

Editorials

By
Rt. Rev. Mgr. Wm. M. Hart, P. A., U. G.

The Three Christmas Gospels



THE threefold birth of the Son of God is commemorated by the three Christmas Gospels and the Masses to which they are proper. Christ's eternal birth from the Father is the burden of the Third Christmas Gospel. In a sublime realization of His glorious and eternal birth from God the Father, St. John takes us up to the very heights of Heaven, bids us adore the Son of God as equal to the Father, as Creator of all things.

Life was the Word of God, divine life, the life that was forever to be the light of men. Then came Christ as the true light which enlightens every man born into the world.

A few pregnant phrases, a few gloriously inspired words, and the whole effect of the Redemption is declared in the raising of sinful men to be sons of God. Faith in His Name, Faith in Him as the Saviour—these were to be the required conditions for salvation.

The birth of Christ in this world is the theme of the First Christmas Gospel. Not in Nazareth, home of Mary and Joseph; but in Bethlehem of Judaea as foretold by prophecy, the Christ was to be born. The Roman

Governor was carrying out the Emperor's plan—all men were to go into the city of their ancestors to be enrolled and taxed. Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem which was David's city. There in a stable Christ was born; there the shepherds and the Wise Men came to adore Him; there, surely, came many others not mentioned by name. All came to adore Him; even the Angels of God by their joyful message and their heavenly Gloria celebrated Christ's birth in time.

The birth of Christ in our hearts—in the hearts of men—is the theme of the Second Christmas Gospel. The first part of the history of the birth in Bethlehem as related in the First Christmas Gospel is now supplemented by the record of the visit of the shepherds, of the understanding that came to them as they saw the Christ, of the manner in which Mary kept all these events in her heart. This Gospel is intended to teach us to follow the shepherds and Mary—the shepherds in their understanding of Christ as their Saviour; Mary as keeping her Son close to her, even as we should experience His birth in our hearts as the beginning and end of our salvation.

Three Gospels for Christmas! Three births of Christ! All of them are celebrated on this happy day. Born eternally from the Father, born in Bethlehem, born in our hearts.

Christmas For Peace

Peace on earth giving glory to God in Heaven was the burden of the song of the Christmas Angels in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago. We are told that at the time of Christ's birth there was a lull in the warring of men and nations. It was a time of peace on earth. And the coming of Christ has brought peace to men of good will down through the centuries. Not the perfect peace that God alone can give, but a most blessed contrast to the abiding hatred and murderous slaughter that seemed to mark all men and all ages of pre-Christian days.

The powers of evil are still in the world. Their way has been greatly limited, but they still are enabled to work through the cooperation given to them by Christian men who have turned away from God to sin.

Our loyalty to Christ added to the loyalty of other millions of Catholics, shown by our almost determination to live holy lives, to avoid pagan excesses, to abide in God's grace, will further restrict the domination of the devil, will help to bring true and lasting peace to all.

Christmas for Peace! We have listened to the plea of the Holy Father, Pope Pius XII has prayed for world peace, has urged his people to pray for world peace. In all obedience we follow his plea, and labor and pray

for the peace that came to the earth with Christmas.

Peace on earth, Christmas peace! Peace to men of Good Will! The Infant Saviour is ready to give peace in our time. The Christ-Child is eager to give peace at Christmas. But His peace can go only to men of good will. To men who live by the love of God and the love of their neighbor. To men who know God and live for God. To men whose dreams are not of wars, of conquests, of killings and machinations against justice.

Pagan communists, lawless dictators, enemies of God and man, will never see peace come to the world through their wicked plans. We cannot look to them. But we can and we must look to God, to God's Church, to ourselves and to other men who love God—to them we can look with confidence for that peace on earth which God has promised to men of good will.

Let every man of us strive for that Christmas Peace as the culmination of the manifold blessings of the Holy Year—the Holy Year which has so clearly shown in the millions of Holy Year Pilgrims the fundamental spirit of good will that will make us worthy of the peace on earth which will give glory to God in the highest heaven. May the Christ-Child make this Holy Year Christmas a true Christmas for peace!

First Christmas At St. Cecilia's

Bishop Kearney called the new St. Cecilia's Church a new dwelling place for the Child of Bethlehem. Not an abode of dire poverty as was the stable; but the more comely and more comfortable church edifice raised for Him by the Pastor and people of the new St. Cecilia's Parish in Rochester.

Loving hearts have guided loving hands in preparing a worthy dwelling place for Christ in the tabernacle of this consecrated church. Sanctity shall surround this shrine for all the days ahead—"In longitudo dierum!"

Holiness in the edifice itself now set aside for Christ; sanctity in the celebration of innumerable Holy Masses at its altar; sanctity in the little ones claimed for Christ in Holy Baptism; sanctity in their later reception of Holy Communion, of Confirmation, of Holy Matrimony. Sanctity in the remission of sin from the souls of the army of penitents who shall come to seek a renewal of God's sanctifying grace in the confessional; sanctity in the preaching of God's word Sunday after Sunday to the men of good will who have built this church, have given it to God for divine worship.

Christmas Carols

Music belongs to Christmas! The tidings of great joy spoken to the shepherds were glorified in song by the leaders among God's choristers, the Angels over Bethlehem. Man's joy at the coming of the Christ has been celebrated each succeeding year in carol and cantata and hymn.

Where there is love of the Divine Infant, where there is remembrance of the glory and the poverty that surrounded His coming, there we find the Christmas Carol. Rich in varied form and fancy and musical structure, our treasury of Christmas Carols has come from the hearts of God's own people. Just as the Angels sang Heaven's version of

the Bethlehem Hymn, so men of good will in every age have given us the joy of the people of earth at the Saviour's birth.

All nations, all ages, all races of men have given us their share: the ancient liturgical hymns have been amplified by the Adepts Fideles, the simple Silent Night, the Noels, and shepherd hymns; Bethlehem, its angels, its shepherds, its manger, its Jesus and Mary and Joseph—its star, its in hospitable inn, its welcoming stable—all are recalled to mind in our singing of the Christmas Carols.

May our caroling help us to a better grasp of the Christmas story of love for man; may our joyous singings give added depth to our Christmas prayers!

Rosary More Powerful Than Atom Bomb, Advertisement Says

AURORA, Ill. (AP)—A full-page advertisement in the Chicago Tribune yesterday urged that the "Atom Bomb" be replaced by the "Rosary" as the most powerful weapon for the world's peace.

The advertisement, sponsored by the Aurora, Ill. Rosary Society, says that the rosary is a powerful weapon for the world's peace.

months, then the entire membership is changed and a second unit of four members from each parish in the city begins the course of meetings. An Aurora pastor, according to the organization's by-laws, must be the director. Most of the members are young married women and one of the requirements for membership is that all their children be in Catholic schools.



THE TOP OF MY MIND

By Gretta Palmer



Gretta Palmer

Modern intellectuals and "liberals" who pride themselves on having "open minds" are forever fighting of conviction. They take the strange position that man's duty is forever to search for truth, but to run like a rabbit at the first hint that they may be able to find it.

Liberals in our age are having a hard time of it to preserve their delicate balance of skepticism. If they are not extremely careful, they will begin to believe that something is true, and then their game is up.

The acute embarrassment of these men is well indicated by a statement issued by the University of California faculty in its attempt to define the "academic freedom" means. One phrase of the University's "Regulation Five" which dates the present era of controversy, shows the poor liberal predicament in times like these: "The function of the University is to seek and to transmit knowledge and to train students in the processes whereby truth is to be made known. To convert, or to make converts, is alien and hostile to this dispassionate duty. Where it becomes necessary to discuss social or sectarian movements, they are dissected and analyzed—not taught. The University respects personal belief as the private concern of the individual."

THE LEARNED men who drafted this strange document in 1934, and revised it ten years later, appear to make a strange distinction between "knowledge" and "truth." Professors may transmit "knowledge" to students, but cannot teach "truth." The faculty can pass on only the "processes whereby truth is to be made known."

Truth is, to them, like an elusive bird, which cannot be captured even if we put salt on its tail. "Knowledge" seems to be a little different; we are allowed to "know" things, so long as we make it quite clear that the things we know are never true.

THE WHOLE conception wrapped up in these muddled words is so fantastic and unreasonable that it is hard to see how any body of men even a committee trying to please everyone—could ever seriously have set it down.

For if we do not believe that truth is attainable by human minds, then why on earth would we attempt to attain it? To continue trying to accomplish an impossible task is not the mark of an educated or of even a rational man.

If "truth" can never be attained, then how do we know where to look for it, how do we

know when we are getting "warm"? If truth is not known to the professors, why have they the temerity to try to teach anybody anything at all? If they have not discovered anything to be true, why do they imagine that they are capable of passing on to their students "processes" by which truth is to be made known? If these "processes" have failed to help them discover truth, on what do they base their confidence in their future reliability?

THE LIBERAL, in such statements as these, is merely carrying the classical Protestant position into other areas than that of religion.

A LOOK AT LABOR Workers Should Share In Emergency Policies

By A. C. Tuohy



A. C. Tuohy

THIS country is one of the few industrial nations of the world which, in a time of national emergency, does not think that labor leaders are important.

For some time to come even the military will have to wait on the businessmen who will control and administer our economic system. Government will order hire, price, allocate, and buy. And in this emergency the government will be the business man who operates out of the office of defense mobilization.

It is likely that organized labor will have no greater influence in the policy making end of defense mobilization than it had throughout World War II. The man who is frequently referred to disparagingly as "Fat Deal Harry" will be doing more business with the Charles E. Wilsons than with the Philip Murphys.

Most Americans will not recognize anything extraordinary in such a procedure. The common presumption is that businessmen should be the war mobilizers that union leaders have little or nothing to add to the situation anyway, that a lot of bickering between labor and management will be avoided if the whole war program is directed by business leadership.

THIS STATE of mind and the policies which flow out of it are certainly good for business. Management people would be the last to object to a system which is so partial to their power and which is so fruitful in its rewards. Since the production of goods is so vital, war contracts will be awarded without much haggling over price, costs and profits. The war mobilizers will let the contract renegotiators and the tax officials worry about profiteering in war production.

In the production and distribution of food for war purposes the same procedure will be followed. The motto will be: Get

MSGR. SHEEN WRITES...

Not a White But A Red Christmas

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Msgr. Sheen

about which everyone has dreamed has become a kind of "Red Christmas."

words: "I give peace, but not as the world giveth peace." The world defines peace as the mere absence of war, not as that positive thing, order. Order implies subordination of the senses to reason, the body to the soul, time to eternity, and man to God.

ON THIS Christmas day then men will find peace more quickly if they stop trying to reform the world. We cannot reform the world. But what we can do is change ourselves, to start worrying about the civil war inside of us. This is a war between what the psychologists call the super ego, which is conscience, and the ego, which seeks only to satisfy its lusts and its concupiscences.

Inner peace begins with the righting of our conscience. Such peace revolutionizes the heart before it revolutionizes society. The Christian conclusion asks itself: "What part do I have in the faults that are in the world? How much am I to blame for thwarting the purposes of God?" By diminishing the content of evil within ourselves, we diminish the amount in the world; it is not the other way around.

The fate of the world is beyond our control, but there is one thing in the world over which we do have dominion and control, and that is, our own hearts. Our own wills. When we better our hearts, the world will be better. If Stalin remake his soul, he would remake the world; but by trying to remake the world, he has unmade his soul.

The Christmas message is not that peace will come automatically, because Christ is born in Bethlehem, that birth in Bethlehem was the prelude to His birth in our hearts by grace and faith and love. Peace belongs only to those who will to have it. If there is no peace in the world today, it is not because Christ did not come; it is because we did not let Him in. "There is no room in the inn."

Peace there can be on earth, but it must start, as the Angels said, with those who are God's friends. God's friends, Merry Christmas!

The outer peace is such as the United Nations aims to establish. The inner peace, God alone can give.

CHRISTMAS NEVER promised external peace independent of inner peace. Peace of the world is based on peace of the soul. Peace does not come from the top down, from the United Nations to the citizens of the world. Rather, peace comes from the hearts and souls of men upwards to the United Nations.

There is not first peace among nations, and then peace in hearts; first the hearts of individual men are happy, and then the nations.

The Babe of Bethlehem, who is God become man came to bring inner peace. That is why the advocates of external peace without inner peace men like Herod, did not want Him. Hence the Babe was the object of a war before He was two years old, the enemy of the world made Him the first refugee of Christian history.

Later He told us: "I came not to bring peace but the sword," and "to set mother against daughter and daughter against mother." He warned that all who followed Him would be hated by the world and that as the world persecuted Him, so would it persecute them.

The radical distinction between false, external peace and internal peace lies behind His

WHAT DID the Angels actually announce at Christmas? Glory to God in high heaven and peace on earth to men that are God's friends. Notice the conditional aspect of human peace. It depends on whether or not the Will of God and does not come in spite of it.

There are actually two kinds of peace: there is external peace, which is the absence of war, a relative quiet in which to pursue our goals, with a measure of temporal security. There is also an internal peace, which resides in the soul. This is based on a good conscience and a loving relationship with God and neighbor.

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Christmas Eve

Glad Night of atid December! Silhouettes white and blue Framed in silent coldness Are etched in tinsel snow.

White Smoke from scarlet chimneys Climbs the charcoal trees. Slides along soft branches. Bloomed with new snow leaves.

Hushed Air is dimmed with voices. Falls do not bear sing. But feel as they barken. To catch their barken.

All joyous open churchbound. Haspen to attend. The Virgin and her Infant Peace on earth to men!

—H. C. MILLS

Courier Journal

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DISTRICT Vol. 62 No. 12 Friday, Dec. 22, 1950

MOST REV. JAMES E. KEARNEY, D.D., President.

Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations and the Catholic Press Association. Subscribed in National Catholic Welfare Conference Religious News Service.

Published every Thursday by the Catholic Telegraph and Journal, Inc. MAIN OFFICE: 25 N. BASSETT ST. ROCHESTER, N. Y. AUBURN OFFICE: 111 Geneva St. PH 1-2433 SIRMIRA OFFICE: 211 South Main St. PH 1-1066 or 1-2437

Entered as second class matter on Feb. 10, 1892, at Rochester, N. Y. as provided under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Single copy, 10¢. Yearly subscription in U. S., \$3.00. Canada \$3.50. Foreign \$4.00.

There are SEVEN BETHLEHEMS in the UNITED STATES in CONNECTICUT, GEORGIA, INDIANA, KENTUCKY, MARYLAND, NEW HAMPSHIRE, PENNSYLVANIA.

The lovely carol "HOLY NIGHT" was first sung in Oberlin Church of Salzburg, Christmas Eve 1818. Written by FREDERICK GREGG and set to music by FRANK GRUBER. ORGANIST, WHOSE MEMORIAL IS IN THE CHURCH.

The CRIB in SS COSMAS & DAMIAN CHURCH, ROME has grown into a VILLAGE. 15 METERS LONG, 7 METERS 9 CM. HIGH. HAS OVER 100 FIGURES.