

A TOUCH OF CHRISTMAS

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Bp. Kearney Favorite

The Little Tin Soldier

Dr. Leo F. LaPalm recently sent the Courier-Journal these words to a song with which the late Bishop James E. Kearney would regale his young listeners at Christmas time. The words were transcribed a few years ago by Mrs. Michael Quinn of Yonkers, N.Y., Dr. LaPalm noted. He also pointed out that it was "one of Bishop Kearney's favorite renditions."

I was strolling one day through Arthur's Arcade
 That's a place for children's toys
 Where you can purchase a dolly or a sleigh
 For your good little girls and boys.
 And as I passed a certain stall said a little thin voice to me,
 "Oh, I am a Colonel in a little cocked hat
 And I ride on a tin GG."
 When I looked at the little tin soldier I saw
 He was dressed in a suit so fine.
 He had a little tin sword that flashed in the sun
 As he led a glittering line
 Of tin hussars whose sabers flashed in a manner a la military
 And my little tin soldier, he rode at their head,
 So proud on his tin GG.
 Then this little tin soldier he sobbed and he sighed,
 So I patted his little tin head.
 "What vexes your little tin soul," said I.
 And this is what he said:
 "I've been on this shelf a very long time
 And I'm marked 39 you see.
 While just on the shelf above my head
 There's a fellow marked 63.
 Now he hasn't got a sword and he hasn't got a horse
 And I'm just as good as he.
 Then why mark me at 39 and him at 63?
 There's a pretty little dolly girl over there
 And I'm madly in love with she;
 But now that I'm only marked 39 cents, she turns up her nose at me.
 She turns up her pretty wax nose at me and smiles at 63.
 Now she's got a little blue dress that's a dress I do admire
 And pretty blue eyes that open and shut when worked inside by a wire.
 Once on a time when the folks had gone
 She used to smile at me
 But now that I'm only marked 39 cents she turns up her nose at me
 She turns up her pretty wax nose at me and smiles at 63.
 "I'll see what I can do.
 You're a fine little fellow and I think it's a shame
 That they should so treat you."
 So I took down a label from the upper shelf and I labeled him 63.
 And I marked the other chap 39 which was very, very wrong of me
 But I felt so sorry for the little tin soul that rode on the tin GG.
 Then my little tin soldier he puffed with pride
 At being marked 63,
 And the pretty little dolly girl smiled once more
 For he had risen in life you see.
 And it's so in this world when you're in love
 With a maid of high degree
 And you are only marked 39 cents and the other fellow 63,
 For a girl doesn't look at 39 with a possible 63.

Father Erb Sends Holiday Greetings

Father Charles G. Erb, SVD, who usually writes from Ghana, West Africa, is sending his Christmas greetings this year from 141 Conkey Avenue, Rochester, the home of a niece, Mrs. F.E. Schimpf. On leave of absence until next spring, he considers himself semi-retired, but he has been "busy travelling and talking, telling everyone who will listen about our wonderful Ghanaians, begging for our children, our lepers, our mass media program."

In this annual report to his friends, his colleagues and the Courier-Journal, Father Erb says, "People have been amazed to hear the Good News from Africa—they have been hearing too much of the bad news for too long. But

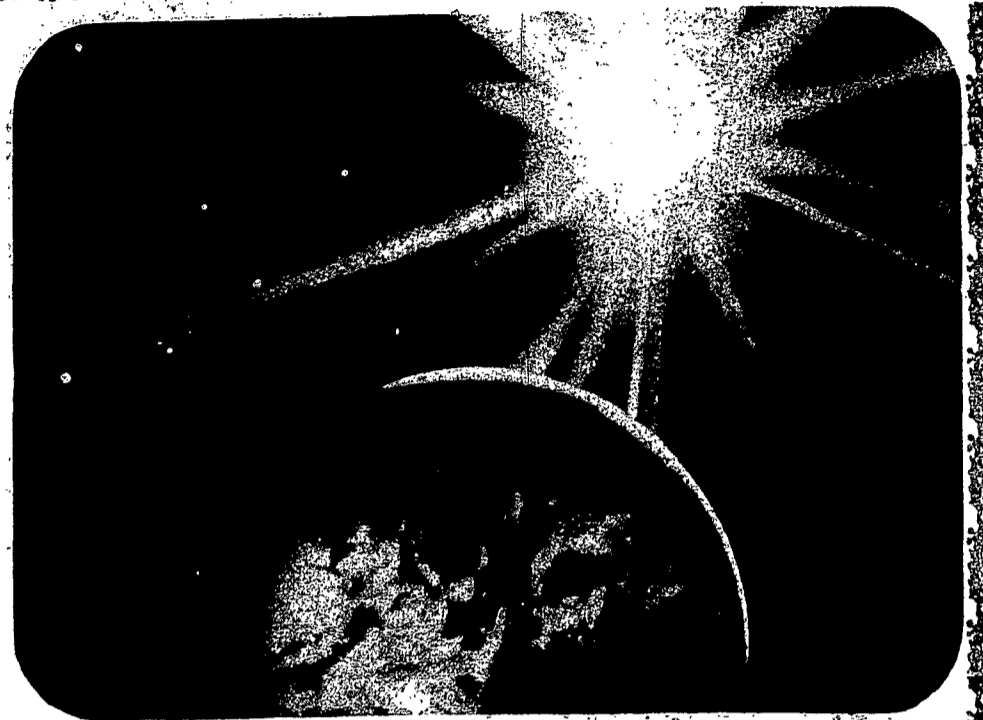
there is plenty of Good News, too, about the 48 million Catholics and the other 50 million Christians that make up the harvest of the last 100 years of missionary efforts on that huge continent.

He tells of meetings in Europe last October with missionaries from 24 African countries. During the Bishops' Synod, which concerned itself with religious education, these delegates from the mission field got together in Vienna, Brussels and Munich to study the international communications agencies that the Church maintains, and "All of us went home resolved to take advantage of them to promote the use of modern methods in our work of evangelization."

While sojourning in Munich, he made a visit to Dachau, "where 32 years ago I was with the U.S. forces (the Rainbow Division) that helped to liberate the 32,000 victims of Nazi tyranny there—among them, 15 SVD brothers and priests."

"Carmelite nuns pray there now, day and night," Father Erb reports, "to make up in some way for the awful injustices committed in that infamous place."

The Divine Word priest will be spending the winter in Antigua, West Indies, organizing a department of social communications, under the aegis of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.



Star of Christmas

The Star of Christmas is now showing daily through Jan. 8 at the Strasensburgh Planetarium of the Rochester Museum & Science Center. Back for its tenth season, the show has become an annual Rochester tradition. Close to 130,000 persons have shared this scientific search for an explanation of the wonderous star that appeared over Bethlehem 2,000 years ago. Was it a comet or meteor, as some astronomers suggest, or a miracle which never will be explained? According to Planetarium director Don Hall, "With the Star of Christmas show, we ask the audience to re-think the importance of this event which has changed the lives of people the world over for the past 200 centuries. We hope that when visitors leave the Planetarium, they will have taken at least a few moments to wonder."

Zoo Denizens Invite Children to Party

Animals have Christmas, too

The folks at the Seneca Park Zoo are reminding everybody about that and so have scheduled a Christmas party in the Animal House from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 17.

Now, the animals, just as everyone else, will not enjoy

Christmas without youngsters around. So all children, 12 and under, are invited.

Oh, yes, Santa, a longtime animal lover, will be on hand with gifts, hot chocolate, cookies and more. There will be caroling

The zoo folks ask that those coming to the animals' party bring along a homemade ornament for the Christmas tree. And anyone who wants to bring along cookies for the festivities should call 342-1744 or 334-6690.

Creary Song

Where Is Christ In Christmas?

Mrs. William (Betty) Creary submitted these words to a song which she has recorded and which she sings this time of year at church assemblies around Rochester. She says that her copyrighted song has drawn "very gratifying" responses from her audiences.

This is a joyous season!
 Children are happy and gay
 What, Oh what, is the reason?
 Soon, it is Christmas Day!

Parties and presents and people,
 Toasts with a merry good cheer!
 But what about the Infant Child
 When Christmas Day draws near?

Where, Oh where, is Christ in Christmas?
 This is the day He was born!
 Why, Oh why, can't we think of Him this morn'?

Where, Oh where, is Christ in Christmas?
 This little Babe of Love,
 Watching us, so lonely, from above?

Must we try to deceive Him with wars of hate and kill?
 Can't we try to believe Him and do unto His will?

Let's remember Christ in Christmas.
 As in the days gone by!
 He gave to us a faith that shall not die!

Can't we begin to show Him a brotherhood on earth?
 Can't we begin to know Him and reclaim his simple birth?

Let's remember Christ in Christmas!
 When He is born again,
 He'll give to us a peace on earth, good will to men!

A-Caroling They'll Go

Shortsville — The Youth Committee of St. Dominic's Community of Shortsville and Manchester will sponsor a Christmas caroling hay ride Sunday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m.

Transportation for the ride will depart and arrive at the Village Hall. Refreshments will be provided upon return.

The carolers will travel through neighborhood streets hoping to open to reach shut-ins and those who are weak or infirm. The theme will be "Oh, Come All Ye Faithful!"

Santa on Tap For Breakfast

A Breakfast with Santa has been scheduled at the Most Precious Blood School Hall after the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Masses on Sunday, Dec. 18.

Groups of more than 10 may make reservations by calling 458-8784 and fewer than 10 may buy tickets at the door. Price is 85 cents for children, \$1.65 for adults.