



Ready To Serve A Winter Hazard Income and Blessings

By MONSIGNOR HART

Aids To Catholic Action

Countless organizations, diocesan, national, international, are the vehicles through which Catholic Action is kept to the front with our people. Some of these are parochial, some religious in nature, while others are civic and political. Every Diocese has its group of societies caring for individual items in Catholic Action.

At this time of year those who are members of these corporations meet to submit the financial and spiritual report of the work they are doing. It is edifying to both clergy and laity to note the eagerness with which our men and women make themselves active members in our organizations. Every claim of education, charity, has its particular society to conduct its work. The young and the old, the sick and the crippled, the normal and also those who need special care, all have their individual societies to care for them, and men and women who make up these societies to labor for their welfare.

Only a certain section of each group in the Diocese and its larger cities are called upon to be active members of the various organizations, but every good Catholic holds himself ready to answer the call when it reaches him. The zeal of the Church for the welfare of all of its members is personalized in the Boards of Trustees and Directors who carry on the various works of charity, and education and religion in the different parts of the Diocese.

Every Catholic will be in spirit united with the large number of Trustees that represent our schools, our orphanages, our hospitals and other charitable organizations.

Just at this time of year the annual board meeting of each organization is being held. Individual members pass on, but the organization remains in all its perfection, and maintaining its useful program of activities for the various concerns of the Church in the Diocese. All Catholics pray for the welfare of these organizations and hold themselves ready for active service at the call of those in charge.

Snow

There is a certain gladness about the fall season and the spring season. The spring season introduces the glories of production in animal and vegetable fields, while the fall season prepares us for a real change to the face of our earth in the whiteness brought by the snow to our fields and farms. This whiteness covers also the streets and buildings of our cities. It is a complete change from what has been. Along comes the storm laden with crystals of bright snow to decorate all things about us. Snow usually comes as a welcome change to what has been our daily program. It is a good thing. It brings joy to our hearts.

But even of a good thing, there can be too much. We like a certain moderation in the flurries and storms that accompany the visitation of the snow. Some of the best poems we have from our native writers celebrate the beauty of this visitation.

"Snowbound" of Whittier brings us a brilliant and homely description of the changes wrought in our homes and fields by the annual return of the crystal snow flakes. Winter comes as a brilliant-decoration for our cities and towns. A real snow storm seems to blot out everything that is tawdry or unpleasant in our fields and streets.

Familiar scenes take on a new form and we are blessed with the variation in the scenery around us that helps us to know the beauty of our northern winters. There is a certain danger that comes with the winter season. Men, ambitious beyond their time of life, still go forth to shovel the snow and keep the walks open. Those above a certain age should have a family council before undertaking a personal attack on the snow. The experience of other men a little past the ordinary age, who have striven to shovel away all the snow, should guide the men of our day. There is no special gift bestowed on elderly men to enable them to give all their strength and energy to a mass attack upon the snow. It is not easy today to find workers who will report for a moderate wage to do this work. This can be no excuse for elderly men to go forth with more ambition than strength to shovel the walks and clear the fields and reduce the avalanche of the snowy meter. Let us find joy in the snow that nature sends us at this time. Let it be a joy according to reason, where we can make ours all the poetry and delight of the winter season and still reserve for the younger generation the heavy labor of removing the surplus snow. May God give us grace to enjoy the winter season with its welcome-visitations of beautiful fields of snow.

My Financial Statement

The first month in the year usually calls for an accounting for the year. For any lack of ambition that might belong to us personally, we have the active prodding of state and federal government to submit a detailed account of our income and expenses. Our annual report helps us to know accurately the value in money terms of the blessings that God has given us.

Our careful attention to our income, and the sources from which it comes, should give us an accurate report of what the year has meant for us, besides giving us a basis for computing our income tax, which should remind us of the many blessings that God has bestowed upon us in the course of the year. A better understanding of what God has done for us should keep us humble in the sight of God and above all keep us grateful for the things He has done for our community and all its members.

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JOSEPH BREIG

More Funny Headlines

Having written one column about newspaper headlines, I guess I'll write another. When a fellow finds a productive mine, he might as well work it for all it's worth. This time I will accent the positive. In the previous article, I imagined a planet where most people hated sin—every sin—and where you might expect, therefore, to see a front page story headed: **MAN FALLS TO KEEP LORD'S DAY HOLY, FLEES.** Now let's visit another strange world—a world in which folks do not merely disapprove of sin, but enthusiastically approve of every virtue, and like to see good deeds noticed. What would their newspapers be like?

Why, that seems easy enough to answer. Here are some of the headlines which I would expect to find on every newspaper:

FATHER, MOTHER DECORATED. President commends Joneses for rearing good family. Cites devotion to children as backbone of nation. Praises happy religious atmosphere of Jones home.

UNIVERSITY CONFERS HONORARY DEGREE ON UN-ASSUMING SAMARITAN. Convocation hails retired coal miner, Frank Smith, as Doctor of Humanities for moving laws of allying neighbors, sitting with children of weary mothers, cheating up discouraged friends, and generally making himself useful.

TICKER TAPE RAINS ON HUSBAND PATIENT WITH NAGGING WIFE. "New York's finest" march in honor of Harry Hoffman. Governor hails him as heroic defender of marriage vow. Mayor says stability of state depends on hidden sacrifices like Hoffman's.

DESIGNER PICKS WORLD'S TEN MOST MODESTLY AND TASTEFULLY DRESSED WOMEN. Says good, they have done by their example cannot be calculated. Calls upon younger generation to follow suit.

LEGION OF HONOR GOES TO HOLY MAN. Government hails hermit spending life in prayer for fellowmen. Decoration accepted by proxy; hermit declines to leave seclusion or to interrupt penances.

Sunday Sermon

By Magr. Hart

CHRIST'S FIRST MIRACLE

Christ's first miracle was worked not in the great city of Jerusalem, not in His native city of Bethlehem. It was not worked in the southern kingdom of Judah, but in a small town in the north country of Galilee which was called Cana.

Christ was attending a wedding; his mother was there also. Mary noted that the wine was running short and noted also that the bride and the groom were troubled at this apparent neglect of their guests.

Mary put the matter to Her son "They have no wine," Jesus said to her "What wouldst thou have me do, woman, My hour has not yet come." His mother then said "Do whatever He tells you." Jesus then ordered the attendants to fill the six water jars.

Jesus ordered them to take these jars to the chief steward; and as soon as the chief steward had tasted the water after it had become wine, he called the bridegroom and said to him "Every man at first sets forth the good wine and when they have drunk freely, that which is poorer."

IT WAS on this occasion that Christ raised the natural contract of marriage to the dignity of a sacrament. As part of the sacramental system of His Church every man who was baptized would receive the Sacrament of Marriage at his wedding.

Every bride and groom today partakes of the graces of the Marriage Feast of Cana because bride and groom receive at their marriage the sanctifying grace of God's own Sacrament.

God is present at their wedding; the Mother of God is also there and the gift of Christ at each wedding is the sacramental grace that unites the bride and groom in a lawful marriage. Surely it must be a gracious memory for every bride couple to know that Christ thought so much of the great Sacrament of Marriage that he made this particular marriage at Cana the occasion of raising Marriage to a Sacrament. There He manifested His glory and there His disciples believed in Him.

Stations of St. Joseph And the Christ-Child

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA

Jesus In The Crib

Divinity in silence looks at me,
The light of Heaven harrows all my heart.
I have only tears of joy to answer Thee—
Henceforth will humble silence be my part.

Jesus Walking

My little God, Thou darest, for my sake?
Thou wilt begin the journey of Thy years
With arms outstretched to me, to man? Oh take
Ever the first step toward this slave of fears!

Jesus Falling

The Toddler falls, and laughs, and shares with me
A secret that makes earth an earlier heaven:
Where Love is, there Mischance can never be.
When Love wills pain, Love is its mighty leaven.

Jesus With Mary

No cross-road yet; I am their hidden way
Wherein they move together to His Will.
I am willing dust, soft to their holy tread—
O let me be their freest channel still!

Jesus Borne By Joseph

Lift Thee and Thy little heap of flowers,
My Jesus—and I am a giant now!
Thou wilt send me to the world's end with powers
That in Thy sweet embrace like magic grow!

Jesus Refreshed By Mary

This is Thy dearest sport—the joyous eyes
Are hid in Mary's cloth, and then are free.
"Thou Jesus! Now I hide! And now— Surprise!
I'm Jesus, I am thine— thou knowest Me?"

Jesus At Joseph's Knee

Thou kneeling, Thou a learner? Little Boy
Of whom the prophets spoke so long ago,
How can I shape the words? For very joy
My throat is stopped, my heart is kneeling low.

Jesus With Neighbors

He will not play unless He be the server,
The host, and all the world of men His guests—
And lends His father-carpenter His fervor
To fill, or high or homely, their behests!

Jesus Over-Wearied

We know not what to do. Divinity
Strains in our limits, and the Boy is tired.
He heard perhaps some sharp uncharity—
Heaven's door is opening, yet man's own is barred.

Jesus Retiring

The God of Day puts off the robes of clay,
Yields to His creature Night. He will not call
A thousand angels to sing lullaby—
Only the Queen is here, and one poor thrall.

Jesus Obedient In All Things

Thou our whole treasure, where we put Thee down,
Thou liest unquestioning; whether in poor straw
Or desert sand, or Mother's arms, or on
Bed of man's making, shaped with plane and saw...

Jesus Praying To The Father

Those arms wide lifted in the evening air
Draw all of Heaven down in ecstasy.
Kneeling, I wrap me in Thy soundless prayer:
O Holy, Holy, Holy! Praise to Thee!

Jesus Tucked In By Mary

She ponders, lost in love, that lovely Face
With which her heart's pure depth is all a-flower:
O little One, eternally to trace
Thy Countenance will seem too brief an hour!

Jesus Asleep

Jesus is sleeping. Let all noise then sleep,
All stir and trouble into shadow die,
And let me, home or Godward hurrying, keep
His peace about me, His serenity.

You Can Win Converts

A NURSE WINS FOUR

By

Rev. John A. O'Brien, Ph.D.

Miss Clara O. Letourneau of Milwaukee is a nurse who has ministered not only to the physical and welfare of her patients but also to their spiritual well-being and has helped to lead four of them into the fold of Christ. Now retired from her active duty the memory of these souls won for Christ is a source of comfort, joy and inspiration for her.

"I have specialized in the nursing of tuberculosis patients," said Miss Letourneau, "and in 1945 was ministering to Harriett Anna DeCora at Lakeside Sanatorium in Madison, Wisconsin. She was a beautiful Indian girl, 24 years old, intelligent and artistic.

"I told her of making a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre in Canada and of the practice of Catholics in asking the saint to join their prayers to ours before the throne of God. I explained that the saints in Heaven, the souls in Purgatory and the faithful on earth are all members of the Mystical Body of Christ, capable of praying for one another.

HARRIETT THOUGHT this was a beautiful practice and wanted to know more about our holy Faith. I explained many things to her and answered her various questions. She then asked how she could become a Catholic. I got in touch with Father Doherty, who came out to the Sanatorium once a month to hear confessions and distribute Holy Communion. He gave her a catechism and I gave her a rosary.

"She studied the catechism diligently and I taught her the prayer especially the Rosary. As Father Doherty was very busy at St. Raphael's which had become the Cathedral, he asked me to help along in any way I could. Harriett was getting restless, too, so I sent her name to the Salzmann Correspondence Course, 3257 South Lake Drive, St. Francis, Wisconsin, and they instructed her by mail. She finished with a grade of 92 per cent.

"The Rev. Fr. Handel was now coming out once a month to the Sanatorium and he baptized her. I was her godmother and knelt at her side when she made her First Holy Communion. Tears of joy were in her eyes. She wrote to her family in Hokkaido, Minnesota, telling them of her new found happiness.

"THE FOLLOWING spring her father, stepmother, two sisters and four step-sisters were received into the Church. I like to think that it was Harriett's example that turned their thoughts to the Church and got them headed in that direction."

"That's the way it usually happens," I remarked. "One conversion often starts a chain reaction that ultimately may bring in a dozen or two. The case of Mr. and Mrs. John Karagher right here in Milwaukee is a good example. Their conversion has led to the conversion of seventeen relatives and friends in the course of a few years. Tell us, Miss Letourneau, about the other converts you've helped."

"Mr. Fred Turner, another patient at the Sanatorium, expressed an interest in the Catholic Faith. Father Van Handel asked me to help, so I sent his name to the Salzmann Correspondence Course. When he completed the course, Father received him into the Church.

"In 1948 I was nursing at the Forrest Lawn Tuberculosis Sanatorium, four miles from Jefferson, Wisconsin. Among the patients there was a Pearl Henderson whose two brothers and a sister are converts—married to Catholics. She felt desperately the need of the solace which only a deep religious faith can give, for she was very sick.

"I WAS PRAYING for her and you can imagine my joy when she asked me to have Father Charles Beck, who attended the patients there, to minister to her. He instructed her and received her into the fold. It was none too soon. Fortified by her First Holy Communion and the last rites of the Church, she died a devout and holy death.

"About a month later, Mrs. Alice Rhoda, the nurses' aide who had witnessed Pearl's devout death, expressed an interest in knowing more about the Church. I got her in touch with Father Beck who instructed her and received her into the fold. She received her First Holy Communion at Christmas midnight Mass in 1948. Four years later she wrote me that those years were the happiest of her life."

"Splendid! Miss Letourneau, I said, 'you have set an inspiring example showing all of us how with a little tact, kindness, and zeal we can help in winning souls for Christ.'"

CHURCH MUSIC

10: The Singers

By REV. BENEDICT EHMANN

(This series of articles commemorates the golden jubilee of the "Motu Proprio" letter on Church music issued by blessed Pope Pius X on Nov. 22, 1903. Author of these articles is the Rev. Benedict Ehmman, nationally known authority on Church Music and pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Church, Watkins Glen, N. Y.)

Music in church, let us remember, is functional, and not merely ornamental. Its purpose is to express the prayer of the congregation and its leader. This purpose determines who are to be the singers in church.

1. The Celebrant or the Officiant. — When the priest celebrates a Mass, he is called the celebrant. When he leads the singing of the Divine Office, as at Vespers, he is called the Officiant. These are the technical terms of vocabulary, but I cannot avoid them.

In either case, whether as celebrant or officiant, the priest is the leader of the singing, and the leading singer. He does not have more singing than the rest, but what he has is of capital importance. As leader, he begins the Gloria and Credo.

To him is assigned the collected prayer (the Collect) of the entire congregation. He sings the great opening of the Canon, known as the Preface, which begins, since it is a corporate prayer, with a two-way dialogue between celebrant and people.

When the Communion banquet begins, he sings the Lord's Prayer. And it is finally his part to dismiss the congregation of the Mass, with the words: "Ite Missa Est."

SURELY IT IS greatly desirable that the celebrant should sing his part well. He need not have a good voice. But such as it may be, he should use it well. That is one of the purposes of the music course in the seminary, and recently the Pope has published a new directive for seminaries to increase and intensify their music training.

A young man is not rejected for the priesthood because he does not have a good voice or is tone deaf. But these liabilities can be offset with good will and practice. Maybe they will not always be eliminated, but they can always be reduced. What sometimes sounds like bad singing by a priest may not be the result of a poor voice, but of bad diction and pronunciation, and for that the cure is simple and attainable.

2. The Deacon and Subdeacon. — The two lessons from the Bible in the Mass, namely the Epistle and Gospel, are sung by the two ministers who assist the celebrant. The Epistle is sung by the subdeacon; the Gospel by the deacon. During the Epistle, the people sit, as listening to an instruction. During the Gospel, they stand out of respect for the Lord, like soldiers at attention before their leader.

3. The Congregation. — The people in the pews have their assigned parts in the singing of the Mass. These parts are as follows: The Responses, all of them throughout the Mass; the Kyrie, the Gloria, the Credo; the Sanctus and Benedictus; and the Agnus Dei.

There will be times when, for the sake of variety and of using other kinds of liturgical music, the people's part will be sung by the choir; but even then the Responses, which are always with the same simple chant tunes, should be sung by the entire assembly. Never should there be a Sunday or Holiday High Mass in any church, when the people have nothing to sing from beginning to end. The Church has given the mandate: let pastors prepare the flock to sing their proper parts in the Mass.

GREAT EFFORTS are commendably being made to beautify and modernize our churches; but if those efforts stop short at enabling the people, who are the "living temples of the Holy Ghost," to sing their part in worship, all the other beauty and decorum are without their crowning glory. In a true sense, they are "beautiful but dumb."

4. The Choir. — The proper arrangement for a High Mass also calls for a choir, whose special function it is to sing the parts known as the Propers of the Mass. These parts are the Introit, the Gradual and Alleluia (or the

ITS TOO BAD that the organ loft has become the choir loft. The proper place for the choir is near the sanctuary, downstairs. If the place is too conspicuous, it should be screened off. This place is called the chancel. When new churches are constructed, the plans should be sure to include a suitable chancel.

Such a location would go far toward eliminating misbehavior and would help the choir singers appreciate their part as integral with the celebrant's and the congregation's close to the altar, and not as a far-away decoration.

Finally, a matter which is a real hot potato. Properly speaking, according to the rubrics, the choir should consist of men and boys, and they should be vested in cassock and surplice. As things now stand, most choirs are mixed, or consist entirely of women or girls.

If this is allowed, it is only in very special cases, and as a temporary expedient. While in the meantime the necessary steps are being taken to train our men and boys. The Church surely has nothing against women, even as singers. In congregational singing, they are to sing as much as the men.

BUT THE singers in the choir have a special liturgical role, along with the priest and the sanctuary ministers, and as a choir can be filled only by masculine singers. This touches on a great and explosive topic, and I have no intention of setting off a fuse.

But I humbly venture the opinion that the problem of forming liturgical choirs of men and boys will be almost insurmountable until choir schools are established in each parish, or at least in each deanery, of every diocese.

The Blessed Pius X did it, and ordered it to be done. What else can we do but get to work? In the meantime, the women are helping. God bless 'em!

Quebec Couple Has Six Sets Of Twins In Eight Years

St. Joseph D'Alma, Quebec — (NC) — The sixth set of twins in eight years of marriage was born to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Tremblay, 31 year old couple of nearby Ile d'Alma.

Each set of twins has been a boy and girl. One child died several years ago. They had one single birth, leaving them now with a total of 12 children.

Because the father has not been able to get full employment, the Quebec government is now giving them a federal family allowance check of \$60 each month.

A year ago volunteer masons and carpenters joined to complete the attic of the Tremblay home and thus add three rooms to the original three rooms of their home.

The parents and all the children are reported in excellent health.

Family Life Book Published

Washington — (NC) — A book called "The Father, The Head Of The Home" just has been published here by the Family Life Bureau, National Catholic Welfare Conference.

It is a compilation of 18 addresses which were delivered in March 1953, at the National Catholic Conference on Family Life in Philadelphia. The introduction is by His Excellency Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States.