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A Blessed Christmas

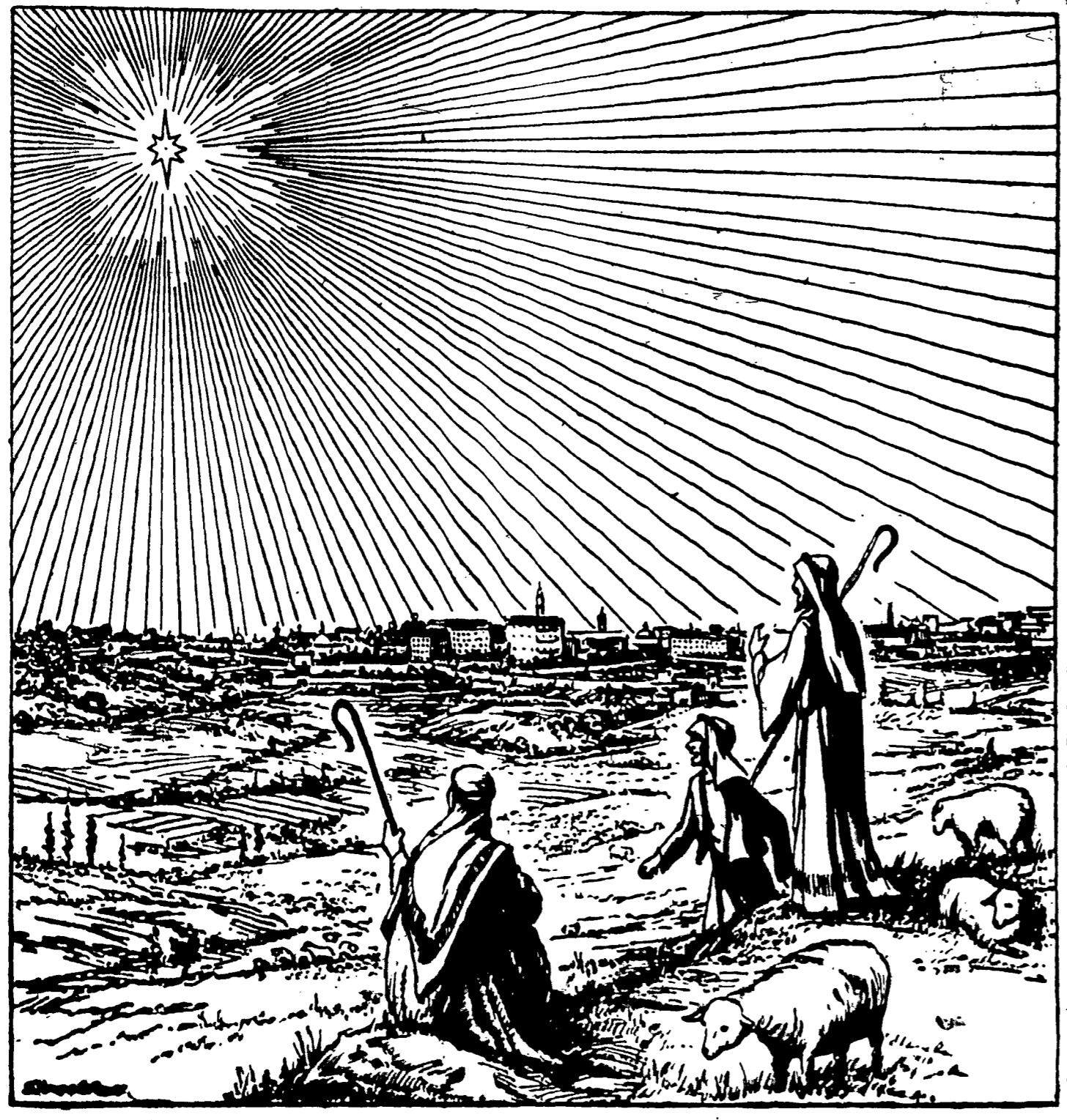
ON EARTH PEACE



Christmas

AMONG MEN OF GOOD WILL

The First Light Of Freedom



At That Time

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 a manger. And seeing, they understood of the word that had been spoken to them concerning

this child. And all that heard wondered, and of those things that were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these words, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God, for all the things they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Gospel of St. Luke, 11, 15-20

THE CATHOLIC Courier Journal

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

65th Year ROCHESTER, N. Y., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1953 13 Pages

Buffalo Bishop Names Two Vicar Generals

Sunday, December 27th

National Day of Prayer To Plead For Persecuted

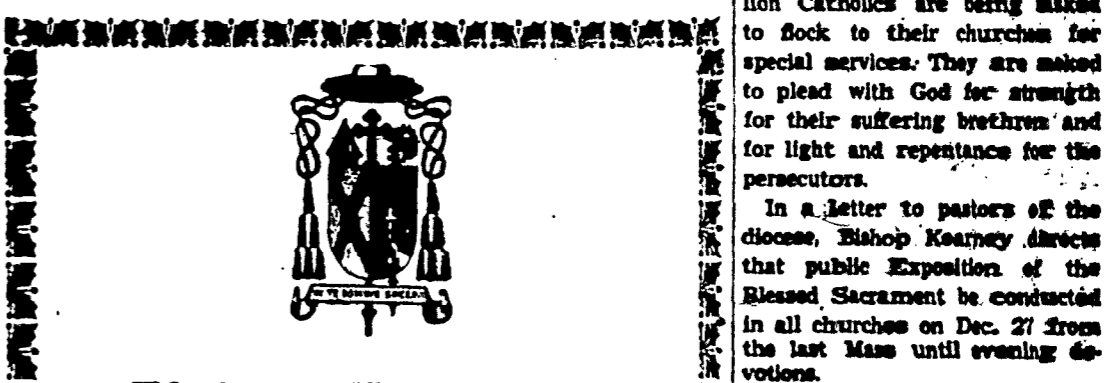
Buffalo — (NC) — Auxiliary Bishop Leo R. Smith and Msgr. Joseph A. Gajinski, pastor of St. John Kanty's Church have been named Vicar Generals of the diocese in appointments just announced by Bishop Joseph A. Burke of Buffalo.

Msgr. Albert Rung, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, was named Official of the Diocesan Tribunal. Msgr. Bernard J. McLaughlin was named Chancellor.

At the same time, it was announced by Bishop Burke that His Holiness Pope Pius XII had honored 24 priests of the diocese. Seven priests were raised to the rank of Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor, and 17 were made Papal Chamberlains with the title of Very Reverend Monsignor.

Those named Domestic Prelates included Msgr. Joseph E. Schelder, Director of the Youth Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference, Washington, D. C.; Monsignor McLaughlin, Chancellor, and Msgr. Sylvester J. Holbel, diocesan superintendent of schools.

His Excellency Bishop Kearney today called upon Catholics of the Rochester Diocese to join in a national day of prayer on Sunday, December 27 to intercede for the Church's persecuted millions in Europe and the Orient. On that day America's 30 million Catholics are being asked to flock to their churches for special services. They are asked to plead with God for strength for their suffering brethren and for light and repentance for the persecutors.



Bishop Kearney's Christmas Message

My Dear Friends:

May I take the opportunity offered by this Christmas Edition to wish you all a very happy Christmas. May the Infant Jesus bring to you and your homes His choicest Christmas Blessings and may His Blessed Mother bless this year which we dedicate in tender devotion to her Immaculate Conception. Under her Motherly care, may peace and happiness bless your homes in the New Year. God bless all of you and give you a Merry Christmas.

Your devoted shepherd in Christ,
+ JAMES E. KEARNEY
Bishop of Rochester

In a letter to pastors of the diocese, Bishop Kearney directs that public Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament be conducted in all churches on Dec. 27 from the last Mass until evening devotions.

"Urge your people to come and pray for our co-religionists whose cribs have been demolished and whose churches have been closed," the Bishop advised.

The special day of prayer is in accordance with a decision reached by the American Bishops at their recent annual meeting in Washington. A joint statement adopted by the Bishops at the meeting expressed the deepest grief at the "intense, bloody" persecution in Europe and the Orient. The Bishops promised the faithful to "stand in prayer for the wounds you suffer for justice's sake."

Reminding American Catholics that "Peter is again in chains," the Bishops pleaded:

"Let there then be supplication to God and penance that His grace be poured out in superabundant measure to strengthen those who hold the place of honor and of danger in the new warfare launched against the Church."

DECEMBER 27 will mark the third annual observance of a day of prayer for the Church in chains. Both last year and the year before American Catholics gathered in churches and in their homes on the last Sunday of the year to supplicate God for their brethren in bonds.

Stories from many parts of the country told how Catholics braved bitter cold, blizzards and snowdrifts to make those Sunday, a nation-wide demonstration of love and concern for the persecuted Catholics in Communist lands.

Following is Bishop Kearney's letter ordering a day of prayer for persecuted Catholics throughout the world:

Dear Father:

Sunday, December 27, is a national day of prayer for the Church's suffering in so many places in Europe and the Orient.

Please announce public Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from the closing of the last Mass until evening devotions, and urge your people to come and pray for our co-religionists whose cribs have been demolished and whose churches have been closed.

Your devoted shepherd in Christ,
+ James E. Kearney

10,057 Converts Reported In Korea

By FATHER PATRICK O'CONNOR

Seoul, Korea — (NC) — More Koreans became Catholics last year than in any previous year on record.

The total of 10,057 conversions reported by the six mission territories in South Korea for the year ending June 30, 1953, is higher than any year's total previously recorded, even for all Korea.

Korean catechumens — persons taking instruction as prospective converts — numbered 14,502 in South Korea last June 30. That is also believed to surpass any previous year's figure, even for all Korea.

(South Korea takes in about two-thirds of the country. In the Communist-ruled north all priests, Korean and foreign, are captive or dead, and religious teaching is banned.)

Chunchon Prefecture, under Father Hubert Hayward of Christchurch, New Zealand, had also their best year on record, with 436 converts. Part of Chunchon is still a depopulated, front-line area.

In the Chonju Prefecture Msgr. Bartholomew Kim reported 286 converts for the year.

How many Catholics in Korea? According to latest reports, there are 167,977 Catholics in a total population of 21,354,000 in South Korea. Present conditions make an accurate census almost impossible, however. In 1949, Catholics were estimated at 137,860 in a South Korean population of 19,369,000.

The death rate during the past three and a half years of war and refugee existence in Korea has been abnormally high. Because of the war and separation of families, the natural increase by births to Christian parents has been abnormally low.

No statistics for North Korea have been available for years. Many northern Catholics have fled south, Catholics remaining in the north can hardly number more than 50,000. Thus the total number of Korean Catholics would be between 200,000 and 220,000.

How many priests in Korea? There are now, Dec. 1953, only about 250 priests (excluding chaplains with foreign forces) for the 21-million population of South Korea. About 200 of these priests are Korean, some 40 of whom are chaplains with Korean armed forces.

Foreign missionary priests in

Amputee Walks On Rome Trip

Rome — (NC) — After walking more than 1,000 miles on his crutches, a French amputee, a veteran of the war in Indo-China, has arrived in Rome.

He is Gaston Moreau, 29, who has been received in audience by His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

The war veteran made a vow to make a pilgrimage to Rome after undergoing 32 operations in which he lost his left leg and an eye. He left Brazzaville in western France on August 3 and arrived here earlier this month.

Irish Plan Special Marian Year Stamp

Dublin — (RNS) — A special postage stamp will be issued by the Irish Government to commemorate the 1854 Marian Year. It was announced in Parliament by Erskine Childers, Minister for Posts and Telegraphs.

Last month, Govt. suggestions from the Holy See and the Vatican were received and a decision was made to issue a stamp. The stamp will be issued in Dublin, Ireland, on Dec. 24, 1953.

Midnight Masses Set For Radio

Midnight Mass will be heard from the following churches of the diocese beginning at 12 o'clock on Christmas Eve:

Rochester
Cathedral of the Sacred Heart (WHEM-Radio)—His Excellency Bishop Kearney will celebrate Solemn Pontifical Mass and preach the Christmas sermon. The Rev. Edward J. McAniff, assistant rector, will be narrator.

Old St. Mary's Church (WHEC-Radio)—The Rt. Rev. Msgr. James C. McAniff, pastor, will celebrate High Mass, with the Rev. Francis Pegnam, pastor of St. Thomas More Church as commentator.

St. Boniface Church (WHEF-Radio)—The Rt. Rev. Msgr. John F. Goggin, P.A. rector-emeritus of St. Bernard's Seminary, will pontificate at High Mass, with the Rev. Walter Kohl, pastor, as preacher, and the Rev. Leo McManus, of the Seminary faculty, as commentator.

St. Monica Church (WSAY-Radio)—The Very Rev. Msgr. Gerald C. Lambert, pastor, will celebrate High Mass, with the Rev. Michael P. O'Brien, assistant pastor, as commentator.

Elmira
St. Patrick Church (WENY-Radio)—The Rt. Rev. Msgr. William J. Egan, V.P., pastor, will celebrate High Mass, with Cornelius J. Milliken commentator.

Yank Artillerymen In Korea Mark St. Barbara Feast

With the First U.S. Corps, Korea — Artillerymen of this corps added to their spiritual ammunition on the feast of their patron, St. Barbara.

She brought 350 of them to Mass and 100 to confession and Holy Communion on her feast day, which was also the First Friday of December.

Though celebrated in a cold shed on a bare Korean hill, it was a solemn High Mass with all the ceremonies. Men came from all 1st Corps artillery battalions. Before Mass they lined up inside the shed and in the open, to go to confession. Four priests heard confessions.

FATHER (CAPT.) Henry J. Hemphaus, O.S.F.S., of Philadelphia, Catholic chaplain with the corps artillery, organized the Mass and acted as master of ceremonies. Father (Major) Angelus P. Diemer, O.F.M. Cap. of New York was celebrant, Father (Lieut.) Thomas M. Morrissey, C.S.S.R., of Detroit, deacon, and Father (Lieut.) Edward D. Cowling of Boston, subdeacon.

The two acolytes were Lieut. William Laughlin of Cleveland, Ohio, and PFC James Dickson of Springfield, Ill. — Sgt. Charles Maust of Uniontown, Pa. was thurifer.

A 20-man choir, representing the various field artillery battalions, sang, under the direction of Pfc Brian Gillen of Long Island, a Korean soldier. Sgt. Pak, played the organ.

At a signal over the field telephone, a 105-mm. artillery piece fired a salute at the elevation of the Mass and at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament afterwards.

BRASS SHELL cases, hung like chimes, were struck at the Sanctus and Consecration. The sandsticks were brass shell cases, too.

The choir sang a hymn composed by its members in honor of St. Barbara, "Patron of the Cannoniers."

Saint Barbara glorious Patron of Field Artillery, Your martyr's death gave us The blood-red scarf of bravery. (Artillerymen wear a red scarf around the neck.)

After the Mass, Father Deimer blessed a large picture of St. Barbara, which will be placed in the chapel. It will be presented to Brig. Gen. Thomas L. Sherrburne, Jr., who until recently commanded 1st Corps artillery. He is now Chief of Staff, 8th Army. The men of a Field Artillery battalion, the 159th, had the honor of making the frame and stand for the picture.

Have you seen St. Barbara's Christmas Window—a beautiful setting in the True Spirit of Christmas? It's located in Lake Ave. Room 602—Adv.

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Your devoted shepherd in Christ,
+ James E. Kearney

Mayor Bans Liquor At Office Parties

Cleveland — (NC) — Newly elected Mayor Anthony Celebrezze of Cleveland banned liquor from Christmas parties at city employees' and asked business firms to have their office parties. The Mayor called upon industrial and business leaders who have been generous with liquor, not only as a measure, but also as a means of showing their support for the Mayor.