



They All Came To Bethlehem...

THE MOTHER OF CHRIST

By MONSIGNOR PATRICK J. FLYNN

BETHLEHEM IS Mary's story. For a long time the birth of Christ at Bethlehem remained one of God's best guarded secrets, and Mary's too.

When Christ was born in Bethlehem, nobody really knew about it... almost nobody, that is. Only Mary and Joseph and a few shepherds.

When the truth of Christmas finally came out, it was because Mary told the story. What the young Mother of Bethlehem kept to herself for so long, she finally revealed in the aftermath, when she was the aging Mother of Christ.

ADVENT READING
This is the first of four readings on the story of Bethlehem offered to our readers during Advent.

In the twilight of her life, she told the story of Bethlehem to a young gospel writer by the name of Luke. Christmas is the story of Mary's joy, climaxing with the birth of her Son at Bethlehem. These hours of joy Mary kept treasured in heart, and only when her Son had triumphed in the resurrection did she break silence to reveal her own triumph at Bethlehem.

steeped in the religious training of her people, Mary knew the expectations and hopes of her nation. She was well aware of the longing of the Jewish people for the coming of the Messiah or the Redeemer. She knew, too, that according to the prophets, the hour of the Redeemer's advent was at hand. According to the prophets, the Christ when he came would be of the blood of King David. And Mary was well aware of the dreams of the daughters of Israel, especially those who like herself belonged to the royal house of David. One of them, they hoped and prayed, might be the Mother of the Messiah. On all these dreams and opportunities, Mary by her vow of virginity had closed the door, so she thought.

The story of Bethlehem, as Mary tells it, had its beginning nine months earlier in the backwoods of Galilee. Here we find Mary living in the lowly village of Nazareth, a village despised by the Jews. "Can anything good," they asked, "come out of Nazareth?" This lowly village was hardly a village at all, but only a cluster of grotto-houses carved out of the hillside by shepherds and peasants and overlooking the valley of Esdraelon.

HIDDEN AWAY IN one of the nearest towns of Galilee, Mary had no delusions of grandeur, no hopes of fame and glory. She was content to love God the best she knew how, in secrecy and quite, and alone.

This was the hour when God entered the scene. Here on the lowly stage of Nazareth God rolled back the curtain on divine mystery and the secrets of heaven. Across the centuries the spotlight of God's revelation had played many times upon the horizons of man's world. And in this light of God's revelation had walked great figures of history like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David and the prophets.

Now at long last, after centuries of longing, the light of divine truth, like the first, fresh dawn of the world, breaks over a dark and hidden corner of Galilee. Here in this new light from heaven stands revealed for the first time God's secret love. His holiest saint — the Maid of Nazareth.

MARY HAD REBELLED against the demands of her relatives and the traditions of her people.

As a deeply religious girl, she had secretly vowed to live a life of virginity for God.

The conflict between Mary's conscience, which was vowed to virginity, and Jewish tradition, which insisted that she be married, was finally solved. This was when Joseph came in to the picture. A man much like Mary in temperament and purity of heart, Joseph agreed to accept Mary on Mary's terms, and to live with her as brother and sister. Thus Mary and Joseph became publicly betrothed, but their holy secret they kept to themselves.

This is how it happened. God sent the Angel Gabriel down from his celestial throne to Nazareth, with a message for Mary. This was the message for which the whole world was waiting.

The Angel entered Mary's humble home and found her alone. He greeted her:

"Full, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women."

Not since God in the early hours of Paradise, had greeted Adam as the lord of the earth, had heaven spoken to any creature as Gabriel now spoke to Mary. (Continued on page 5)

Protestants Visit Catholic Church

Bay City, Mich. — (NC) — A group of Baptist church members made a tour of St. Hyacinth Catholic church here. Led by Rev. John A. Barker, pastor of the West Side Baptist church, the group was composed of 18 high school students and their guardians. Purpose of the tour was "To help the group to dispel ignorance, doubt and prejudice by obtaining information first hand from a reliable source," according to Rev. Mr. Barker.

Reminders For Feast Of Immaculate Conception

Catholics of the Rochester Diocese are reminded that Saturday, December 7, will be a day of strict fast and complete abstinence.

Catholics 7 years of age and over may not eat meat.

Those between the ages of 21 and 50 are further restricted to but one full meal and no eating between meals.

The Vatican Congregation of the Council in a decree earlier this year permanently transferred the fast and abstinence requirement from the August 14 vigil of the Assumption to the December 7 vigil of the Immaculate Conception.

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Abp. Godfrey Also Heads Ukrainian Rite

London — (NC) — Archbishop William Godfrey of Westminster was installed as the first Exarch of the Byzantine Ukrainian Rite Catholics living in England and Wales here.

Attended by hundreds of Ukrainians living in England, most of them refugees from Soviet



ARCHBISHOP GODFREY Heads Two Rites

domination and persecution, the ceremony of installation followed a Pontifical Mass sung by Archbishop Ivan Bucko, Apostolic Visitor to the Ruthenians of the Byzantine Rite living in Western Europe.

The papal mandate creating Archbishop Godfrey exarch was read by Archbishop Gerald P. O'Hara, Bishop of Savannah and Apostolic Delegate to Great Britain.

The ceremonies took place in the small Church of St. Theodore on the northern fringes of London's business and industrial area, which was originally built as a school and later became a chapel for Irish workers before it was made a church for the Ukrainians.

The ceremony also marked the first time that an English Archbishop had been installed twice in the same diocese. As exarch of the Ukrainians, Archbishop Godfrey holds the same jurisdictional position with relation to them as he does to the Latin Rite Catholics of the Archdiocese of Westminster.

Pupils Pay Own School Bus Rides

Ellensburg, Wash. (NC) — Children of rural families using the parochial school buses in this cattle country will raise feeder calves to help finance their own transportation.

Lourdes Academy has purchased 35 purebred Aberdeen Angus feeder calves from the Flying B Ranch. Academy pupils, under the supervision of their parents, will feed the animals until next fall sale time when they are expected to double their present weight of 400 pounds each.

The academy operates two school buses which run 162 miles daily and cost approximately \$4,000 per year. It is expected that the 35 calves will bring a net profit of \$1,500.



Mr. and Mrs. Donald Bauerlein of 69 Ridgedale Circle and their two sons, Ronald (left) and Donald are typical of over 200 families of the Rochester Diocese who provide foster home care for children like Suzanne in photo above.

Thanksgiving Appeal

Children Need Foster Homes

By FATHER HENRY ATWELL

Thanksgiving week finds two hundred children throughout the Rochester Diocese saying "thanks" for the loving care foster parents are giving them in "home away from home."

The children are temporarily separated from their parents and are under care of Catholic family agencies of Rochester, Elmira, and Auburn.

From five to twenty-five families appeal to the Rochester Catholic Family Center each week, according to its director Father Donald J. Mulcahy, asking the agency to find a temporary home for their children.

Reasons for the appeals, according to Father Mulcahy, range from sudden death which leaves young children without a mother to marriage disputes which disrupt a child's emotional life.

"Whenever possible we try to keep children with their real parents and help in every way we can to keep a family together," said Father Mulcahy.

Sometimes there is no choice but to place a child in a foster home until the original family unit can be restored, he said.

"That's why we need a backlog of approved foster homes so we can rely on them in these emergencies."

IN CHARGE of the Rochester Catholic foster home program is Mrs. Sarah Keller, a thirteen-year veteran on the job.

Mrs. Keller checks each prospective foster home before placing a child there. She states there is need for "just about twice the number we have" of foster homes in the Rochester area. Despite the need for more, no home is approved, however, until it passes the Catholic Family Center's requirements.

"Really, the basic requirement we look for," said Mrs. Keller, "is just that the foster parents are ordinary kind and generous people with a special love for children."

SHE STATED the chronic need is for homes for teenagers.

"There is so much talk about delinquents these days that too many people won't even consider taking a teenager. These are the youngsters that are most in need of a real home," said Mrs. Keller.

She described an interview with prospective foster parents who asked for "a cute little girl." The agency at that time needed a home for a teenage boy.

"The people flatly refused," said Mrs. Keller, "but they thought it over, and opened their home to the fifteen year old boy whose father died and whose mother was in a hospital."

"Just last week the foster par-

ents told me they actually felt the older boy showed deeper affection for them than a cute little girl, ever would have given them."

Father Mulcahy expressed the official thanks of the Catholic agencies to foster parents throughout the Diocese.

\$64,000 Question

Scripture Professor Explains 'Brothers Of Jesus' Question

By FATHER ELMER McNAMARA
Professor of Sacred Scripture, St. Bernard's Seminary

Catholics who witnessed the \$64,000 Question television program this Tuesday evening could feel only offended and deeply hurt by one of the questions and answers which gave the clear impression that Jesus Christ was one of a family of five brothers.

That the four who are mentioned in the Gospels as Christ's brothers, i.e. James, Joseph, Simon and Jude (Matthew 13:55) lived in the same home with Jesus is not supported by a shred of solid evidence in the Gospels.

And most important, the implication that these four men were the blood brothers of Jesus is a denial of a sacred truth revealed by God, evidenced by Sacred Scripture, and taught by the Catholic Church through 1900 years of unbroken tradition.

I SAY UNBROKEN because the only voice of note raised against the perpetual virginity of Mary during the first 1500 years of the Church's history was that of the heretic Helvidius about 380 A.D. He claimed that these "brethren" of the Lord were sons born of Joseph and Mary after the virginal conception of Jesus.

But the voice of Helvidius was so blasphemously and stridently out of tune with the united chorus of all Christianendom that the great scripture scholar St. Jerome declined at first to dignify the attack with an answer. He styled the claim of Helvidius as "novel, wicked, and a daring affront to the faith of the whole world."

Jerome did take up his pen, however, and defended the Perpetual Virginity of Mary by solid arguments drawn from Scripture and from the testimony of Ignatius, Polycarp, Irenaeus, Justin Martyr and all the other learned men going back to Apostolic times.

THE FOUR MENTIONED "brothers of Jesus" are surely cousins or more distant relatives of Jesus. They are designated "brothers" because neither the Hebrew nor the Aramaic language had a special



FATHER McNAMARA Defends Mary's Virginity

word for cousin. The common way of indicating a group of cousins or relatives of different origin was to use the Hebrew word *ah* (brother).

The Old Testament has many instances of this wide meaning of the Hebrew word. That this word "brother" also has this wide meaning of cousin or relative where the New Testament speaks of the "brothers of Jesus" is clear from the following considerations:

(1) Nowhere in Scripture is anyone except Jesus called the Son of Mary, and Mary is not called the Mother of anyone except Jesus.

(2) If Mary had other sons, Jesus dying on the Cross could not have committed her to the care of St. John the Evangelist as He did by saying, "Woman,

Nixon Cites Pope's 'Historic Prophecy' On Communism

Philadelphia—(NC)—Pope Pius XI's encyclical "On Atheistic Communism" was characterized as "one of the most remarkable examples of historical prophecy" by Vice President Richard M. Nixon in an address here.

In capacity-packed Philadelphia Convention Hall, the Vice President spoke at the closing dinner of the National Council of Catholic Youth convention. Other speakers included Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York and actress Irene Dunne, U.S. delegate to the United Nations.

The Vice President told the youth gathering that Pope Pius XI's encyclical issued in 1937, was the more remarkable because it was written 20 years ago, at a time when the Soviet Union was looked upon generally as a weak, ineffectual tyranny.

"But this great religious leader spoke out in resounding terms of communism as a threat to the security and peace of the world," Mr. Nixon continued. "Indeed, much as the world has changed in the interval, there is little in his writings that could not be used to describe the communist menace today."

The Vice President asserted that the manifesto recently issued in Moscow by the Communist parties of 64 nations "lays down a blunt challenge the Free World cannot and will not ignore," and that it would be foolhardy to "brush it aside on the ground that it contains the usual lies and distortions."

As a result of the manifesto, Mr. Nixon said, it can be expected that "the dictators of Moscow will sharply step up their economic, psychological and subversive activities all over the world"; will reemphasize "the popular front tactics which fooled so many well-intentioned people in times past," and will exercise "ruthless control and domination of communist governments and Communist parties everywhere."

"They have reaffirmed their ultimate goal of world domination by non-military means if possible, by war if necessary," the Vice President said. "In responding to this new challenge so dramatically underlined by the two Sputniks, we must avoid extremes of panic and complacency."

REFERRING TO the religious traditions of the Catholic Church, the Vice President said:

"You have been unalterably opposed to communism from its

very beginning. Long before the Soviet Union was founded, the leaders of your church made clear its total opposition to Karl Marx and the principles he propounded."

VICE-PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON

AFTER SAYING tribute to the prophetic encyclical of Pope Pius XI, the Vice President declared:

"I do not see how any believer in God and in the dignity of man can falter in the struggle that faces us. Communism is totally opposed to all that we believe and cherish.

"We believe in the spirit of man; they treat man as a machine. We believe in justice and the moral law; they believe in force alone. We preach love and forgiveness; theirs is a message of hatred.

"To the religious person, every man is sacred, because all were created by a loving God. To the communist, his fellow man is but a tool to be used in the effort to seek total power. We seek peace; they prepare to conquer."

America counts foremost on the unshakable faith of our people," Mr. Nixon said and without it "wealth and technology would be nothing."

He added: "The quiet determination of humble faith is the real secret of American strength. While this faith, the dark cloud of the moment will indeed be the dawn, the new future of peace, of man brotherhood and of freedom for the dignity of all men."

We can only hope that the Catholics and all others who treasure the divine truth of Mary's Perpetual Virginity will let the sponsors of this program know that such questions with misleading implications can only offend unnumbered viewers and defeat the purpose for which they offer the entertainment.