

The Knife That Cuts

It is probably the only one that the feast of the Circumcision should be the New Year's feast. It is the feast of the infant Jesus, the infant Emmanuel, the infant God with us, who is to be called Jesus, which is to say, He Who Saves, Savior.

Now God was more than our father. He was our blood, brother. The red tears of his blood mingled with ours; He was one with all the anguish of humanity from Adam to Christ. He bore in His body the hurt of man.

It escapes the grasp of our minds this hounding of God to the point of becoming man, to the point of submitting to man's wounding obediently accepted Circumcision as an earnest of His coming obedience even to the point of death on the Cross.

It is deeply touching that God incarnate in Bethlehem's infant willed to receive the ritual of Circumcision. He identified Himself with us in our injured state; for the first time He was wounded for our sins.

The most striking of all facts is that God does love us with the measure of divine love. Were we not so dull in perception, we would go through life in a state of happiness over a truth so overwhelming.

SUCH IS HIS love that nothing would do but that He become one of us to make us one with Him. Nothing would do but that He enter into our

and hold Himself with our sorrows. Even as a baby, He endured with us and wept with us, in order in the end to save our souls.

St. Joseph is assumed to have been the minister of Christ's Circumcision. This too is deeply touching, because Joseph is our ever-vigilant spiritual father in the new world into which we have been elevated.

Joseph had been instructed by an angel what to name the Wonderful One to be born to Mary. This infant Emmanuel, the Small God with us, was to be called Jesus, which is to say, He Who Saves, Savior.

THIS WAS GOD who cried out in the waiting of a baby, of Abraham and of Joseph. He had asked an immense humanity, "But what of His own blood?"

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In what manner can man thank his Creator for a sacrifice so infinitely noble and so divine? The answer is, passing strange. The answer is that man may thank God by allowing God to enter into him in the sacrament of Circumcision.

It is the most glorious and yet the most tragic of all love stories, this affair of the spirit between God and man. It is glorious in showing forth the glory of God's measureless goodness; it is tragic in the dull failure of mankind to respond



Smiling Start To Mission Careers

San Francisco (NC) — Young Columbian missionaries are pictured as they set sail here for Korea aboard the City of Alma. They are, from left, Fathers Michael McFadden of Philadelphia, Pa.; John Roche of Boston, Mass.; Richard Parke of Omaha, Neb.; James O'Brien of Boston; and James Michaels of Washington, D.C. The assignment of these young priests to Korea brings to 82 the number of Columbian Fathers working in that country.

Faith Ends Nightmares, Race Quandry

Toledo (NC) — George Kimball has found a solution to a problem in social justice and a remedy for his racial mates in the same place, Catholicism.

HIS NIGHTMARES ended when he began taking instruction last September. They had been the result of his family experiences in the South Pacific during World War II.

There where death was often near, he had observed that the fellows who seemed best able to undergo such experiences were Catholics.

But the road to Rome did not start for Kimball until last September, when he had a

problem of another kind.

Kimball traces his own race prejudice to a childhood in the South. He had seen the advanced Negroes and the advanced Catholics about him. There was even some encouragement for him to make it rough for the colored applicant.

Kimball took the problem home one day and discussed it with his wife. On that night he wrote a letter to the Legion of Mary informing him of parish instruction classes.

Kimball and his wife have attended the series. They were baptized before Christmas in Blessed Sacrament Church and with them their four children.

talk of religion that was the prelude to the visit.

KIMBALL TOLD the men about the problem on his mind at the moment. One of the visitors said he could talk it over with a priest, but added what the answer would be: help the Negro.

Now, Kimball is satisfied that he did the right thing. A few days after the visit, Kimball got a letter from the Legion of Mary informing him of parish instruction classes.

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Soothing Compassion

New York (NC) — A special prayer for doctors has been composed by Father James Keller, M.M., director of The Christians.

It was prepared at the request of Abbott Laboratories of Chicago for the Christmas issue of their publication, "What's New."

The prayer consists of 13 short paragraphs. Two of them follow:

"Thank you, O Lord, for the privilege of being a doctor. For letting me serve as Your instrument in ministering to the sick and afflicted."

"Grant that I may continually bring to my work the same soothing compassion which You so generously displayed centuries ago in healing the sick of Galilee."

You Can Be Happy Even If You're Rich

Montreal (RNS) — A diminutive Italian nun is visiting North America to further a project to help rich, lonely women exchange empty, meaningless lives for useful, happy ones of Christian charity.

Sister Ornella Chiara Brocchi belongs to the Congregation of the Sacred Heart in Turin, Italy. Two years ago she was given permission to leave the convent to launch the project which she hopes will become international in scope.

Her plan is to found hotels in major cities where wealthy women may live in well-appointed surroundings and be provided with the incentive and encouragement to transform their spiritual lives. The nun will call the hotels Tabor Centers, after the Mount of Tabor where the miraculous transfiguration of Christ took place.

"I have helped the poor live happy, useful lives but it is much more difficult to help the rich be happy," Sister Ornella said in an interview here.

"All over the world there are women of leisure and means who are lonely and unhappy. They lead useless lives in gossiping, card-playing and pleasure-seeking. Some make a hobby of their health. Some bore unwilling listeners with stories of their past. Some seek solace in pseudo-religions, in clothes or in selfish friendships. They have all lost their purpose in life."

The nun said she undertook the trip to Canada and the United States with her passage paid but without funds.

"I am not looking for money," she said. "Frankly, I am looking for a man—or a woman—who will be chosen by God to help finance the start of the Tabor Center. My whole aim is to try to show the jaded, useless woman that a Christ-centered life is a life meaningful to her and useful to others."

SISTER ORNELLA said the projected centers would be staffed by young girls from orphanages, thus combining two extremes by enabling the rich

and the orphaned to help one another.

"The girls will serve as maids, clerks and perform sales and beautician roles," she said. "Their wealthy guests will enjoy every luxury, including the luxury of being needed by someone. The girls will find friends to encourage and counsel them and help them prepare for the business of happy living."

The Italian nun said her project would help solve a serious world problem created by girls who leave orphanages.

"They are expected to earn their living at an early age when they are completely unprepared and entirely dependent," she said. "In some countries, these girls are placed as maids at the age of 15. They have no knowledge of life other than that which they have gathered in strict institutions. So what happens? Statistics show that as many as 75 per cent become unmarried mothers."

Churches Oppose Sunday Shopping

Joliet, Ill. (RNS) — About 25,000 stickers reading "Keep Sunday Holy—Don't Shop" have been distributed to members of Joliet churches for use on autos and in homes.

The stickers are part of a campaign to discourage Sunday shopping being promoted by a joint committee of Protestants and Roman Catholics.

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131 State St., HA. 6-2180
- METZGER BROTHERS
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- EGBERT F. ASHLEY INSURANCE
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HA. 6-1858
- CHARLOTTE APPLIANCE COMPANY
3268 Lake Ave. CH. 2-4230

- KALBFLEISCH TRAVEL AGENCY
17 Clinton Ave. S. BA. 5-5440
- LAUBE'S CONTRACTING CORPORATION
480 South Ave. HA. 6-9396
- MARKIN'S INSURANCE AGENCY
36 State St. HA. 6-8890
- RAITHER'S TIRE STORE
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- AUER'S LIQUOR STORE
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- HARRY B. CROWLEY INSURANCE
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404 Granite Bldg. HA. 6-1125
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- FLYNN'S AUTO LIVERY
37 Charlotte St. BA. 5-7550

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392 North St. HA. 4-0940
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108 Frankfort St. BA. 5-2715
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