



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 afteryears, when she was the aging Mother of Christ.

ADVENT READING
This is the first of four articles 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, climaxed with the birth of her Son at Bethlehem. These hours of joy Mary kept treasured in her heart, and only when her Son had triumphed in the resurrection did she break silence to reveal her own triumph at Bethlehem.

The story of Bethlehem, as Mary tells it, begins 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-homes carved out of the hillside by shepherds and peasants and overlooking the valley of Esdraelon.

In one of these grottoes the young fifteen-year-old orphan girl Mary lived with some of her kinsmen. Already, according to the custom of her people, she had been betrothed to a man called Joseph and was awaiting for the time to lapse before the formal marriage ceremony when she would leave her kinsfolk and live with Joseph. For the ancient Jews, a betrothed couple were almost as good as married, even though not yet living together. As the betrothed therefore of Joseph, Mary was now legally considered his wife.

This whole marriage business had been a sore trial to Mary. Pressure had come from her relatives and guardians, who no doubt wished to get the young orphan girl off their hands. There was also pressure from Jewish tradition, which considered it improper for a young girl not to be married. Jewish fathers, as St. Paul points out, considered it a disgrace to have unmarried daughters on their hands.

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.

As a Jewish maiden well

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.

THE CATHOLIC Courier Journal

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

69th Year ROCHESTER, N. Y., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1957 10 Cents

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.

Louder 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 and 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.

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.

All churches, however, will use the Immaculate Conception feast day texts at Mass on Monday, December 9, according to recently revised liturgical laws.

Catholics fulfill their holy day Mass obligation by attending Mass on the Sunday.



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 a 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 really 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 parents took a boy who had been in a hospital."

Remember Anniversaries with flowers — Make her feel like a bride again, the excitement of her wedding day. That beautiful beloved feeling your flowers will bring her from Blanchard Florist. Call BAKER 5-9494.—Adv.

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

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.

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

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."

AFTER PAYING 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 secret of American strength. With this faith, the dark clouds of the moment will indeed be dispersed before the dawn, the dawn of a new future of peace and man brotherhood and respect for the dignity of all men."

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\$64,000 Question Scripture Professor Explains 'Brothers Of Jesus' Question

By FATHER ELMER McNAMARA

Professor of Sacred Scripture, St. Bernard's Seminary

behold thy son." To have done this while the allegedly blood brothers were still living would have been an insult and affront to them as well as to Mary.

(3) In the incident of Mary's finding Our Lord in the temple at the age of twelve (Luke 2, 41 ff) only Jesus is with her and Joseph. So also later in the first miracle worked at the wedding feast of Cana where Mary was present only Jesus is with her. But in both these instances the brothers, if there were such, would, by reason of Jewish law and custom, certainly have been with Mary and Jesus.

(4) If there were other sons of Mary besides Christ it would be impossible to explain the early, universal and constant belief of the Catholic Church in Mary's perpetual virginity. Against such a belief the enemies of the Church could and would have pointed to the known existence of other children of Mary. The fact that no such charges were made is a clear indication that they could not be made.

(5) In Mark 15, 40 the mother of two of the brethren, James and Joseph, is named, and is distinguished clearly from Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

THE ONLY REASONABLE interpretation is that the four mentioned brethren were cousins or more distant relatives of Jesus. And this conclusion, easily and faithfully reasoned from Scripture is demonstrated as irrefutable by the voice of Christ's Church which goes back in her teaching of Mary's Perpetual Virginity to the very Apostles who were eyewitnesses and divinely appointed teachers of the facts involved.

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.

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).

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(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,

behold thy son." To have done this while the allegedly blood brothers were still living would have been an insult and affront to them as well as to Mary.

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VICE-PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON

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