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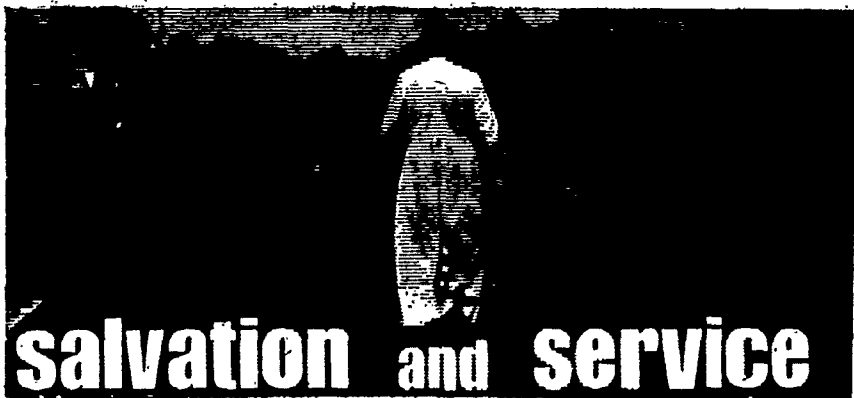
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## "MARY" CHRISTMAS

What were Mary's thoughts that first Christmas night when in the silence and poverty of an animal stall, she became the Mother of God? Our Lady carried Our Lord within her for those nine months before Christmas to become the first person to know that sharing in Christ's life meant giving Him to others . . . and that giving Christ to others meant a life of sacrifice, yet a life of greatest joy.

Mary's first Christmas marked the beginning of her "Christian Life": this Giving Christ to the world. Let us reflect on our own thoughts and feelings as we prepare once again for this celebration of Christ's birth.

Perhaps the most traditional and "commercial" custom we have is the "Giving of Gifts." Yet this gesture has a deep spiritual significance if our giving-of-gifts expresses a giving-of-our-love. And if our love is truly Christ's life in us, then we celebrate Christ's birth by giving Him to others.

"Pray and sacrifice for the missions" may be a wornout or unwelcomed cliché at this time of the year, but just like giving Christmas gifts, your giving to the missions is more than just a gesture of charity . . . it is a sign of your love . . . a giving of life — Christ's life — to others. Christmas-time is Mission-time if it celebrates God's coming to the world!

Like Mary, we know we cannot keep Christ all to ourselves, but must give Him to the world. And today millions of people are so needful of knowing Him and the love which only missionaries can bring. Like Mary, our giving Christ to the world means sacrifice, but it also means the greatest of joys. For like Mary, it only takes one thing . . . love!

Your gift for the missions, however large or small, is truly an expression of the real meaning of Christmas. And in the midst of a commercialized Christmas; a consumer market overflowing with new products, luxuries, and gimmicks; the money so many will spend wastefully and needlessly; and in light of our own "wants" which far exceed real "needs," let us look to Mary for the real spirit of Christmas.

Let us look to a world that needs to know that Christ is born and living today in the hearts of men. And let us look to ourselves: how much we have to celebrate; how much we have to be thankful for; how much we have to give!

In honor of Mary please send a special Christmas sacrifice for the missions today — make it a family offering — a family celebration that touches the deepest meaning — a Christmas to be remembered!

Attach your gift to this column and mail it today.

SALVATION AND SERVICE are the work of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Please cut out this column and send your offering to Reverend Monsignor Edward T. O'Meara, National Director, Dept. C., 366 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10001, or directly to your local Diocesan Director, Rev. Joseph F. Reinhart, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N. Y. 14604 12/12/70

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Courier-Journal

## A 'Mini' Rosary Is Better Than None

Yonkers — (RNS) — The Capuchin Fathers in the Ryukyu Islands, south of Japan, have popularized the use of the "mini" rosary among Japanese Catholics.

"The 'mini' is a one-decade rosary instead of the usual five decades," explained Father Martin Clarke, OFM, Cap., a former New York fireman who joined the Capuchins in 1955 to serve as a missionary.

He told the Capuchin officials here that it takes almost twice as long to pray the rosary in Japanese as it does in English. As a result, very few Japanese pray the rosary daily.

"Following the principle that half a loaf or even a fifth of a loaf is better than none, we urged at least one decade of the rosary daily," Father Clarke stated.

He said the "mini" caught on fast. The men found it easier to carry in their pockets. The women found they always had time for at least one decade a day.

"We are not trying to discard the traditional rosary," the Capuchin priest emphasized, "but we want to be sure some prayers are said each day . . . It is not our aim to have Catholics pray less, but to have them pray at least one decade a day."

Father Clarke urges all U.S.

Catholics to start praying for the missions.

"If you are praying the five decade rosary daily, continue to do it," he encouraged. "But if you have failed in recent years to pray the rosary at all, at least use the 'mini' or one decade each day."


Father Clarke expressed fear that the decrease in prayers said for the missions is greater and more serious than the decrease in financial aid being sent from the U.S.

### BURGLARS FOILED

Burglars tried unsuccessfully to pry open the safe at Aquinas Institute late Friday, Dec. 4, or early Saturday, Rochester police reported.

Entrance was gained through a window and the forcing of locks on several doors. Nothing was reported missing from the school.

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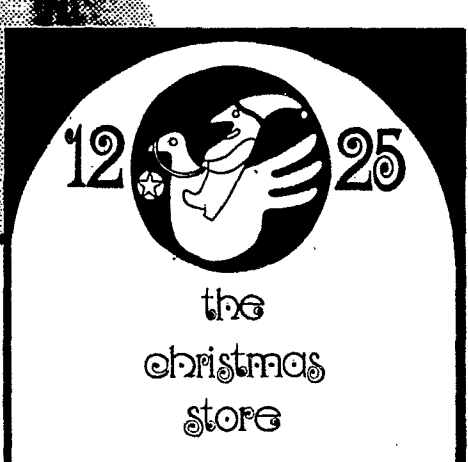


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