like-minded groups) to bring about a Christian reconstruction of the social order. Both papers, for different reasons of course, and in different ways, but with the same net effect — are out of touch with the people, to say nothing of their being out of touch with Christian social teaching.

The CIO, on the other hand — with all its faults and imperfections — is groping, however imperfectly, towards a more effective application of Christian social principles. Why doesn't the Wall Street Journal lend it a helping hand instead of sulking in the misery tent of nineteenth-century economic individualism?

Do You Remember?

25 Years Ago—Jan. 4, 1924. An appeal for funds for the starving people in Germany was made in a letter by the Most Rev. Thomas F. Hickey, Bishop of Rochester and read in all churches of the diocese.

10 Years Ago—Jan. 5, 1939. With Rev. Stephen Sweeney, C.P. as celebrant, the first Christmas Midnight Mass to be held in any royal institution was attended by 600 inmates and a small group of officers and their families in Eliza Reformatory.

Arrest of Cardinal Mindszenty Recalls Ancient Persecutions

(NCWC News Service)

The arrest of His Eminence Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary, by the communist-dominated Hungarian regime on charges of "crimes aiming at the overthrow of the republic" is without exact parallel in modern history. It is expected that the Cardinal must now stand trial before a "people's court."

Historians have to go back to the time of Thomas Cardinal Wolsey to find an example of a government arresting



ARCHBISHOP STEPINAC, a member of the Sacred College and ordering him to stand trial for his life. However, Cardinal Wolsey was never tried. The ailing prelate was arrested by minions of King Henry VIII of England in 1534 but died en route from Cascood to London where he was to stand trial.

THERE ARE examples of Cardinals being arrested in more recent times but in their cases there was little pretense to hide the fact that they were arrested merely because they

met with the displeasure of the rulers. They were never placed on trial.

In 1810 Napoleon took into confinement 13 Cardinals who refused to attend his "marriage" to Archduchess Marie-Louise of Austria on the grounds that it was invalid. Napoleon, who also arrested and placed in confinement Pope Pius VII in 1809, "deposed" those 13 Cardinals and detained them in various castles in his empire. They were never permitted to wear their purple robes and were referred to by the people as "the black Cardinals."

AN INSTANCE in more respects similar to the arrest of Cardinal Mindszenty is that of Archbishop Mieczslaw Halka Ledochowski of Gnesen-Posen, who was imprisoned by Bismarck for his staunch resistance to unjust measures of the Prussian Kulturkampf. He was arrested in February, 1874, and taken to a dungeon at Ostrowo. The following month while still in prison, the prelate was created a Cardinal by Pope Pius IX. The Cardinal designate was held for two years and then released and expelled from Prussia.

In the present era Hitler did not dare arrest any of the German Cardinals, though His Eminence Michael Cardinal von Faulhaber, Archbishop of Munich and Freising was among his most outspoken foes. However, the Nazis did keep under house arrest August Cardinal Hönig, the late Primate of Poland during the last months of World War II. The prelate spent most of the war years in France and became a prisoner when that country was completely taken over by the Nazis.

IN THE EARLY history of the Church several outland-

ing churchmen were exiled from their sees because they incurred the displeasure of the ruling monarch. St. Athanasius was banished from his See of Alexandria in 336 by Emperor Constantine of Constantinople. St. John Chrysostom was exiled from his See of Constantinople in 403 by Emperor Eudoxia and died in exile three years later.

In the postwar era a great similarity is seen in the arrest of Cardinal Mindszenty, the Primate of Hungary, and that



CARDINAL MINDSZENTY of Archbishop Aloysius Stepinac of Zagreb who, while not a Cardinal, is the leading Catholic prelate in Yugoslavia.

Both were arrested by communist regimes in what was regarded as a frontal attack on the Catholic Church in those countries. Archbishop Stepinac was condemned by a Tito court in October, 1946, on charges of disloyalty to the regime. He was sentenced in 16 years of forced labor, loss of legal rights for five years and the confiscation of his property.

I'm a Priest

(The Rev. John F. O'Neil, assistant at St. Mary's Church, Pawtucket, Rhode Island, wrote the following article for the parish bulletin. Widely hailed as a simple, forthright and inspiring statement of the meaning and rewards of the priesthood, it was reprinted by The Providence Visitor, (Catholic newspaper in Rhode Island).

I'M A PRIEST. And I like it. I don't suppose everybody would. A lot of people think you must be just a little queer to be a Priest. But I don't know if that's true. I know one Priest who played big league ball before he entered and another who played for Paul Whitehead.

Father George Keer was ordained a couple years ago. He was captain of the Boston College team that beat Tennessee in the Sugar Bowl and an All-American guard. The New York Post Department boasts of two Priests who were ex-cops.

Are there any servicemen in the States? For the Priesthood is a calling for a man who is willing to sacrifice everything they want to help him get more of what he wants. Anybody with guts can apply.

I did apply. It was tough all right. Tougher than I had expected. I used to spend nights wondering if I wasn't crazy for trying. I used to say to myself: Listen pal, there are

of a Priest if he hates anybody. His Leader, Christ, loved girls — once the Pharisees were going to stone a bad girl, and would have if Christ hadn't come her champion. And as for loving babies you don't even be a Priest if you don't love babies. And Christ was the one who said that.

I don't think I'm particularly different from other American men. When I was a kid, I saw two paths open. They were both good — one led to marriage and a flock of youngsters, the other led to the Priesthood. Either way I had to give up something, either way I got something big.

I certainly wasn't a "chub" with my hair parted in the middle and a heavenly smile on my face. It would have been better if I were. I knew how to fix bicycles before I knew how to decline a Latin verb and I know more about peddling papers than I did about geometry.

A PRIEST once told us, "God needs men. The whole world is going to ruin and Christ needs men who are willing to sacrifice everything they want to help him get more of what he wants. Anybody with guts can apply."

I did apply. It was tough all right. Tougher than I had expected. I used to spend nights wondering if I wasn't crazy for trying. I used to say to myself: Listen pal, there are

Parish Assistant Tells Of Rewards of Vocation

35,000 Priests in U. S. they made it and a couple of them were dumber than you. I wanted it and that was enough.

AFTER A WHILE I found myself studying theology and thinking about the Minor Orders and Subdiaconship. How the time flew! Fellow's used to go around with started getting married and even having children and I was still a schoolboy.

The studies never got much easier; living together going down to more or less the same kind of meals all the time getting up before the sun, going to the chapel for prayer and meditation and sitting at a desk studying — they never were easy.

And then one day I went home to our Cathedral and there fourteen of us knelt before the big altar. The Bishop came out and started the ordinations. We all heard him say in Latin: "You are a Priest forever." He anointed our hands with oil and his assistants wrapped them with linen cloths.

There I was alone and we went out to give our first blessings to our mothers and dads, most of them were crying and had drops we started to blink but we weren't sad, we were just full of happiness and gratitude.

THE NEXT DAY I said my first Mass and as I said the words: "THIS IS MY BODY" I shook like a leaf. That was God! I was calling down from heaven. That was God! I was putting on people's tongues.

It's not for everybody, it's not for anybody. But don't ever get the idea that if you're going to be a Priest, you're giving God something. I had that idea once. I have a different idea now. I got the most wonderful gift ever given to a man on the face of the earth.

I ask everybody I know to pray. I'll always try to be worthy of it.

Spain Assists Vatican Radio

Madrid — (NC) — Spanish Catholics have sent a donation to His Holiness Pope Pius XII for the purchase of new transmitters for Radio Vatican. The donation represents a swift response to a suggestion made a few weeks ago by the Central Committee for the Holy Year in Rome that one of the best gifts for the Pontiff, who will celebrate his golden jubilee as a priest in April 1949, would be funds for new Vatican Radio equipment.

No systematic collection was taken up. The gifts were inspired by an editorial appeal in Ecclesia, Catholic Action magazine of this city.

Fr. Gillis Says:

The Real Patriot

Some Americans, and especially some good holy Catholic Americans, are scandalized when an American, a fortiori, a Catholic criticizes America, or a trend in American morals. These gentle folk seem to think it not only unpatriotic but un-Christian to criticize. They are likely to append an epithet "peevishness" to the complainant.

But there is some mental confusion back of such an attitude. A true optimist is a perfectionist. He is not content that either he himself or anyone else should be "pretty good" or "good enough."

In the novitate where I received the best and highest teaching in religion (thanks now to the noble and saintly men who taught me) there was constant insistence upon the fact that "pretty good" was not "good enough." Our preceptors used to quote St. Bernard who said: "Ubi distat summi, perit ubi." Pardon the Latin; for conceited with what you have achieved you are lost. Or, as Shakespeare puts it in the mouth of Macbeth "damned be he that first cries 'Hold enough!'"

As of exhortations of man to man, so of those of man to his country. A preacher who really loves the people will upbraid them, sometimes vigorously, for their fallings away from grace. The most tremendous castigations of a whole people are those that the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel hurled at their own people, Israel.

Our Savior, gentle as he was, spoke terrific warnings and when the warnings went unheeded, condemnations over Jerusalem. So did Dante and Savonarola over Florence. These blood-chilling castigations were prompted not by hate but by love. Christ and his priests and prophets were not pessimists but optimists. They believed that men could and should be better.

THOUGHTS LIKE these came into my mind one day when I read in the daily papers these passages from the speech of Archbishop Cushing delivered in Boston on Columbus Day.

"Human life is never held in greater contempt than it now is in the mere natural life of the body was never in greater jeopardy. The sanctity of life is despised by the worldly and the self-centered who have even organized to change the laws of our land written to protect the birth of children, the abolitionists the mercy killers are all leaders in this conspiracy."

Last year the newspapers reported the publication of a plea for legalized murder under the guise of the "mercy killing" of certain types of sick and aged human beings. This barbaric plea was not signed by Nazi scientists or communist commissars. It was signed by reputable American authors, philosophers and self-declared Christian clergymen.

Swinging to a different kind of an now prevalent in America, the Archbishop said: "Christians know that filthy books and degenerate plays are among the principal instruments of death to the soul. And so they should be prepared to use the strength of Christian idealism in the battle against these."

"But there is another angle to this angle which suggests to me that the State has also an obligation to put its resources to work against the spread of obscene literature and the production of degenerate plays. If it be found that book publishers and theater guides do not intend themselves to clear their heads and recognize their responsibility for the moral condition of the nation."

The general decline of a standard morality in our country as due to the contamination of speech of jungle ethics in our stage plays and motion pictures. This is the principal reason for the cynicism with which persons and nations greet American efforts at moral reform on the international level."

WORSE THAN sins of indifference and obscurity, worse perhaps than crimes against nature, is hypocrisy. At least it is the sin that brought out of our Saviour a moan, the most terrific denunciation ever uttered by God or man."

Archbishop Cushing says: "There is something hollow about our moral pretensions and something almost hypocritical about our crusade for international righteousness, so long as America gives such grudging support to the agencies within our own land and which are working for individual and family moral reform."

Indeed, sometimes we are confronted with this scandal. The very authors, actors, commentators and critics who are most involved in the destruction of personal and family morality here at home are frequently the most articulate and militant crusaders for international morality abroad."

They do not seem to realize that there can be no decent moral standards in the relations between nations so long as decent moral standards do not prevail among individuals here at home.

I have spoken of Dante and Savonarola of Christ and his prophets who lived and preached so much that they did not spare their people. It seems to me that the Archbishop who speaks in the same tradition, is prompted also by the same motive.

Calendar of Saints

SUNDAY, January 9—St. Julian, Basilissa and companions, Martyrs. SS. Julian and Basilissa were married and had a daughter named in chastity. After the death of their daughter, they made his home a refuge for the persecuted, persecuted by severe persecution. At the order of the governor Maximian, he was tortured in many ways before being executed. With him died many other Christians.

MONDAY, January 10—St. Nicanor, Martyr. A Jew by birth, he lived in the first century and was one of the seven deacons chosen by the Apostles.

TUESDAY, January 11—Feast of the Holy Family. Also the Feast of St. Higgins, Pope-Martyr. He was an American and succeeded St. Telesphorus as Pope in 244.

WEDNESDAY, January 12—St. Arcadius, Martyr. He lived in the 4th century, and was tortured cruelly before being put to death in the persecution under Maximianus Herulicus.

THURSDAY, January 13—St. Pottius, Martyr. He lived in the 2nd century, was tortured in Rome, executed in some city of southern Italy.

FRIDAY, January 14—St. Hilary, Bishop-Doctor. He did not embrace the Faith until near middle age, and received Holy Orders. He was chosen Bishop of his native Poitiers in 353. Pope Pius IX named him a Doctor of the Church.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. I. MURRAY

The altar of St. Bartholomew's Church on an island in the Tiber, Rome, is 10 feet above the floor because the nave is often flooded when the river rises.

St. Basil the Great was one of 10 children, 3 including himself, became BISHOPS, & 4 SAINTS. HIS FATHER, MOTHER & GRANDMOTHER WERE ALSO SAINTS.

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