

# Christmas 1972

My dear People,

As Christmas draws near, I would like to take time to thank you for something very special. This year has not been an easy one in our Diocese. The tragedy of the flood in our Southern Tier left a bitter wound which will heal slowly. The beginnings of our Year of Renewal have been difficult, as any period of growth is bound to be. Poverty is still in our cities, and war is still in our land. And yet, in the midst of all of this, I still see a faithful people, hoping anew that God will be with us, striving to make His love more near.

And so I speak

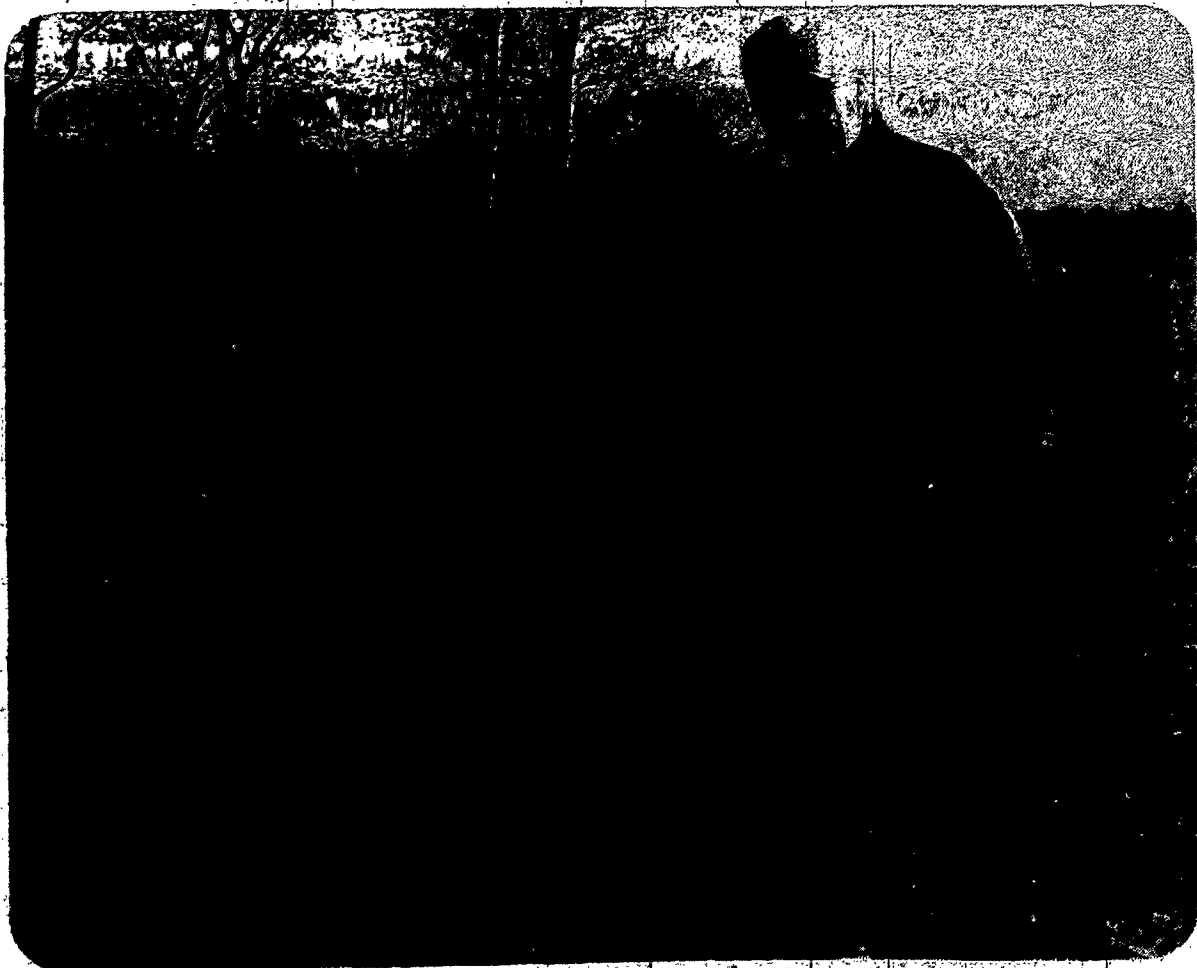
- to the Victims of the flood who, like Jesus, know what it means to be homeless;
- to all Those who worked so hard and gave so much to help the flood victims and who, like Mary, know that real love is put into action;
- to Parents who, like Joseph, are often mystified and made anxious by God's workings in their families;
- to the Elderly who, like Elizabeth, have learned to live in joy and expectation and are ready for the Lord's coming;
- to the Sick and Lonely who, like the shepherds, keep the night watch waiting for the Glory of the Lord to be revealed;
- to the Youth who, like John the Baptist, are willing to speak out and proclaim the possibility of a better world;
- to all the Parish Leaders who, like the Magi, have seen the Star at its rising and are hastening to make known the Lord's arrival;
- to all Men of good will who, like the angels, proclaim peace on earth,

and I say: "God is with us!" He is made manifest in your Faith and in your love. And because I see Him there, I am strengthened. May His blessings of peace always be upon you and may He always be Emmanuel — God with us.

Gratefully your in Christ,

*Joseph L. Hogan*

Most Reverend Joseph L. Hogan, D.D.  
Bishop of Rochester



Standing beside the creche he bought in 1951, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan stands reminiscing about its purchase. Just back from Rome after two years of study abroad, he was excited about spending a traditional Christmas at home with his family in Lima.

"One of the things I wanted to do," recalls the Bishop, "was to get one of those big, outdoor creche sets with the tall figures." He found out, however, that they cost \$50 a figure.

He made the decision to get the smaller set when a salesman told him it would be all right to keep it outdoors, "as long as we slapped a coat of varnish on it each year."

For many years it was an annual tradition to put up the creche outside the Hogan family home in Lima. The first two years it was up, it won the local prize for best outdoor Christmas decoration, "then they had to give up awarding the prize."

Now the figures stand outside the Bishop's official residence in Victor.