Birthday Of Our Saviour Congratulations To Parish Series Of Three Masses Christmas Graces, Books

By MONSIGNOR HART

### **A Merry Christmas**

To all our readers and patrons the Catholic Courier Journal extends best wishes for a Merry Christmas. Our observance has connected with it many traditional and cher--ished sidelights, but for every Catholic there must always remain the realization that it is the Birthday of Our Lord and

The word "Merry" is an old English word that is intended to indicate all the happiness that comes from a proper and sat down, smiling at Mrs. realization of all that the coming of Christ means to us. Brown. "I suppose," he remarked, God is in His Heaven and all is right with the world. Our "you are about to retort that prayers at this time must include a prayer that lasting peace maybe I can persuade your husmay come to our world and make effective in every heart band to listen to reason. the Christmas peace which Christ came to bring. Merry Brown, "Something higher."

### Christmas Joy At Mt. Carmel

Father Azzi and his staff of Priests have every reason "Something still higher," anto rejoice at the wonderful drive which has brought them swered Mrs Brown. over \$169.000 to repair the damage done by the recent fire MR. BROWN CAME back from at Mt. Carmel School. The heart and soul of every member the wardrobe where he had placof the parish was put into this effort to raise \$150,000. The ed the Stranger's coat. He plantdrive has gone over the top and Mt. Carmel will soon be re- ed himself in the center of the stored to its original fine condition to welcome back again all living room and began. "Now look sir. I'll leave it to you the boys and girls who had been attending the school.

boys and girls who had been attending the school.

Congratulations to Father Azzi and to the clergy and For years Sara has refused to allaity who have labored so faithfully to restore their parish low me to give her anything for school.

### Christ In Christmas

There can be no Christmas without Christ and the most asked the Stranger natural word to connect with Christ and His glory is the MR. BROWN answered before "Mass." The Mass that is the most important part of the his wife could "Every Christmas, celebration of the Birthday of Our Lord is so intimately con- Sara has insisted that instead of ioined with the Feast in our hearts and minds that we can-giving her a present, I send the not conceive of them ever being disjoined and so with all money to Father Paul's mission." the holly and the ivy, with the evergreens and the mistletoe, "Well," said Sara, "that's what I want this I wanted. That's what I want this we have above all Christ on our altar in the Christmas Mass, Christmas too." and Christ in the Christmas Crib.

All the other elements of celebration are interesting and were dealing with an obstreppleasing in their traditional joy but the main celebration of erous child. "I've told her." he Christmas must always center around the Child in the Crib explained, "that this year my at Bethlehem.

And so along with merry fireplaces and pedigreed dogs can send a check to Father Paul And so along with merry fireplaces and pedigreed dogs and also give her a present. Christmas cards must give to us a definite representation That's what I want to do. But of the Christ and the humble stable in which He was born, she insists instead I send a larg-All these other traditional picturing of the things that go er check to Father Paul, and give new era in the history of music. All the great musical works and in the nature of a return for along with Christmas have their place and will continue to her nothing." held it but they have their deepest meaning when they are "You'd be giving me the check," which enhance our lives with monies, can lift the mind to sessaitely represented as part of our celebration of the Birth- argued Sara. "And that's what I s'u c h great day of Christ in its original setting at the little Stable in give me what I want?" growth of that

So mark the Mass for this great day as a special Mass of the Church to commemorate the birth of Christ. It is not just one Mass but it is a series of three Masses along the Church to celebrate the three-fold high of the Church to commemorate the birth of the celebrate the three-fold high of the Church to commemorate the birth of the celebrate the three-fold high of the Church to commemorate the birth of the celebrate the three-fold high of the celebrate the celebrate the three-fold high of the celebrate the cele marked by the Church to celebrate the three-fold birth of you understand? You've had Bach, Beetho-Christ: His birth from the Father in all eternity; His birth your way every Christmas. This ven and Mo-in time at Bethlehem and His birth in the hearts of each time, I want the pleasure of sur-zart; after one of His children.

### The Graces Of Christmas

Fine to make your Christmas joy effective in special ings for soul and body. Think of Christ as filled with to the neighbors. That's a small Oratories of St. Phillip Neri grew text to give the music the right- vate homes for Christmas dinner, leve for you and coming down to earth that He might pre- thing to ask, isn't it?" the your eternal home in Heaven. Try to think of Sara said firmly, "Maybe it's them the early, now-forgotten, style are more concert-wise than make change for long-distance." them the early, now-lorgotten, churchly. This is why the Mass in phone calls and do sundry other aren't as important as putting operas; and out or mese, the inlarge of the shall be yours in Heaven. Angels sang shoes and clothing on those poor the first of Verdi Puccini, and WagMissa Sollemnis of Beethoven, or shoes and clothing on those poor eras of Verdi, Pucchi, and Wag-children—not to mention getting ner. Each of these, standing (so the dramatic Requiems of Verdi the word of God into their hearts, to say) on the shoulders of his

Me Christmas can be complete that does not carry with souls." alcagiving to the Son of God for all the blessings of the Christ and closer to your eternal home among the blessed, ly waiting for his answer. Mr.

### Christmas Books

Your friends will be receiving from you and will be also time I'm not going to be builled it had been for the great music it had been for the great music of ancient, medieval, and even them will be real Christmas books, devoted to the nice present for Christmas."

Remaissance music, it was rather the concert hall and the theatre. at Bether and the history of His life here on earth.

Sers shrugged Tr you do, I'll the concert hall and the theatre.

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Sers shrugged Tr you do, I'll the concert hall and the theatre.

Sers shrugged Tr you do, I'll the concert hall and the theatre. have done in the lest two thousand years. You will saided skyly, "Of course, I won't entertainment, not for worship. wing many secular books and they have their value be able to sell for full price, sher of them can mean all that it should mean un- but-

### **JOSEPH** BREIG

Present From

Mister Brown The Mysterious Stranger rang

the doorbell. "You're just in time," said Mr. Brown, ushering him into the living



shook a bit of snow from his coat. handed it to Mr. Brown.

room. Maybe

you can per-

suade my wife

to listen to rea-

The Stranger

"Not reason," replied Sara The Stranger elevated his eye-

brows. "Oh" he said. "Woman's intuition, perhaps?

. Christmas..."
"Except," interrupted Sara, "what I wanted" "And what did you want?"

business has been so good that I

prising you with something them, Brahms eautiful on Christmas morning, and Tchaikowwant the pleasure of hearing skd. Out of the the children exclaiming over it. little intimate I want to watch you showing it dramatizations of the Bible in the etitious, underplaying the sacred place GIs in the communities pri-

and the seal of Baptism on their to say) on the shoulders of his and Berlioz have to be ruled out

Brown set his law firmly for a moment. Then he said, "Sara, (using "modern" in its widest you're a spiritual builty. But this meaning) was not the Church, as Father Paul," After a pause, she man than from God It was for modern music has risen mainly

This Day I Have Begotten Thee



This is a striking impression of the birtle of Carist so vividly expressed in the meaning Psaims 2, 7, which open the Introit of the Mass for Christman Day! The Lord said to me: Then art My Son, this day I have begotten Thee." Reproduction is from a painting by Antonio Bale. stra, which hangs in the Church of St. Zachary in Venice; Italy. (RNS Phote)

CHURCH MUSIC -

# 7: Third Kind Of Church Music

### - By REV. BENEDICT EHMANN -

(This series of articles commemorates the golden jubilee of the "Motu Proprio" letter on Church music issued by blessed Pope Plus X on Nov. 22, 1983. Author of these articles is the Rev. Benedict Ehmann, nationally known muthority on Church Music and paster of St. Mary of the Lake Church, Watkins Glen, N. Y.)

When Palestrina and his contemporary peers gave new dimensions to musical art in the 16th century, they opened a the tradtional spirit of good will" with which we are familiar and

gifts.

votion of soul."

Though they are colossal works

the armor of Saul cumbering the

young David. Their place is the

concert hall where it can be

heard with awe and delight. At the Mass they would only distract

Bl. Pius X voices a necessary

precaution in this matter: "Since

to serve profane uses, greater

care must be taken with regard

Ehmainn

the Oratoris of Handel; out of of-way), or because its form and provide information service. predecessors, opened up new vis. of divine worship. tas of expression, and created THE MYSTERIOUSEY Strang enduring masterpleces of music. of the greatest artistic value, yet

The matrix and fostering cradle they are a bad fit for the Mass: for most of this modern music Renaissance music. It was rather and annoy.

will have clear mean all that it should mean until the manual of the musical art which this great revolution effected, are we to suppose that it which are admitted to the Church the Mysterious Stranger. "There you several copies of books that you several copies of books that you seeve love in the Mysterious Stranger por shake for yourself to buy a series of books for a moreont, looking for a modern being modern genius of music and the first that faith is heir to.

The Mysterious Stranger por coveries be disciplined by some modern genius of music and to not fashioned even in their sounded into genuine worship moulded into genuine worship music comparable to the divine of profane pieces."

This RULES OUT from lituring that Bach and Beethoven and Mozart and Schubert and Verdi and Still, with all the immense de-

### For Christians On Christmas New York - (RNS) - Jewish

Jews Fill Jobs

volunteer workers with the USO will take over the chores and services of their Christian coworkers at the organization's clubs throughout the country on Christmas, the National Jewish Welfare Board reported here. The board said the action is "in

similar favors rendered by non-Jewish workers on Passover, Rosh Hoshanah and Yom Kippur. In general, the Jewish volun-

higher things and foster true deteers will man snack bars, re-Thus the matter stands The beckening star shines in the sky: ception desks and chesh beckening star shines in the sky: USO clubs on Christmas. But in let the Magi musicians of today some areas they are planning ad come to the Holy Land with their ditional services.

At the Newark, N.J., USO club, HEAR NOW AN. important distance will provide Christmas tree tinction for clear understanding: decorations and gifts for servicenot all sacred music of our times men away from home. In Dothan, s church rmusic — either because Ala it does not conform to liturgical Emanu-El Sisterhood will turn laws (too long-drawn-out, too rep- out with their husbands to help tasks

At Mt. Clemens, Mich., Jewish volunteers will organize caro singing, and in Baltimore, Md. they will operate the USO club from 7 a.m. until midnight.

## Balance Between God And Men

Breeklyn - (NC) - "The atomic age has generated atomic fear and atomic immorality, because men have failed to keep constant the balance which should exist between the forces of grace and forces of nature," Father John A. Flynn, C.M., president of St. John's University here told his students.

"The true fact is." said Father Flynn in his annual Christmas message to the student body, "that the more human nature becomes immersed in the mysterious forces and

want for Christmass of Successfully want for Christmass of Successfully want for Christmass of Successfully waterstood Mr. Brown. Of that's all settled I get the same tipes questions.

BL FRUX X wrote in Mr. Motor Cart and Schubert and Verdi and and Sc

### Sing Maryly By SISTER MARGARET TERESA

(Professor of Literature, Namareth College, Rechaster, N. Y.)

Little Word, little Head of the Book! Alpha and Omega, our All. "bound by Love in one volume" (Dante says)-our single saving History, Breviary of our fortunate hours! What things happened to the world of song, to the expression of men, when You startled the breast of hope with Your sudden coming! What new elements are these, intertwining with the majestic pleas of Your royal ancestor David, that ever after give to all poetry about You an unearthly sweetness?

SURELY THE new elements are the undying Gioria of the angels and the pure heaven-climbing selflessness of Mary in her joy for the world—these two echo tenderly in the carol of the centuries. You are forever the wonder of the angels, little Word, the angels who "keep their ancient places: turn but a stone and start a wing!

And it is Mary who utters You on earth, publishes You, little volume of Love; gives you rose-leaf follo inviolate, parchment most pure and chaste; binds You in whitest sheath of the Tower of Ivory and golden clasp of the House of Gold, and sings You a Preface of ecstasy, "Magnificat," Little First Book of the Marian Year, we will be reading You at that first midnight hour of Your

How angelically right is the theology of medieval singers, how maidenly their minds!

I sing of a rmaiden that all matchiess in The King of all Kings is her Son, I wis. He came all so stille where His mother was, As dow in Aprille that falleth on grass, He carne all so stille to His mother's hower. As dew in Aprille that falleth in shower. He came all so still where His mother lay, As dew in Aprille that falleth on spray, Oh, Mother and Maidem was ne'er none best she Well such a Lady God's Mother be!

Is not the divine aura of the first moments in Bethlehem all around it? We can sing it, too, if we use a (not at all medieval) famous tune, the Lourdes hymn, "Immaculate Mother, our hearts are on fire."

Sometimes it is a martyr-to-be of a later unquiet day who sings best of You, little Word-like Blessed Robert Southwell, who had a vision of You in 1594 as his own Tyburn passion approached:

As I in hoary winter's might stood shivering in the amow. Surprised I was with sudden heat which made my heart to glow . A pretty Babe all burning bright in the air appear... "Alas!" quoth He, "but newly born, in flery heats I fry, Yet none approach to warm their hearts or feel may fire but I! My faultiess Breast the furnace in, the fuel, wounding therm . Amd straight I called unto mind that it was Christman Day,"

In America, in our own state, there is a precious song each year more widely known; it appears in public-school singing books, it was heard on a recent John Fisher Glee Club program, it is being sung by some little pupils of the Notre Dame Sisters for this Christmas—a song composed by the martyr-missionary Father Sean de Brebeuf for his belover Hurons in the wild cold New York

"Iwas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fied. That mighty Gitch! Manitou some angel choirs instead! Before their light the stars grew dim And wand'ring hunters heard the hymn, "Josus your King is born, Jeous to born, In excelsia Den!

Within a lodge of bresken back the leader lisbs was found, A ragged robe of realibit skin enwrapped His beauty round, And as the hunter beaves drew nigh The angels' song rang loud and high-"Jesus your King is been .....!"

The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair As was the ring of glory on the helpiese Infant there, While chiefs from fair before Miss knell With gifts of fox and beaver pole. "Ferre your King is born ..... !"

The Wely Child of earth and Monvey is been Come kneel before the Heliant Boy Who brings you beamty, peace and jey,

"Jeous your King is Born .... !" And the music, for the adventurous, goes in even best: Sol below do) do re mi fa mi re do, TI (low) do do re ti (low) de; Sol (low) do re mi fa mi re do, Ti (low) do mi re ti (low) do: Do sol sol re mi fa mi re. re mi re do do re do doti (low): Chorus: Sol (lew) do do ti-la-sol (low); do ti-la (down) do (proclaiming it); then, the exultant In excelsis Dec., Do re mi fa sol (high) sol (low) DO!

As our choir-mistress. Sr. Rose Gonzare, says, it is the missionry's complete abandonment to the thoughts and tastes of his dear Indian souls that is the great wonder of it—and this is that selflessness of Mary, that all generations call blessed.

All the world then as now was singing, making up words for Mary.

Sing: Julishy, may little Bey.

and the nums of Carmel, as Teresa had taught, sang at the thought of His sweet Face.

> I can His Parts maket fale! All Sowers are therein!

How much might we choose from our own poets, from the grave Alice Meynell, the awestruck Chesterton, the crusading Belloc, the melodious Noyes (!), the crystal Tabb, the steady flame of Jessica Powers—so marry more, all lovely when they sing of You!

"In praise, Jesu! of Thee, and the white Lily-flower which did Thee bear," we will go singing, and as Thomas Merton says, we will "one by one kneel to look upon our Life," for we are the lucky people of the earth, who know "... the secret, cherished, perilous,

The terrible, shamefast, frightened, whispered, sweet Heart-shattering secret of Thy way with us."

We know, and we hear the little "Agnus, Agnus Dei Pleading for man with Love's own breath." "I can hear if I listen," says Sister Madeleva, "A young Child's cry:

I cám see, if I look, Legions of wings, And in weman who s On all their things."

# Refugee Mother's Lullaby BY MYETTLE YORKT BEEFFARD .

SEEEP, my little one, aleep! Around the world brave shopberds heep This Christmas Eve a watch on said M AND MANY CASES AND MANY COMMAN Dry your nost tears and rest. ... and rest. This night, through all the yours. Has always been a blance And buty one. Many purity, House,