**DECEMBER 25, 1920** 

# CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

A CHRISTMAS GREETING A merry Christmas morning

To each and every one ! The rose has kissed the dawning And the gold is in the sun.

And may the Christmas splendor A joyous greeting bear, Of love that's true and tender And faith that's sweet and fair !

LITTLE HAND TO HOLD

Just a little hand to hold, and life sets laughter free ; Just a little hand to hold, and that's

enough for me. A little hand that truste and clinge,

And a child that follows you Amid the sweet of the Christmas street.

With the magic toys in view.

Just a little hand to hold, and that makes all things right; Tha

world is just a sunny place world of love and light. A little hand, and all is well,

And the Christmas world is full of

Is brought by the little hand you

So intimate and near.

Just a little hand to hold, and you shall find the way Through shadows and through toil

and stress to laughter and to play.

A little hand, and skies shall shine, And paths beneath your feet Glow with the glory that's divine In the heart of Christmas Street.

-FOLGER MCKINSEY THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Are you willing to forget what you done for other people and remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what the world; to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground ; to see that your fellow men are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the peace to men of good will." only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give life; to close your book of complaints against the universe and look around for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness-are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children; to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old ; to stop asking whether your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough to bear in mind the things other people have to bear on that their hearts ; to try to understand that those who live in the same house with you really want, without wait. ing for them to tell you; to trim your have everlasting life. lampsothat it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you ; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate openare you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world -stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death-and that the blessed Life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Elernal Love ? Then you can keep Christmas. And if you can keep

ually defective, a born idiot in regard An' you bet I ain't gonna take to matters of religion. No chanct like that—not quite Is Christmas to become something to him, he must begin with humble You'll find 'at I won't be awake When Santa comes tonight. acknowledgment of his own nothing. ness ; he must seek and search and THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS pray for the light he is lacking ; he must combat his vices which obstruct Charles A. Dana, late editor of the New York Sun, to little Virginia the light, for "the carnal man cannot perceive the things that are of God, O'Hanlon who inquired concerning the truth about Santa Clavs has bethey are spiritually dis-In proportion as he makes because cerned.' come a classic of American litere religious practice the great effort of ture his life, in the same proportion will the scales fall from his eyes and the facts and truths of religion com-Yes, Virginie, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and to stand out as things substantial before his astonished coul. give to your life its highest beauty In religion one must begin with deeds to end in faith. and joy. And, vice versa, where deeds are beginning to vanish in the paralysis

the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no of indifference religious light will begin to decline until complete darkpoetry, no romance, to make tolerable this existence. We should have no ness settles upon the soul. When the dynamo stops the electric lights go out ; or if there are storage bat enjoyment except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childteries their contents will soon be hood fills the world would be extinconsumed unless they are replenguished.

ished by the running dynamo. Thus, indeed, faith is not eclipsed at once Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies ! by the failure of practice, because light is stored up in the soul from You might get your paper to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on past fervor. But unless practice is resumed the eclipse of faith becomes Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa inevitable .- S. in The Guardian. Claus coming down what would that CHRISTMAS prove ?

There is no day in all the year

but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither which brings such joy as Christmas. It stands out conspicuously above all children nor men can see. Did vou the feasts of the year. It is the ever see fairies dancing on the lawn ? birthday of the God-man and the Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders great feast of Christianity. It recalls to our minds the great religious truths which for twenty centuries there are unseen and unseeable in have given the inspiration and generthe world. osity to youth, the courage and con-

You may tear apart the baby's stancy to manhood, and the comfort and consolation to declining years. rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering Christmas commemorates, not only the unseen world which not the strongest man nor even the united the coming of the world's Redeemer and the beginning of a new religion, but the birth of a new spirit, which, strength of all the strongest men that ever lived can lift .--- The Guardian. in spite of many hindrances, is to transform the world. This Christ-

Alas, how dreary would be

Nobody sees Santa Claus.

THE FIRST SANTA CLAUS mas spirit is expressed in the anthem On Friday, December 6, the Church which the angels sang around the celebrates the feast of the great wonder-worker of the Greek Church, cradle of the Babe of Bethlehem on that first Christmas morn : "Glory to Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra. God in the highest, and on earth Owing to many legends which con-The Christmas season might aptly

be called the springtime of the soul. him the secret purveyor of gifts to Just as springtime spread its verdant children on his feast day and in carpet o'er hillside and valley, while every tree and shrub is covered with leaves and flowers. filling the air with distributes sweet perfume and giving evidence of Christmas Eye. awakened life ; so Christmas arouses

The name of Nicholas has been honored in the Church at Rome for a our mind to unselfish thoughts, fills our heart with generous emotions,' and moves us to actions of pity and thousand years. He was born at Parara, a city of Lycia in Asia Minor kindness, bringing out all that is about the beginning of the Fourth best and noblest and kiving assurance Century. In his youth he made of enkindled spiritual life. Strange indeed and to be pitied is the man a pilgrimage to Egypt and Palestine and shortly after his return he be-came Bishop of Myra. During the who in the midst of this Christmas atmosphere does not feel the impact persecution of Dicclesian he was of the spiritual forces that surge about him, reminding him that : "God so cast into prison but was released after the accession of Constantine, loved the world, as to give His only and according to tradition was begotten Son, that whoseever believpresent at the Council of Nice, which eth in Him, may not perish, but may proclaimed the dogma that the Word is consubstantial with the Father. The Christmas spirit, which Christ Though his name is not mentioned in brought to a selfish world, is the love

any of the old lists of Bishops that of God above all things for His own sake, and the love of our neighbor as attended this Council, it has been a long tradition that he was among ourself for the love of God. those who framed the dogma. The Man's most characteristic trait is cult of Saint Nicholas has been popu selfishness, and the little babe on a lar in the Greek Church as early

pallet of straw in a wretched stable. as the sixth century, and especially in Russia. The Emperer Justinian I. vithout even the ordinary comforts of life, is God's lasson of unselfish. built a church in his honor at Conness to the sons of men. stantinople and his name occurs in For thirty years He labored, sanc-

the Liturgy ascribed to Saint Chrystifying honest toil and the common ostom. duties of life; for three years He lated to Bari the devotion of Saint preached, as no man ever spoke Nicholas began in Italy, but in Gerbefore, confirming His doctrine with many it had begun under King Otto II., whose wife was a Grecian. The signs and wonders, curing the sick, raising the dead and forgiving sinners; so that it was truly said of Him: "He went about doing good." His was a life of service, for he came not to be served but to serve.' Having given the world His example and His teaching He consumates the sacrifice by giving His life for the redemption of mankind. "Greater love than this no man hath, that a man lay down his life for his friends.'

# THE CATHOLIC RECORD



There is genuine and unmistakeable pleasure in its daily use.

Black - Green ) Try a packet from your grocer, or Mixed , J but be sure it's "Salada"

Nicholas to be walting at the church God's science finds no room. That door; they took him, and to the in-credible delight of all, made him the in these days have to learn their Bishop of Myra. During his episreligion well.

copate he never flagged in the virtues looked for in a Bishop, chastity, which indeed he had always pre-Forved, gravity, assiduity in prayer, watchings, abstinence, generosity and hospitality, meekness in exhorta-tions, severity in reproving.

He befriended widows and orphans by money, by advice, and by every service in his power. So zcalous a defender was he of all who suffered oppression, that, on one occasion, three tribunes having been con-demned by the Emperor Constantine, who had been deceived by calumny, and having heard of the miracles wrought by Nicholas, they recommended themselves to his prayers though he was living at a great distance from that place ; the saint appeared to Constantine, and looking angrily upon him, obtained from the

terrified Emperor their deliverance. Having, contrary to the edict of Diocletian and Maximilian, preached in Myra the truth of the Christian faith, he was taken up by the servants of the two Emperors. He was taken off to a great distance and

thrown into prison, where he re-mained until Constantine, having be come Emperor ordered his release, and the saint returned to Myra. Shortly afterwards he repaired to the Council which was being held at Nice; there he took part with the nect him with the secret giving three hundred and eighteen fathers of gifte, the custom arose of making in condemning the Arian heresy. three hundred and eighteen fathers Scarcely had he returned to his children on his feast day and in many countries has identified him with the popular Santa Claus who distributes gifter to bildrow gifts to children on to meet him, he began the psalm

"In Thee, O Lord, I have hoped; and having come to those words "Into Thy hands I commend my spirit," his soul took its flight to the heavenly country. His body, having been translated to Bari in Apulia, is the object of universal veneration. The honor of Saint Nicholas is appropriate in the time of prepara tion for Christmas. He confessed the Name of Christ before the Pro-consuls of the world's Empire and suffered persecution for His Name's In the assembly of three sake. hundred and eighteen fathers he arose to confess with supreme authority the Divinity of Jesus Christ. Catholic Sum.

# WHY WE SHOULD READ A CATHOLIC PAPER

The necessity which present day Catholics are under of studying their religion, in order that they may not lose their hold on it-lest the information they acquired in school-days should be lost, and the religious feelicg they had as children should fade from their hearts - is admirably, lucidly and tersely explained in a pastoral letter of the lamented





### SEVEN

Why Not Make Your Will?

It is a business arrangement which we should not neglect, and it is a simple matter. If you should accidentally be killed without making your will, your estate might be distributed contrary to your wishes. Endless sorrow and litigation is often caused by the failure to make'a will.

Your wishes will be faithfully carried out and your heirs properly protected if you appoint this Company your Executor. See your Solicitor

it for a day, why not always? But you can never keep it alone .- (Dr. Henry Van Dyke.)

#### SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

The other day a traveling man in a railroad coach made the remark : "Christmas is nothing to me," and another one of the same class expressed similar sentiments. Unfortunately the number of those to whom religion and the historical events that support it mean nothing is legion in this so-called Christian country. This does not prove, however, that Christmas is nothing, that religion is nothing, but that these men lack an important something without which religion has no appeal to the human mind and heart. They are to be pitied because they are spiritually crippled.

We often meet with men who have absolutely no taste for music. The most sublime creations of musical art are nothing to them, but so much noise. Does this warrant the conclusion that there is nothing in music Not at all. This phenomenon simply argues the fact that these men lack an element of general culture, viz., a sense for the appreciation of music. No one would look upon them as upon superior beings on account of | Fer thinkin' how 't'ud be that. They do not perceive what is there-the artistic combination of sounds which is calculated to give Then watch him waitin' to un pleasure to every normally consti-tuted human individual.

Likewise, it is quite possible that a man has no sense for the spiritual values contained in religion. As a matter of fact, God's revelation with its mysteries is altogether beyond the powers of unsided human nature. We find it therefore quite natural that a man who seeks no help from God in prayer, who is satisfied with himself and does not long for divine illumination and inspiration, is utterly blind and deat and dumb in

beyond him as the capacity to make With Santa, fer just that one sin a journey to the moon. He is spirit. Through miles of ice an' snow ;

The Son of God, to show His love for man, has left us, as a model, a life of unselfishness, of service and of self-sacrifice.

Lat us ponder the Christmas story. Lat us have the Christmas spirit : and when we have learned the lessons of meelfielness, of service ular Saint. and of self sacrifice we shall enjoy that peace which the angels prom ised to men of good will .- Rev. R. J Cotter, D. D.

# OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

KIDNAPED BY SANTA CLAUS

My dad sez once they lived a boy 'Us bound that he would see Old Santa Claus-an' had no joy To hide behind a screen an' wait Till Santa come around. crate-

Without a word or sound.

Well, Christmas Eve, this boyleton 'At he was sound asleep, An' when he knowed the rest had gone To bed, he went a creep Downstairs - an' gracious !--watcha think ! He run against him-smack ! Old Santa, yes sir-'n quick as wink That boy 'uz in his pack.

the state of religion. It could not be otherwise. Religion 'is as much beyond him as the capacity to make With Santa, fer just that one sin,

course of centuries has not lessened Bishop Hedley, states the Ave Maria. his popularity. Ha is patron of many countries, Greece, Russia, the Bishop Hedley writes as follows :

When his relics were trans-

"Just as non-Catholics miss the great fact of the Universal Church, Kingdom of Naples, Sicily, Lorraine and the diocese of Liege. Many cities in Italy, Germany, Austria, ignore is, and misrapresent it, so the Belgium, the Netherlands and Catholic who does not take the Greece, as well as Moscow in Russia. trouble to study his religion may live have been put under his protection. all his life without an adequate con-His representations in art are as ception of what his Church is, what various as his alleged miracles. The she has done in the past, and what relics are still preserved in the she is meant to do at the present Church of Saint Nicholas in Bari. day. Naither do the great Christian An oil has continually flowed from Sacraments exert their full efficacy the tomb of the Saint and many in a community that knows too little in a community that knows too little miracles have been wrought through about them. The Sacraments pro claim the ever-needed truths that

The Roman Liturgy gives us a sin is sin, and that God's grace alone can overcome sin. They constrain the proud, the indifferent and the

Nicholas was born of a noble slothful to humble themselves before family at Parara, in the province their God, and to seek for pardon and of Lycia. His birth was the first strength to save their souls. The fruit of his parents' prayers. Evi admirable and heavenly gift of the dences of his great future holiness Most Biessed Eucharist, to those who are fully instructed, brings light and knowledge such as all the world's wers given from his very cradle. Having given himself wholly to the philosophy could never give, and dis-covers to the soul paths of grace service of God, he set out for Pales. tine that he might visit and vener worthy of such a Redeemer, and lessons of holiness which only such a ate the holy places. During this pilgrimage, which he made by sea, he Master could teach. And all the forefold to the mariners on embarking, though the heavens were then serene and the sea tranquil, rest of the Christian catechismdeath; judgment, hall and heaven, that they would be overtaken by a morality, honesty, brotherly lovefrightful storm. In a very short can been seen, if we study it, to be grounded upon the deepest convictions of human intelligence, and yet the most imminent danger, when he quelled it by his prayers. His pilto rise and soar above all that is merely natural into the light of the grimage ended, he returned home, giving to all men example of the Gospel of Christ.

greatest sanctity. He went, by an inspiration from God, to Myra, the "It is a rare thing now to find Catholics who have any grasp of the metropolis of Lycia, which had just length and breadth of their own lost its Bishop by death, and the religion. This is a great misfortune. Bishops of the province had come In simpler days, when there were together for the purpose of electing a fewer books and no newspapers, the successor. Whilst they were holding elementary notions of Carlstianity council for the election, they were told sank into the mind and heart, and by a revelation from heaven that they entered into the very substance of should choose him who, on the thought and intellectual life. morrow, should be the first to enter our creeds and our faith have to fight the church, his name being Nicholas. with every kind of error and with Accordingly, the requisite observa every variety of speculation. The tions were made, when they found minds of men are preoccupied, and



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