

Editorials

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

1951 A. D.

The fifty-first year of the twentieth century... comes to a close next Monday. It means the time since the coming of the Redeemer and is therefore called Anno Domini, the year of Our Lord, 1951.

He has purchased us toward salvation, of love for Him who has come to be our Emmanuel—God with us.

Such self-examination will give us a proper foundation for the resolutions with which we should open the year of Our Lord 1952. Tempus fugit!

1951 a Year of Strife

War has been close to us all through the year that is passing. It may be an undeclared war, it may be a cold war—but surely peace has been far from the thresholds of the people of Korea, of the United Nations forces which are so nobly and effectively resisting Communist aggression in Korea.

Surely peace has been far from the nations behind the Iron Curtain, and peace has been even further from the people of Russia. Their armies are swelled with boys and men from millions of homes.

War conditions in our own country are reflected in the feverish haste to increase our military strength as the best protection

against threatened war. Arms and munitions and A-Bombs are being amassed. Taxation is at a peak point and all men here know that we are on a war footing even though war has not been formally declared.

We may thank God that the horrors of war have been kept far from our doorsteps. There have been fearful losses in Korea and many of our homes have been marked with sorrow through the capture or wounding or death of one or more members.

May the prayers of all our people, united with their determination to be prepared, serve to remove the threat of war and in the new year bring peace on earth to men of good will.

Christmas Continued

All the things that Christmas brings to us should be preserved. It would be too bad if the spiritual joys of Christmas were to be followed by the spiritual dryness and dearth that can so easily come as a let-down. All the youngsters have been on their good behavior in preparation for Christmas.

No let-down! We cannot look upon our Christmas observance as a complete success unless we carry over into all the days of the

new year the graces and blessings of Christmas-tide. Christ has been close to us in these days—let us keep Him close to us. The love of Christ has impressed itself upon our souls. Let it continue to help us. The spirit of charity toward our neighbor has been in the ascendancy in this holiday season.

May our Christmas greetings continue to show that good will toward our neighbor that will be reflected in a lasting and hearty wish that all his days shall be made merry by the continued presence of Christ, Our Saviour.

CHRISTMAS IN THE TEMPLE

The Sunday within the Octave of Christmas brings us the story of the presentation of Christ in the Temple at Jerusalem. It was an event that took place forty days after the birth of Our Lord.

The Saviour had appeared to men in His birthplace in a cave at Bethlehem. He had lived for a time in a house within the same city. Now He was to come to the Temple in Jerusalem and by His Divine Presence give to that building a sanctity and a prestige far above that which belonged to the Temple of Solomon.

Two great characters of the Old Testament were destined by God to greet the Saviour and to welcome Him to His Temple in Jerusalem. It was Christmas in Jerusalem. Jesus and Mary and Joseph were there.

Simon recognized the Christ in the Temple by some spiritual insight. His prayers and his meditations over many a long year were always made easy for him because of God's promise that he would not see death

unless his eyes had seen the long-promised Redeemer.

Angela called the shepherds to Christ; the star in the Eastern sky called the Wise-men; a special blessing of God pointed out the Christ to Simeon. Simeon's prophecy showed his understanding of the work the Redeemer had come to do. He brought salvation to those who were willing to receive Him. His coming would mean damnation to those who refused to receive Him. Mary was to share in the hardships of her Son's life and her sufferings were to be symbolized in the sort of sorrow that was to pierce her heart.

Happy indeed was Anna as she greeted the various groups in the Temple and spoke her joy to those who were still praying for His coming, that their prayers had now been answered, that the promised Redeemer was at that moment in the Temple and that they could look upon Him with their own blessed eyes.

Christmas in the Temple! All the incidents of the presentation of Our Lord help us to see Christmas in the Temple, Christmas in Jerusalem. May Christ be with us always and enable us to rise from sin to grace, from lukewarmness to the burning fires of faith.

FATHER KENNEDY

"The greatest prose writer of our time and one of our finest poets." This is the judgment on Edith Belloc

LONG after he is dead, long after our century crumbles in the dust of the tomorrow which will soon be yesterday, Belloc's books will be read, and that for many reasons.

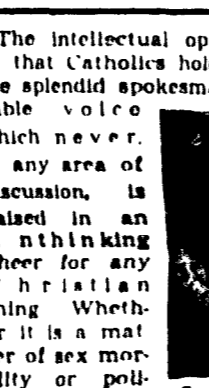
A Portrait of Belloc's Magnificence

places and peoples near and far. The middle of the 20th century has seen the end of anything like the old recognizable Christendom. The day will come when men will want to work their way back to the spirit of Christendom, and Belloc is one of those to whom they will have to go to learn the essence of such an order.

MR. ROUGHEAD has given such men a handy introduction to one of the giants of the twentieth century. And he has given us an occasion for renewing an old delight. True, this anthology contains few of the thousands of pages which Belloc devoted to direct discussion of the Faith. But, then, Belloc never wrote a page in which the Faith was not implicit and, in some degree, explicit.



GRETTA PALMER



The intellectual opposition to all that Catholics hold dear has one splendid spokesman, one reliable voice which never, in any area of discussion, is raised in an unthinking cheer for any cause.

Fanaticism For Christ

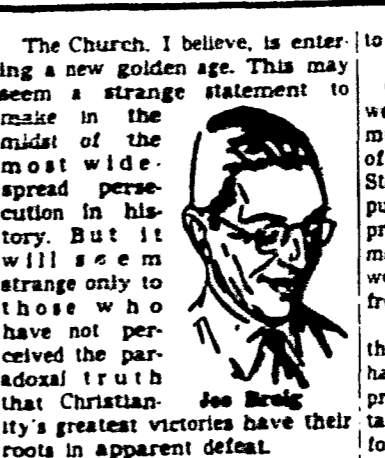
for there are always contradictory authorities to be found." he had better sign up quickly, for a refresher course in Thomistic principles and thank his God that he is allowed to graze in the green fields of Christian truth.

IN THIS SENTENCE, it is the harmless little word "for" that stuns. "For" indicates causation. It is because someone else can be found always to disagree with an authority that we are asked to reject all authority as such.



NO ONE HAS done more for the workers than Christ. The sight of the Son of God working at a carpenter's bench, with rough and calloused hands, without a white collar or a college degree, should be a great consolation to those who are depressed by the modern distaste for work.

JOSEPH BREIG The Golden Age Of Catholicism



The Church, I believe, is entering a new golden age. This may seem a strange statement to make in the midst of the most widespread persecution in history. But it will seem strange only to those who have not perceived the paradoxical truth that Christianity's greatest victories have their roots in apparent defeat.

IT WAS exactly then in the womb of that hush which lasted until the third day that the Church was being prepared by God to emerge into the world apparently weak and pitiful but actually irresistible. The infant institution which would outlast the Roman Empire and all other works of man was about to be born as obscurely as Christ was born in the cave borrowed by St. Joseph.

OF CARDINAL Mindszenty, we now hear nothing. The Communists have drawn the curtain of silence about him. Archbishop Steplanc humbly and patiently pursues the duties of a parish priest under village imprisonment. In Russia, the Church would seem to have vanished from the face of the earth.

AND ATHEISM is done for too. The Christ they have martyred in His Church will not be held by iron curtains or bamboo work of man more than He was held by the great stone rolled across the entrance to His tomb and sealed. He will not be held at all not by anybody nor by anything. Wherever the Church is crucified the day of resurrection is at hand.

THE CHURCH, the shelter of the Christian, has had a very special success in persevering through the modern pagan world and with it the pagan world's man's work is a thing that man should be proud to do.

A LOOK AT LABOR Man's Work A Noble Calling

By A. C. Tuohy

In this cynical world of the twentieth century it is difficult to realize how little work means to a man. We have been taught well that labor is nothing more than a commodity to be sold or exchanged for money. Its value is what it can buy in the market place. It is high priced or low priced depending on the law of supply and demand. Economics and the balance sheet of the profit margin determines things like jobs and suspensions.

THE CHRISTIAN concept of work which prevailed in the Middle Ages is something else again. Work is a man's life. It is as natural to him as eating and sleeping. Through work he develops his faculties and personality, he supports his family, he ennobles the things he makes or services, he fulfills his vocation in life. The work becomes important not because it is high priced or brilliant but because it is done by a man. The man may be slow, feebleminded, imperfect yet his work is sanctified by his human dignity.

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THE CHRISTIAN attitude towards work is rooted deep in the hearts of all men. Look at the aged worker who is relegated to his rocking chair; ask the man who cannot find steady work; talk to the high priced mechanic whose work is monotonous; visit

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