

Sarah Child



All in the Family

Who Said That about Christmas

Everybody knows that dear old Scrooge, curmudgeon that he was, was responsible (with a little help from Charles Dickens) for the most anti-Christmas message in all literature. And almost everybody knows that Clement Moore was the man who penned "Twas the night before Christmas..." (Although they don't always know the poem itself is titled "A Visit From St. Nicholas.")

But how many readers can guess the authorship of some other quotable quotes written about that joyous time of year. Ready? Here goes. Who wrote...?

1. Forget, forgive, for who may say that Christmas Day may ever come to host or guest again.

2. At Christmas play and make good cheer, for Christmas comes but once a year.

3. It's Heaven, Hell or Hoboken before next Christmas Day.

4. Christmas itself may be called into question, if carried so far it creates indigestion.

5. Ye Tables groan before Ye Feasts, Ye Feasters groan thereafter.

6. Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat,

Please to put a penny in the old man's hat.

7. Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents.

8. Just maybe Christmas doesn't come in a box.

9. A Christmas gambol oft could cheer The poor man's heart through half the year.

10. At Christmas I no more desire a rose Than wish a snow in May's newfangled mirth;

The Answers

1. William Henry Harrison, "John Norton's Vagabond"

2. Thomas Tusser, "The Farmer's Daily Diet"

3. Albert Jay Cook (published in Stars and Stripes; Hoboken was WWI embarkation point)

4. Ralph Bergengren, "The Unwise Christmas"

5. Arthur Guiterman, "True Bill Agaynst Christmas"

6. Beggar's rhyme. Anonymous

7. Louisa May Alcott, "Little Women"

8. Dr. Seuss, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"

9. Sir Walter Scott, "Lochinvar"

10. Shakespeare, "Love's Labour's Lost"

Catholic Schools Are Invaluable

Following are excerpts from the text of Pope John Paul II's address to representatives of the Central Office for Catholic Education in Holland.

You know how much the Church encourages the responsibility of the laity in the formation of the young in the light of faith. And one of the very special areas of this formation remains the Catholic school. Stressing its vital importance, the Second Vatican Council merely took up again a constant conviction and practice of the Church.



In the Netherlands, Catholics have understood this well and have put it into practice on a vast scale. They benefited in so doing from a school system which safeguards, in a way that could be considered exemplary, the freedom of parents in the choice of their children's school according to their conscience.

Whenever the Church highlights the interest and benefit of Catholic teaching, it presupposes, of course, that the latter

is able to carry out its purposes: to create an atmosphere animated by the Gospel spirit of freedom and charity, to enable the young to develop their human personality and their being as baptized people, and to bring it about that the knowledge they gradually acquire of the world, of life and of man is illuminated by faith.

In other words, these schools must be able to propose a real religious education adapted to different situations of the pupils. Catechesis — Catholic for Catholics — is one of the essential stages of this Christian formation, as the Apostolic Exhortation Catechesi Tradendi vigorously recalled: "The special character of the Catholic school, the underlying reason for it, the reason why Catholic parents should prefer it, is precisely the quality of the religious instruction integrated into the education of the pupils."

I know very well the difficulties that you encounter in your hard and delicate work, and I appreciate the generous commitment with which you personally exert yourselves in order to give to the young the best of yourselves. I pray to God to make your activity fruitful in the service of Catholic teaching, in order that the latter will keep its whole place, its specific place in the human and Christian education of the youth of your dear country, and that it will correspond to its vocation more and more.

Christmas bells ring out filling the countryside

with love and happiness.

May their majestic sounds usher in

a wonderful and very

MERRY CHRISTMAS

for you and your family.

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