

Where Christmas is Always Sad

Washington—(NC)—"Hearing a radio announcer say how many shopping days were left before Christmas, I couldn't help feeling how terribly incongruous this is for the people I work with. They aren't affected by the number of shopping days because they don't have the money to buy the things other people buy at Christmastime."

This was the comment of Father Beiting, pastor of a four-county area of eastern Kentucky where "the poorest of Appalachia's poor live."

Father Beiting was in Washington where he hoped to get recognition from the newly formed Office of Economic Opportunity for what he calls "The Christian Appalachian Project," a community-centered plan to provide jobs for some of the poorest people in America today.

In an interview, Father Beiting described the face of poverty that he sees around Jackson County, Ky., where he has centered his efforts lately to provide a better life.

"Here you see the shacks and shacks people live in, propped up with field stones, siding that has fallen and tar paper trying to cover up cracks in hovels where often large families of children live — children who are cold and oftentimes with-

out proper nourishment," Father Beiting said.

"Almost 30 per cent of the families in this county make less than \$1,000 a year, and the average income for the whole county is only \$1,600 a year," he said.

The priest told of one father who tries to support his family of nine children on about \$20 a week, which he earns if he is lucky enough to get two days work a week hauling coal for \$5 a load.

"Last Christmas we delivered a lot of toys to some of the children around Jackson County," Father Beiting said. "I never saw anything so striking in my life as they grabbed the toys and hugged them and wouldn't put them down even for a minute."

At a little settlement called "Tuffet Out," the priest told how his efforts to give clothing to a family met with some difficulty. The mother of a large brood of children didn't know any "store-bought" sizes because the only clothes her children had ever worn were hand-me-downs of rummage sale bargains.

"It made you think what kids outside the towns, the ratio is in the richest country on the face of Christendom," the priest said.

His anti-poverty project has already provided work for a number of men with large families to support. This work is on several farms the priest hopes to buy with money from any source he can contact. Incorporated as a non-profit and non-church-affiliated organization, the Christian Appalachian Project has also provided better homes for 12 families in the last year.

It's from the children that one gets the most lasting impressions of Appalachia, Father Beiting mentioned. "When you look at their long eyes, their tear-stained faces, often broken out in rashes from lack of proper food and hygiene, it's no wonder they grow up without hope and settle down to live a life that has no real purpose or end to it at all."

So it was they chose a stable—a grotto or cave hollowed from one of the hillsides near the village. Joseph made a corner as comfortable as possible, with clean straw, a blanket or two and the few other necessities they carried with them.

Poverty and purity were the reasons Jesus was born in a stable, says the Jesuit scholar Father Joseph Riencetti, the poverty of his legal father who did not have enough money to secure a private room among so many competitors and the purity of his mother who wished to surround his birth with reverent privacy.

"And it came to pass while they were there, that the days for her to be delivered were fulfilled. And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger."

"And there were shepherds in the same district living in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night." Some shepherds see the shepherds as the outcasts of Jewish society, thieves, delinquents, roustabouts and Pharisees from even civil law processes. But they were also the poor and lowly, and it was to them that the Child in the crib extended His first call.

The shepherds were startled when an angel appeared before them. "Do not be afraid, for behold I bring you good news of great joy which shall be for all the people; for today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you, who is Christ, the Lord."

Scarcely had the angel spoken when the sky was filled with a throng of heavenly spirits exclaiming: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of good will."

Well could the angels sing that night. They had witnessed the fall of Adam and Eve centuries before, they had heard God promise the Redeemer, they had seen the prophets come and go, and had watched, as the long story of God's preparation unfolded through the years. Their own Gabriel had been chosen to announce the Baptist to Zachary and then to carry the good news to Mary.

Now finally the secret was out, the Redeemer had come, and their waiting was over. Now they could shout the glad tidings to the world, and the heavens were filled with their rejoicing.

Today their song of praise and hymn of hope still echoes around the world at Christmas in gladness the hearts of men and in rejoicing our love and gratitude to God. Whether we be poor and lowly as the shepherds, or rich and talented, as were the kings from the East, the Divine Infant invites us again this year to respond to His coming in grace and truth. May we join our voices to the angelic hosts: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of good will."

The Birth of the Saviour

(Continued from Page 1)

There been room, Jewish hospitality would have required acceptance of a couple seeking shelter, especially a mother about to give birth. Rather it was precisely her condition that made a public inn or even a private home now jammed with pilgrims the last place they would choose for privacy. Since it was time for her to be delivered, Mary sought privacy most of all, and so "there was no room for them in the inn."

So it was they chose a stable—a grotto or cave hollowed from one of the hillsides near the village. Joseph made a corner as comfortable as possible, with clean straw, a blanket or two and the few other necessities they carried with them.

Poverty and purity were the reasons Jesus was born in a stable, says the Jesuit scholar Father Joseph Riencetti, the poverty of his legal father who did not have enough money to secure a private room among so many competitors and the purity of his mother who wished to surround his birth with reverent privacy.

"And it came to pass while they were there, that the days for her to be delivered were fulfilled. And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger."

"And there were shepherds in the same district living in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night." Some shepherds see the shepherds as the outcasts of Jewish society, thieves, delinquents, roustabouts and Pharisees from even civil law processes. But they were also the poor and lowly, and it was to them that the Child in the crib extended His first call.

The shepherds were startled when an angel appeared before them. "Do not be afraid, for behold I bring you good news of great joy which shall be for all the people; for today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you, who is Christ, the Lord."

Scarcely had the angel spoken when the sky was filled with a throng of heavenly spirits exclaiming: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of good will."

Well could the angels sing that night. They had witnessed the fall of Adam and Eve centuries before, they had heard God promise the Redeemer, they had seen the prophets come and go, and had watched, as the long story of God's preparation unfolded through the years. Their own Gabriel had been chosen to announce the Baptist to Zachary and then to carry the good news to Mary.

Now finally the secret was out, the Redeemer had come, and their waiting was over. Now they could shout the glad tidings to the world, and the heavens were filled with their rejoicing.

Today their song of praise and hymn of hope still echoes around the world at Christmas in gladness the hearts of men and in rejoicing our love and gratitude to God. Whether we be poor and lowly as the shepherds, or rich and talented, as were the kings from the East, the Divine Infant invites us again this year to respond to His coming in grace and truth. May we join our voices to the angelic hosts: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of good will."

Concelebration Permitted Monks

Newton, N.J.—(NC)—Permission for the concelebration of Mass has been received by monks of St. Paul's Benedictine Abbey here.

It will be permitted at three periods of the year—during the monks' annual retreat, on Christmas and on March 21, feast of St. Benedict.

Masses were concelebrated for four days, Dec. 14 and 17, during the annual retreat.

Father Pius Kiernan O.S.B., prior of St. Paul's, said he found it a very satisfying way to celebrate Mass. It brings us all together at the most important, most worshipful part of our day.

Momentary Peace Comes to Holy Land

Jerusalem—(NC)—The Holy Land of Palestine, sharply divided by religion and politics, has once again paused to honor the birth of Him who came on earth to bring peace to men of good will.

On Christmas Eve, hundreds of pilgrims are expected to pass from Jewish Israel into Arab Jordan and travel the 10 miles from here to Bethlehem to observe Christmas at the Church of the Holy Nativity.

The two countries are technically at war with each other. The UN maintains a fragile peace.

According to long tradition, the Latin-rite celebration begins at the Church of St. Catherine, adjacent to the main shrine. After the chanting of Mattins, Latin-rite Patriarch Alberto Gorri, O.F.M., of Jerusalem will offer Mass at midnight, then lead a procession bearing a figure of the infant Jesus to the spot where tradition says He was born nearly 20 centuries ago.

Throughout Christmas Day, Masses will be offered at the Grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

In the Israeli sector of Jerusalem, midnight Mass will be offered at the Benedictine Monastery of the Dormition, at the American Holy Land College chapel, the Church of Notre Dame de France, and at John the Baptist Church in Ein Karen.

In Nazareth, to the north, Melkite Bishop Georges Hakim of Acre will celebrate Mass at the Melkite cathedral. Hundreds of Latin-rite pilgrims will go to Nazareth through the Christian Pilgrimage Agency sponsored by Bishop Hakim. Many of them will attend a midnight Mass offered at the parish church of St. Joseph there.

Most of the non-Catholic Eastern Churches—the Greek and Syrian Orthodox Churches, the Copts and Armenians—will observe Christmas on Jan. 6.

Hospital Equipment

Newark—(NC)—One hundred beds and mattresses and assorted hospital equipment are one their way to an island mission off the coast of Red China, thanks to the generosity of officials of St. Barnabas Hospital, a Protestant institution here.

Merry Christmas

We and all our staff take this occasion to thank you for your patronage and to wish you and yours all the joys and peace of Christmas.

TRANT'S

ROCHESTER'S OLDEST and LARGEST RELIGIOUS GOODS STORE

96 CLINTON AVE. NORTH
106 FRANKLIN STREET
PHONE BAKER 5-5623

CLOSED THURSDAY
EVENING
OPEN ALL DAY SATURDAY

Press Irked By Censors In Spain

Madrid—(RNS)—Serious friction appears to be developing between the Catholic Church authorities and the Franco regime over the degree of press freedom accorded to periodicals published or approved by the Church, according to observers here.

The situation was highlighted by a recent clash between the government and Archbishop Vicente Luengo y Tarazona of Toledo following the publication of a new newspaper, *Esta Hora* (This Hour), published by the Church in Asturias province. This is an area of acute labor problems over which Catholic leaders have shown much concern.

Confusion of the paper was apparently prompted by official comment over articles given prominent space in the publication.

One of the articles took up the cudgels for 300 Asturian miners and metal industry workers dismissed after taking part in strikes last April and May. The article charged that the workers' claims have been disregarded by the official trade unions.

Another article which seemed to give offense was a humorous comment on the statement of the local governor that the government had stopped the "pre-lease elevator." "At what hour does the elevator stop?" the article asked.

Protesting against the government's action Archbishop Enrique noted that *Esta Hora* is a publication of the Church, and the only exempt from state censorship under the terms of the 1931 Vatican Spain concordat.

There have been some indications meanwhile, the observers here noted, that local professional jealousy may also be involved. Some newsmen reportedly have complained that *Esta Hora* was regularly edited by many of the professional journalists.

The official action against *Esta Hora* came in the wake of state control measures initiated recently by Catholic journals.

Esta Hora, a monthly sponsored by the Benedictine Abbey of Montserrat, as well as bans imposed on certain articles that had been scheduled for publication by Sengo, a Madrid Catholic weekly.

New Theology To Be Studied

Toronto—(RNS)—An international Catholic congress on "The Theology of the Renewal of the Church" will be held at the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies here in 1965 to mark the centennial of the Vatican Council.

To take place in August under auspices of English language bishops and archbishops, the congress was announced by Cardinal Archbishop Philip P. Francis of Toronto.

Arrangements are in the hands of Archbishop Doorko, Cardinal Archbishop P. J. Smeets of St. John's, Newfoundland, and Archbishop Vanier of Montreal. It is the first time that all together at the most important, most worshipful part of our day.

Girls' & Boys' Outerwear Sale

girls' winter coats greatly reduced



School and dress coats from our famous fashion makers in sizes for tots to preteens... substantially reduced!

for girls, sizes 3 to 6x

- winter coats, were to \$23.00 \$17.00
- winter coats, were to \$30.00 \$21.00
- winter coats, were to \$40.00 \$27.00

for girls, sizes 7 to 14

- winter coats, were to \$26.00 \$19.00
- winter coats, were to \$33.00 \$24.00
- winter coats, were to \$40.00 \$27.00
- winter coats, were to \$55.00 \$31.00

snowsuits & jackets

at tremendous savings

for girls, sizes 3 to 6x

- famous make snowsuits, were \$20.00 \$14.89
- famous make snowsuits, were \$25.00 \$17.89
- famous make jackets, were \$12.00 \$ 8.89

for girls, sizes 7 to 14

- famous make snowsuits, were \$25.00 \$18.89
- famous make snowsuits, were \$30.00 \$21.89
- famous make jackets, were to \$13.00 \$ 9.89
- famous make jackets, were to \$18.00 \$11.89

sale! Junior-Hi Coats

sensational buys from Rochester's largest selection of preteen fashion coats! All new fashion coats.

- winter coats, were to \$36.00 \$19.00
- winter coats, were to \$40.00 \$23.00
- winter coats, were to \$45.00 \$29.00
- winter coats, were to \$50.00 \$33.00
- winter coats, were to \$55.00 \$39.00



boys' winter jackets greatly reduced \$13.88 regularly \$18.00

Famous names you know well at great savings!

Hefty cotton shells, corduroys and others—stormbusters of wearability!

Broken style, size and color groups—but big selections. Sizes 6 to 20.

sale! boys snowsuits

Junior boys, sizes 4 to 7
regularly \$17.00 to \$20.00

\$11.88

- boys winter jackets, were \$23.00 \$16.88
- boys winter jackets, were \$25.00 \$19.88
- boys famous snowsuits, were \$20.00 \$14.88
- boys famous snowsuits, were \$25.00 \$17.88

prep boys suits and sportcoats

25% off

boys' zip-liner raincoats

reg. \$20
\$14.88
sizes 8 to 20

