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AND THERE REMAIN UNTIL I GIVE THE WORD

RISE UP AND TAKE WITH THEE THE CHILD & HIS MOTHER & FLEE TO EGYPT:



Our Saviour, The Divine Refugee

(The following thoughts are suggested by observance of 1959 as World Refugee Year.)

By FATHER ATWELL

The Christmas story in Scripture tells more than just that Jesus was born in a stable at Bethlehem.

The infant adored by the humble shepherds and wealthy wise men was born to be the Man of Sorrows and the shadow of the cross loomed over even His cradle.

No sooner had the wise men come looking for the new-born king of the Jews than Herod issued his edict to kill all the baby boys in the Bethlehem area. He wanted no rival and he already had a reputation for cruelty so more blood on his conscience would not deter him.

God had not sent His Son into the world to be a victim so soon, however. An angel came to Joseph in a dream, vision and told him, "Arise, and take the child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and remain there until I tell thee."

Egypt had long been the traditional land of refuge for persecuted Jews so the Holy Family could find compatriots in their exile by the Nile.

The three fugitives headed toward the still-famous Gaza Strip — the no-man's land claimed by neighboring nations since the dawn of history and ever infested by coarse brigands.

A legend, and only a legend, tells how the Holy Family was captured by robbers who, taking pity on their poverty, led them and sent them safely on their way. It was inevitable that one of these charitable bandits should become in time the penitent thief on Golgotha.

History, however, is less poetic than legend. The journey from Palestine to Egypt was a two week, exhausting trip across a sea of sand where

not a bush nor a blade of grass nor even a stone could be seen.

Hardened Roman soldiers preferred outright war to crossing this wasteland.

The three travelers with their little donkey had to drag themselves over the sifting sands in the torrid dry heat of the day and sleep in desolate darkness at night — always fearing Herod's troops would track them down even in their flight.

Every fatiguing step took them farther from home but closer to safety and these three have become for all refugees of twenty subsequent centuries an example and a promise that patient hope shall have its reward.

At Pelusium, the gateway to Egypt, there were people and fresh supplies and comfortable lodgings and the gold brought by the wise men must have now served them well.

The Gospels tell us nothing about the place or the length of time the Holy Family stayed in Egypt although

Scripture scholars tell us the exile was brief — certainly less than a year.

Herod's attempt to kill the Christ Child was one of his last crimes. God's patience was exhausted.

A strange malady, which everyone recognized as heaven-sent, attacked the old king. An internal fire with no external rise in temperature devoured him. His intestines became ulcerated, every muscle ached, his body swelled and became covered with oozing blood. He started to decay and breed worms. He was, while yet alive, a putrefying corpse.

His last decree was to order the execution of the son destined to succeed him and he followed this final victim in death five days later. This was only a few months after Joseph and Mary had taken the infant Saviour to safety in the land of the pyramids and sphinxes.

Once again the angel appeared to Joseph and told him, "Arise, and take the child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel."

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Bishop Kearney Designates

1960-Year of Sacred Heart

The year 1960 will be marked throughout the Diocese of Rochester with special devotions honoring the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Bishop Kearney announced today.

A letter from the Bishop will be read at all Masses in parish churches this Sunday urging the faithful to intensify their devotion to the diocesan Patron, the Saviour's Sacred Heart, symbol of His infinite love for all.

THE BISHOP pointed out the deepening of spiritual life as a result of the Lourdes Centenary Year (1958), the diocesan Eucharistic Year (1959) and expressed his hope the 1960 program will win "the special blessing of the Sacred Heart of Jesus" for the entire Diocese.

He has authorized an evening Mass every Friday in all parish churches to enable Catholics to attend Mass more conveniently on the day traditionally set aside for Sacred Heart devotions.

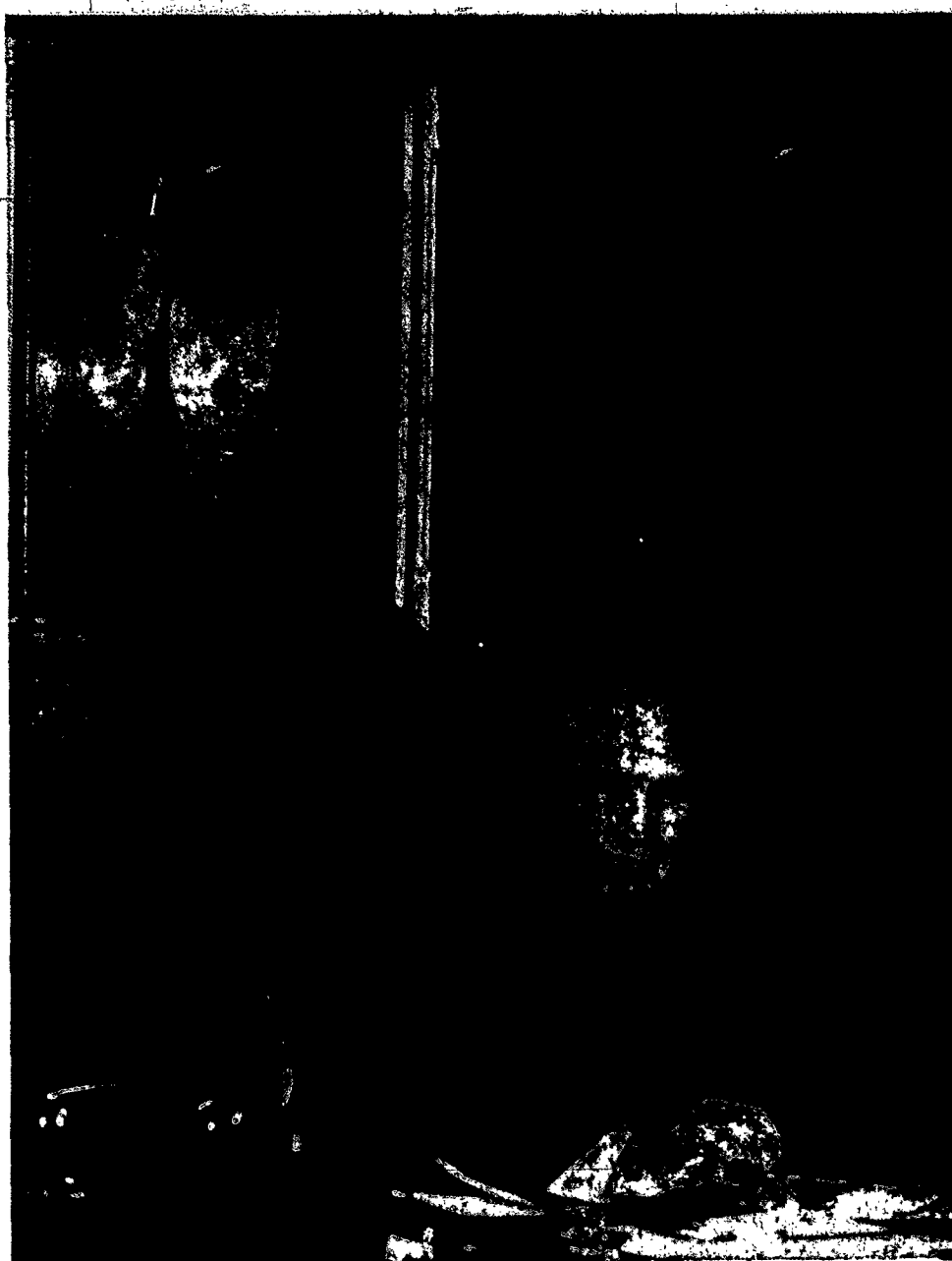
He also pointed out that the world-wide Apostleship of Prayer has stated Pope John's request for prayers during January to be offered for "religious unity through devotion to the Sacred Heart."

Bishop Kearney will inaugurate the year's program at two special Masses in St. Joseph's Church, Rochester.

He will offer a New Year's Day Mass there at 9 a.m. for the St. Monica's Sodality — a group whose members are mothers of priests and seminarians. The seminarians, on vacation at this time, will accompany their mothers to the Bishop's Mass inaugurating the Sacred Heart Year.

On Sunday, Jan. 3, the Bishop will offer the annual Holy Name Society Mass at St. Joseph's Church at 10:30 a.m. Jesuit Father Thomas O'Day, national director of the Apostleship of Prayer (also known as the League of the Sacred Heart) will preach at the Dialogue Mass.

Pastors of the 150 parishes of the 12 county Rochester Diocese will arrange special rites to spur devotion to our Lord's Sacred Heart.



Bishop Kearney at his Chancery desk beneath the blessing of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Christmas Greetings From Bishop Kearney



My dear People:

May I extend to all of you my best wishes for a Merry Christmas.

I am sure that the Infant Jesus, to Whom you have given so much devotion during this year as He rested in the manger of your tabernacles, will raise His hands in special benediction on you, your family and your home.

As for the New Year, may it have, every moment of it, the special blessing of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

We have had "Our Lady's Year" in 1958, the centenary of Lourdes; our "Blessed Sacrament Year" is about to end; and with God's help, now we begin the "Year of the Sacred Heart of Jesus."

We know from a special Divine Revelation how pleasing to Our Lord is the devotion to His Sacred Heart; we are well aware of the many blessings He has promised to those devoted to His Sacred Heart; and the fact that the Diocese of Rochester is dedicated to the Sacred Heart in a very special way makes a "Year of the Sacred Heart" deeply significant to the diocese.

May I call upon you, then, my dear people, to sanctify the New Year 1960 by making it a year of special and intense devotion to the Sacred Heart of our Saviour, a year of prayer of reparation for the sins of the world and for the neglect of His most loving Heart. Let the intensity of our devotion atone for the disregard of Christ and His teachings.

During 1960, permission is granted for an evening Mass in every Church on every Friday of the year, the Mass to be followed by the recitation of the Litany of the Sacred Heart and an Act of Reparation to the Sacred Heart.

May I ask that every man, woman, and child share in this effort to sanctify the new year by personal devotion to the Heart of our Divine Lord. The many graces which that Divine Heart is only too ready to shower upon those who seek them, will make 1960 for all of you a Happy New Year; and that is the blessing wished for all of you by

Your devoted Shepherd in Christ,

James J. Kearney
Bishop of Rochester.

A Gift For The Saviour

A Christmas Gift for the Saviour?

It is, you know, His birthday and this has been, throughout the Rochester Diocese, the Eucharistic Year.

Why not give to the Babe of Bethlehem your firm resolve to assist at Holy Mass daily, to receive Holy Communion more frequently and to propose this program to your friends and associates?

These suggestions were made by Harold J. Coleman, promoter of the Daily Mass League which now counts members in 31 states and 8 foreign countries. League headquarters are at 10 Pleasant St., Rochester.

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Mass On
TV, Radio

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500 Families To Be Aided

The appeal made in the Courier Journal to help Rochester Catholic Charities provide Christmas baskets for the poor has had "most gratifying results." Father Donald Mulcahy, a Charities' official, said today.

Over 500 families will be aided as a result of these contributions, he stated.

Contributions of any amount may still be made to the Catholic Charities Christmas Fund, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester 4, N. Y.

Orange Blossom Diamond Ring. Terms: William S. Thorne Jeweler, 313 Main St. East. — Adv.