

"Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth among men of good will."

The Peace Of Christ

By MONSEIGNOR PATRICK J. FLYNN

PEACE IS THE KEYNOTE of Christmas. When Christ was born at Bethlehem the world was at peace. It was not a true peace but only a kind of armed truce among the nations.

The calm that reigned over the earth on the night of Christ's birth was a man-made peace, a serenity that appeared only on the surface. It was a peace imposed by the might of Roman legions.

Into this world of shaky Roman peace Christ brought true joy, the peace of God. The advent of the Son of God at Bethlehem was proclaimed from the skies by angels who sang:

"Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth among men of good will." (Luke 2:13-14)

THE HOUR OF Christ's birth found the world facing the same crisis that modern men and women also face. This was the spiritual crisis, the longing of the human heart for peace of soul.

At Bethlehem, therefore, there broke across the dark and heartless world the light of the "glory of God" and men heard the "good news of great joy" that is the peace of Christ.

"There has been born to you today in the town of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

At Bethlehem Heaven gave peace-hungry men a sign of God's peace:

"This shall be a sign to you: you will find the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:12)

THE PEACE OF Christ spelled the end of fear for those who found Him, for Mary, for Joseph, and for the shepherds. There is no fear in true religion. Only a little religion or a weak faith keep men frightened.

There is no fear for those who live with Christ. There is no fear for those who find the peace of Christ in the Kingdom of Christ. This is made very clear in the angelic messages which heralded the advent of the Redeemer.

"DO NOT BE AFRAID," the angel Gabriel told Mary.

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for thou hast found grace with God. And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb and shalt bring forth a son; and thou shalt call his name Jesus." (Luke 1:30-31)

"DO NOT BE AFRAID," was also the message of peace which the angel brought to Joseph.

"Do not be afraid, Joseph, son of David, to take to thee Mary the wife, for that which is begotten in her, is of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 1:20)

"DO NOT BE AFRAID," was the Christmas peace which the angel revealed to the friendly shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem.

BE SURE and bring the kiddies to see SANTA in life size and motion in the window of BLANK CHARD FLOREST — 88 LAKE AVE. Open daily until 9 P.M. Free parking on premises.—Adv.

the highest, and peace on earth among men of good will," that is, among men who do God's will, not their own. Christ offered true peace to all who were ready to accept God's will and obey His commandments. Acceptance of God's

They All Came To Bethlehem

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"good will" brings true peace to the world.

Thus Mary found Christ's peace when she spoke her words of humble submission to God's will:

"Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto me according to thy word." (Luke 1:38)

The shepherds, too, found the peace of Christ in their humble acceptance of God's message:

"Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." (Luke 2:15)

CENTURIES BEFORE Christ's birth at Bethlehem He was envisioned in the role of the Prince of Peace by the prophet Isaiah:

"FOR A CHILD IS BORN TO US, and a son is given to us, and the government is upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, God the Mighty, the Father of the

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Merry Christmas To Our Readers

THE CATHOLIC Courier Journal

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

69th Year

ROCHESTER, N. Y., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1957

10 Cents

Kodak Gives Nuns College \$35,000

Eastman Kodak Company has contributed \$35,000 to the Mercy Sisters campaign to build a new teachers college on Blossom Rd.

Reverend Mother Mary Magdalene announced the Kodak contribution at the Mercy Motherhouse last evening.

THE KODAK gifts swell previously announced contributions to a total of \$160,412 for the proposed Catherine McAuley building to be erected as a west wing of the Mercy Motherhouse.

The Sisters of Mercy are currently conducting a campaign to raise funds for construction of the new \$1,250,000 unit scheduled for completion by September, 1959.

Special gifts committee, headed by Frederick M. Tobin and Henry J. Kearse, has been at work since Nov. 26.

General solicitation for funds will be launched Jan. 13.

MOTHER MAGDALENE in her announcement last night also stated that construction of the new college building must be completed by the 1959 date so the teacher training program at Mercy may conform to New York State requirements.

Nuns training to be teachers are now being taught in a single room in the motherhouse, she said.

The new building will also relieve overcrowded conditions in the motherhouse for postulants and novices, as also for retired Sisters.

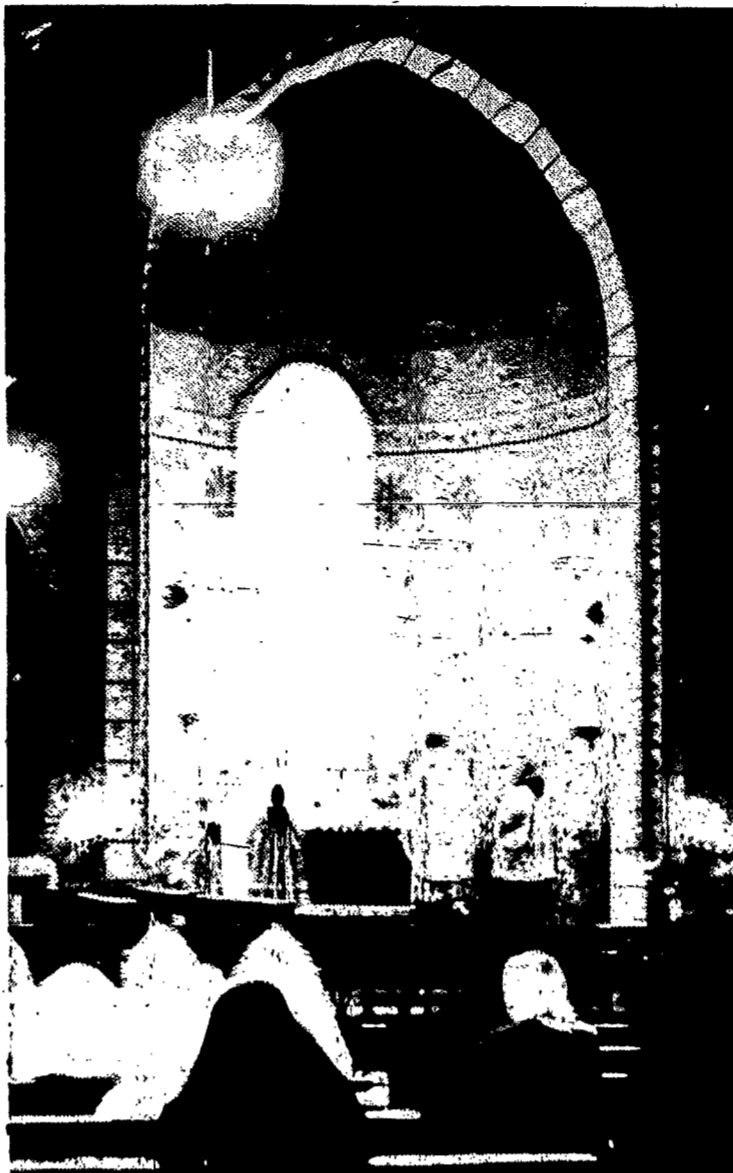
Midnight Mass Communion Fast

Catholics who wish to receive Holy Communion at midnight Mass on Christmas are reminded that it is now required to fast three hours from solid food and alcoholic drinks, and one hour from other liquids. Water may be taken any time.

Red French Village Has Civil 'Baptism'

Grenoble, France — (NC) — A civil "baptism ceremony" has been devised by the communist municipal council of nearby Ville to accommodate the atheist families of the town.

In a bulletin explaining the ceremony, the mayor of Ville explained that atheist parents may bring their children to the city hall, accompanied by "godparents", to register them there and "place them under the protection of the republic."



Priest celebrates 'Dawn Mass' in Jerusalem church, second of three Masses every Catholic priest offers on Christmas.

The Three Masses For Christmas

By FATHER HENRY ATWELL

IN THE SILENT, holy night of Christmas, at the very moment tradition says Our Lord Jesus Christ was born, the Catholic Church celebrates midnight Mass to honor the Saviour's birthday.

Across the world in cathedrals and convent chapels, in the splendor of the Vatican basilica and in the grim silence of a Siberian concentration camp, in snow-capped Swiss Alpine parish churches and in the summer warmth of Argentina, on Catholic altars in cities and hillside barnets wherever there is a priest, there too the faithful will kneel at midnight to adore the Saviour, new born in the white swaddling clothes of the Eucharist.

The Christmas midnight Mass is actually only the first of three special Masses assigned for the great feast day.

Every Catholic priest is permitted to celebrate Mass three times on Christmas, a rare privilege allowed on only one other day in the year, All Souls Day.

The "three Mass" permission for Christmas explains why you will quite likely find your parish priest quietly saying his "extra" Masses either just before or immediately after his regularly scheduled Mass.

MANY CATHOLIC lay people make it a point of their own devotion to assist at three Masses on Christmas.

The following notes will serve as a brief explanation of the text for each Mass and the historical background which helps to clarify the significance of these Masses.

CHRISTIANS of the Holy Land, today as in ancient times, meet on Christmas Eve in the third century Basilica of the Nativity at Bethlehem. The venerable old church is built on the reputed site of our Redeemer's birth. A silver star gleams in the floor of the cave beneath the basilica's high altar indicating the very spot where shepherds and wise men adored the Lord.

As candles flicker in the mild December midnight of Palestine, the Patriarch at the altar begins his Mass, his words borrowed from the Psalm of David describe in poetic phrases that Mary's Infant is indeed the Eternal Son of God.

In solemn brevity, the subdeacon sings the Epistle, St. Paul's advice to Titus, on the obligations of those who choose to accept the creed of Christ.

The midnight gospel is the familiar story of Christmas, the census decree, and the journey of Joseph and Mary

Reds Make Flight From East Zone Serious Crime

Berlin — (NC) — The Red regime of East Germany has made it a "crime" for its subjects to seek freedom in West Germany.

At the demand of "Red Hilde" Benjamin, East Germany's notorious Minister of Justice, the parliament passed a bill imposing up to three years of imprisonment at hard labor and heavy fines on persons "illegally" attempting to leave East Germany. All friends or others who give them any assistance in making their flight are subject to the same penalties.

THIS BILL WAS PASSED as East German communists are increasing their attack upon religion. Both Catholic and Protestant church authorities have been alarmed by recent attacks on religion and by the revival of the persecution of clergymen and lay religious leaders.

At the present time the Evangelical Lutheran church, which is in the majority in East Germany, is bearing the brunt of the attacks. But Catholic Church authorities expect the persecution to include all Christians.

In the past communist attacks on the Catholic Church in East Germany have included everything from imprisonment of leaders, both clerics and laymen, to the burning of churches.

One of the most celebrated cases of imprisonment is that of Hermann Flade, a Catholic youth leader. Several times recently there have been protests against his continued imprisonment. Reports that Flade is seriously ill and may not live have been denied by Red authorities.

Flade was arrested five years ago, when he was 25 years old, for distributing anti-communist pamphlets in the Soviet sector of Berlin. He was sentenced to life imprisonment for treason.

STUPIDITY — THE INFLUENCE of reducing the Church's power have also been used. Last June the East German communist government decreed that all students must be of a certain political attitude in theological studies.

Both Catholic and Protestant church authorities protested the decree, but the government refused to change its policy.

The Reds have also been concentrating on weakening children and adolescent through anti-religious measures. Religious education, now forbidden in public schools, is being discouraged. Such techniques as demanding that young students study atheistic material, putting high taxes on parochial schools and interfering with religious instruction outside of school hours have been used with some effect.

The parochial schools of East Germany are virtually non-existent now.

The Red regime has also instituted anti-religious youth institution ceremonies to replace the sacrament of Confirmation. Catholic and Protestant have issued joint condemnations of these "regan rites."

Christ's Birth Ruled 'Historical Fact'

Canton, (NC) — The Canton ministerial association "officially" pronounced the stand taken by this city's superintendent of schools, Anthony Cirincione, who told the board of education that he was against banning from the public schools the presentation of Christmas plays which depict the Nativity.

"The presentation of our Christmas plays is not conducting a religious service or exercise," he said, "but an attempt to teach or demonstrate to any child the benefits of our particular faith over other. As an educator I consider the birth of Jesus Christ a historical fact."

Card. Mindszenty's Secretary On Trial

Budapest — (NC) — Mag. Egon Turcsanyi, personal secretary to Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary, has been brought to trial here in connection with charges of espionage and other offenses.

The indictment was filed November 19, 1957, and is pending in the Budapest court system. The charges include espionage, falsification of documents, and other offenses.

Nativity Scene On School Lawn Becomes Court Issue

White Plains, N. Y. — (RNS) — Hearings on a suit to restrain the erection of a Nativity creche on the lawn of the Junior-Senior High School in Ossining, N. Y., were adjourned until Dec. 20 in State Supreme Court here.

Justice Frank H. Coyne ruled the adjournment at a closed-door conference. He also ordered that erection of the creche be held up until the case is argued before him on the 20th.

BOTH THE adjournment and the closed session had been requested by Arthur P. Gaynor, an attorney for the Ossining Board of Education, defendant in the suit brought by 22 Protestant and Jewish residents. Mr. Gaynor wanted the case held over until after Christmas but Justice Coyne denied petition.

Mr. Gaynor said he wished additional time to prepare an answer to the suit. He also said that since the Nativity scene was a symbol of peace he felt a conference in chambers might prevent the matter "from becoming a source of bitterness."

Meanwhile, both sides agreed to allow 15 members of an Ossining creche committee to become a party to the suit in support of the board's action approving the Nativity scene. The board endorsed the project at the request of the committee.

THE COMMITTEE, which includes Mayor Jesse A. Collyer, Jr., and Police Justice George Beisheim, Jr., said it wanted the creche as part of the movement to "put Christ back into Christmas." It said the Nativity scene would be erected after the school holiday recess began.

A creche was erected at the same site on the school lawn last year.

Leo Pfeiffer of New York, counsel for the American Jewish Congress, was attorney for the plaintiffs. He said the Nativity scene on public school property was "a use of a tax-established and tax-supported public school system to aid religious groups to propagate their faith."

THE NEW YORK Civil Liberties Union sent a memo to the court supporting the plaintiffs.

"Permitting the creche, the school board of Ossining makes it appear that the governmental authorities of Ossining endorse, subscribe to and wish to help disseminate the religious beliefs embodied in a symbol," the CLU said.

"This symbol is an eloquent, though mute method of teaching religious doctrine. Those members of the community who do not hold to this doctrine are made to feel that they are, in the eyes of the state, a disfavored minority. Their belief or non-belief is tolerated. Another belief is supported by the state."