#### The Catholic Record

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BXPECTATION

How poor the world would be if deprived of the pleasure of expectation? Looking forward is one of the fountains at which we drink life and vigor. Imagine if you can dropping into Christmas in the twinkling of an eye without the privilege of tastingitinadvance. Christmas becomes the great day of the year because it is preceded by such elaborate and long drawn and loving preparation. To cut off all that preceded Christmas would be like shearing the sun of its heams. The whole year becomes brighter to everybody who has Christmas to look forward to.

DO IT NOW

The tumult of war, the aftermath of battle are strong upon us, yet as we lift our eyes to the East there is the Star of Christmas showing steadfastly as the Star which once guided the wise man. Through the dark. ness of the present the light shines ahead, the light that means Peace and Goodwill to all men. This is the hope that cheers our hearts, that makes all our endeavors and all our sacrifices well worth while.

The Star led to the Christ Child turn to the little ones and seek our comfort at their tiny hands. Bebe deprived of their Christmas hapfathers have offered the supreme sacrifice : there are many little ones from that sorely tried and heroic little kingdom, Belgium. We must make all these forget their childish sorrow and anguish, and in doing so we can do in the name of the Christ Child Whose coming meant freedom bondage. The ideas of childhood, of food and clothing. giving and loving, are this day entwined together. The longer we retain some of the child's instinctive confidence that the love he feels is returned and the more we cultivate the pure faith of a child the more will we be capable and worthy of distributing quiet happiness and sweet sympathy at Christmas.

# CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

Once more the "old old story will ring out stirring even cold, sluggish natures and granite hearts to rise above their wonted love of kindliness; for is not Christmas nigh feeling and gracious behavior. It is true that we have fallen upon days when sceptics deny and cynics derids the exclusive claim of Christian tradition. Nevertheless the spiritual foundation stands firm ; the chemists labora ory, the reformers rite, the historians study, the lecture room of the pessimistic professor of Comparative Religions leave uninjured the deeper grounds of faith. Anticipations and echoes only vary the appeal of the sublime narrative. Ancient Habraiam embodied the everlasting Gospel in the name "Immanuel." It is the voice of humanity's heart speaking in many dialects and the annual festival only amphasizes its message. The modern Gospel concerns itself with living rather than with dying. Ruskin was fond of showing that the manger and the guest chamber and the various miracles together with the gifts of loaves and fishes and especially the Being known to the disciples in the break ing of bread implied that other worldliness but slightly occupied the master's mind : that religion was chiefly concerned with the life that now is : that Divine Charity sought to remould men and women in its own likeness. Enough by way of reminder : let us come to the paramount obligations reinterpreted now as the glorious privilege of all who name the name of Him whose life and work are the inspiration of Christmeetide. First we shall do well to renew our own strength at the springs of power, that we may be able season of good will. Personality is the are years of desire and prayer : on prime source of influence, and unless the other side we see the Word made

for their meanness and neglect : an fice and the home of every misery. increasing number of people who are neither more nor less sympathetic the Child wrestling with an unconneed to be directed into wise channels of benevolence.

It is true that poverty may be largely due to class privilege and elements and the pain and misery of natural negligence and that indiscriminate almsgiving often weakens the already debilitated will instead of strengthening it to cope with the chances and changes of twentieth century civilization. But we cannot afford to cut ourselves off from the stream of moral inspiration which is real, formed of the blood and flesh bears men and women away from and bone of Mary ever Virgin. He their comfortable homes into close contact with their suffering fellows. There are and always will be calls upon those who have escaped the evils which are generated among the poor and these calls this year will be louder and more urgent than ever.

It is well to know that many are and will be rescued from the depths of abject misery by the funds and relief new in operation. Yet this provision should not lift from our hearts God; the voice murmuring in infant the shadow that is thrown by much remediable sorrow that cannot be tion into being. The soul, the body, alleviated by official effort. We cannot wholly discharge the duties of belonged to God and although every charity through this medium or con-Who brought gladness and comfort sign to public bodies the obligations to an unhappy world. So let us which spring from a deeper sense of neighborly fellowship. We cannot lose sight of the fact that the feast cause the whole world is in distress that so many of us will celebrate is no reason why the children should with comfort in our own happy homes is sure to awaken envy and piness. There are many whose brave regret among our less privileged

brethren. Wealth and waste display them selves on every side and those who have never known the pinch of want or even the withdrawal of customary comforts and modest we shall forget our own. And this luxuries seldom give a passing thought to the vast numbers of their impoverished neighbors who to a world weary of tribulation and lack even the barest necessities of

Especially do the children of want and sorrow appeal to us for sympathy and help at this most auspicious of seasons. Here indeed the danger of misdirected benevolence is reduced to the narrowest proportions.

Always there will be the moan of distress, the cry of pain, the sight of A Little Boy of heavenly birth patiently borne weakness. To the But far from home to day end of time innocent and guilty will Comes down to find his ball the and of time innocent and guilty will share the burdens of error and vice. Faith, Hope and Love, inheritors of sacred trust, will never wait for Join in to get him back his ball. legal sanctions but will hasten to bind up the wounds and relieve the suffering even though they seem to children, they are the pitiful victims of social neglect in which we are all involved. The least we can do to better their lot is to minister to needs which lie en the surface, has been related by a correspondent affording them glimpses of the brighter destiny we ourselves have in view, kindling a little wholesome ambition to escape from the evils they know and feel, making them, if but for a day, discontented with sordid surroundings and degrading conditions. The heights are many and various. Who know show near to Heaven a child's thoughts may reach by way of "the Stairway of Surprise?"

Wherefore let us take an indulgent view of even the humblest efforts to glerify the season of goodwill by giving joy and good cheer to the little ones who often pine for needful sympathy and help, keeping in mind that trivial attentions and thoughtful remembrances are often worth more than costly benefactions where no kindness is." Bestow gifts where they will go farthest and count for most. It will enhance and refine your own happiness gladden the hearts of the worn out the world-weary, the wayward. Welcome into your heart and home the Divine Christ-Child Who identifies Himself with "the least, of these." Then you may with modest confidence look for a Happy Christmas and a Glad New Year.

IN THE STABLE

Midway between the centuries is to play our part worthily in the the crib of Bethlehem. On one side we are deepened and enriched by Flesh glorified in His Church by the service we are not likely to gain heroism of her children—the Church | measures.

much morally or spiritually by our red with the blood of martyrs, radiprofession of Christian faith. It is ant with the wisdom of her doctors not enough to read Dickens and to and beautiful with the charity which denounce the Gradgrinds and Scrooges | has made her the altar of every sacri-

We can go into the stable and see scious happiness in the arms of His Mother-a Child Who felt as others before Him the rough contact of the poverty. He is like unto any child, but He was God-the Word set up from eternity by which all things were made Flesh.

But though He is God, He is also man as real and as true a man as was ever born of woman. His Body took that body not for a time but forever; for as long as God the Father reigns so long also shall, equal to Him in all things, the God - Man Christ Jesus sit at His right hand. Yet the person that was there that night at Bethlehem was God. The little hands stretched out to the Virgin Mother are the hands of God the eyes dimmed with the tears of dawning human life are the eyes of sorrow is the voice that awoke creathe senses of that human nature act they did was the act of a human nature nevertheless every act was the act of God who owned them.

#### THE DIVINE RULER

Only a Little Infant has ever securely held the heart of our common humanity. From the lowly manger He rules the courses of the stars and the workings of the human heart. His will makes and keeps the harmony of the universe, shakes off right from wrong, robs death of its sting, gives to life an eternal worth crowns our common humanity with a glory just less than angelic. Enthroned upon that pure and innocent altar of the crib His Infant dignity compels forever the love and devotion of countless missions who see with the inner eye of faith His resplendent Divinity and know by the higher instinct of love that in Him are set all the hopes of humanity-Jesus Christ yesterday, to-day and the same forever.

That sin has cast away And comrades let us one and all

## BELGIAN MARTYR

AGED PRIEST DIES TO SAVE INNOCENT MEN

One of the most striking stories of neroic abnegation in the present war mans had occupied, abandoned and reoccupied a village in the vicinity of Spa, Belgium. When night ap shut themselves up in their house seeking as far as possible to avoid giving any trouble to the soldiers of he enemy which could be used as a cause of retaliation. Despite their forts, when the night had barely

commenced, shots were heard. The German troops who occupied the place had seen figures stealthy approaching the sleeping village, and taking these to be a Belgian patrol at once opened fire upon them. matter of fact, they were their own people. In order to extricate themselves from the dilemma into which the German soldiers explained to their officers that the shots had been fired by the village inhabitants. A captain who was in command immediately ordered five of the villagers from their houses, choosing these at random and without further ado had

them placed against a wall and shot.

One would have thought that this would have, for the time, ended the troubles of this ill fated community but, unfortunately, the next night the same thing happened. This time it was impossible to verify whether the soldiers had again shifted the responsibility for the shooting of their comrades upon the shoulders of the luckless civilians, or whether some relation of those who had been so ruthlessly executed the night before, being goaded into fury, had sought revenge himself upon his persecutors. The result was the same. The captain made all the notabilities of the village assemble before him to them that as the first example he had given them had proved insufficient, he found himself obliged to take even more severe

He selected from amongst them wenty men, who were immediately it tells, it has another message of great importance that it speaks to all manome, and that they must perish for kind. twenty men, who were immediately informed that their last hour had come, and that they must perish for the sake of the village. It is possi-ble that this sentence might not have been carried out in its entirety, but in any case it was sufficient to terrorize the population. At this moment, however, some of the more courageous inhabitants approached the cap-tain and suggested that he should spars the twenty men until he had held an inquiry into the events which had taken place in order to try and discover who it was that fired upon the soldiery. The German officer re-plied that he had no time to waste upon such matters, but added that if the offender would give himself up he should be executed and the twenty

#### should be set at liberty. A MOVING SCENE

A deathly silence followed the announcement, and for some seconds no one moved. Then from amongst the hostages an old priest stepped painfully forward; he was bent with years, and his scant grey hair sur-rounded a face as composed and tranquil as that of a saint. He advanced toward the captain and quiet

'It was I who fired." The officer was not deceived by this self indictment, which he knew was untrue. He saw himself about to be forced into condemning an in death. He hesitated and then said to the cure :

"Will you swear that it was really you who fired upon my men." And the little old priest, without a moment's hesitation, lifted his hand

Yes, it was I. I will swear. J'en fais le serment."

There was nothing further to be done. The officer made a sign and turned upon his heel with lowered

His men led off the venerable priest. A few minutes later the re-port of several shots fired in a volley were heard. The flock of Francor-champ were without a shepherd, "and

#### CHRIS TMAS

Over the whole world, with its sins and its sorrows, its treasons and its infidelities, its self-seeking and its self indulgence, there descends each succeeding Christmas a brooding ense of well-being that is not of the world's seeking nor of the world's making, but is the pure gift of God His reminder of the ineffable condes ension and the unutterable goodness of the Incarnate Son of God. December, as the old year lies dying, down from heaven to earth with th Christ Child there comes unseen and Unappreciated, but all pervading, the peace, the blessed, priceless peace of Christ's nativity.

The world, it is true, is no longer in any true sense a Christian world,

it is out of sympathy with the doctrines and aspirations of Christ. Christmas does not mean for the majority of men what it meant for their fathers and grandfathers. To majority of men what it means to their fathers and grandfathers. Te their shame, be it said, the Babe of their shame, be it said, the Babe of The Catholic Church expects to be sponse in their sense-bound, selfcentred lives. The world has pagansecuted, oppressed and abused. Its Minneapolis Journal recently. ized the whole celebration of Christmas, it has thrown a veil over its supernatural character, it has not made ready for the coming of the Lord; and as far as it is concerned, the holy night will come and the holy day will go unheeded.

And yet even the cold heart of th world loses some of its chill on Christmas morning. The sunshine of the presence of Jesus thaws the world's icy rigor, and its soul comes forth for a day, at least, is more like the heart of the Saviour. It has not, in deed, the fulness of the glories of God given Christmas peace, only to men of good-will has this been prom-ised, but it has, nevertheless, a taste of its sweetness. For the gift of flows from the Church out into the four quarters of the earth. On Christmas morning Christ does not insist too literally on the meaning of good will; even in those who are not right with God. He finds something at least of what He demands. He seems to look less to men's sins than to their good deeds, less to their malice than to their frailty. And so in His great goodness He gives even to them some of the great joy that He gives to His friends. Even Christ's enemies are happier at

the year. They are happy because all men are happy at Christmas, and all men are happy at Christmas, because Christmas is Christ's birthday and Christ is the brother of all men. Everywhere there is joy on Christ-

heart forgets its envy and kindles with kindness, when bitterness turns o ashes and the embers of charity flame forth afresh, when sympathy and gentleness and compassion soothe and chasten the spirit. influence of Christianity is still too strong for those who would drive the t Jesus from the world. Even those who hate Him are better for

"God so loved the world as to give His only begotten Son." Was He to allow the recollection of His gift to fade from the hearts of men? Christ's birth was one of the Father's mitted to slip from the memory ex-cept of a faithful few? Was the in-carnation and nativity of the Word made Flesh so slight a thing that it might be lightly forgotten? Was curred to me to bring into question Mary to be regarded merely as a the morals of the Baptist clergy. I Jewish woman and her Son only as a m big enough to retain my friendmight be lightly forgotten? Was only a woman and a child and noth ing more? No, Mary was the Mother of God, and her Son was God Himself; Mary's maternity and Christ's nativity were most stupendous acts of God's bounty, acts of untold conse quence to all mankind. And God as taken good care that they shall

Christmas joy is the means God has employed to remind men that for us men and for our salvation His only Son came down from heaven, was conceived by the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary, in all things like unto ourselves save sin. Christmas joy is man's tribute to the new born King, his bomage to the Infant Saviour, his heart's silent pro-test against the forgetfulness of the mind and the blasphemy of the ton-gue, it is nature's thanksgiving for the Messias. Deeds speak louder than words; and so it is, that although some lips deny Him and some ears are closed to His message all hearts proclaim Him. Christmas smiles are the reflection of the smiles of Christ, Christmas greetings are echoes of the good tidings spoken by the undying memorial written in the souls of men of Christ's birth according to the flesh. The nativity of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity in human form has been inscribed on tablets more lasting than stone; and it has been done in a way that only the infinite kindness of the all wise God could have devised. For just as the tidings of peace to men of good will rang through the world on the first Christmas night, so their echo rings through the world on each succeeding anniversary; and men's hearts, be they sinless or sinful, vibrate in answer to its message. Christmas joy is God's Christmas gift to the world. His reminder of the birthday of His Son.—J. Harding Fisher, S. J., in America.

## A LONG LINE OF BATTLE

In Europe, says Archbispop Glennon, there is a battle line which is 150 miles long, but in this country there is a battle line which extends all across the continent. On one side of it is the Catholic Church; on the other side are immorality, infidelity, bigotry and prejudice. In this war weapons worse than any used in the conflict in Europe, are employed— foul lies, vile inventions, rotten im putations, unscrupulous actions, and

Founder was libeled, mocked, scourged and crucified. It bears His sign of suffering. He predicted that His followers would be reviled and injured.

The Catholic Church cannot be destroyed. Christ foretold that it would last until the end of time. enemies may hurt some of its mem bers, but they cannot exterminate it They can hurt themselves worse than they can hurt it, and they can hurt from the prison of selfishness, and grievously those persons, who, because of their charges, false stories sermons and publications, are turned gainst the Church and die outside of its fold .- Catholic Columbian.

### THE DIFFERENCE

Nothing, perhaps, shows the quality of the converts to the Church and the difference between them and the perverts to the sects than the atti-tude of each toward the ecclesiastical organization which he has foresker and his treatment to those who re-

nain members of that organization The whole world knows with what kindly charity the ex priests and the ex nuns treat the Church of their birth. There is nothing too vile to say of it or of its priesthood and Sisters. For a few paltry dollars, these Christmas than at any other time of miserable wretches will travel the country pouring forth a stream of filth and calumny and delighting those whose hearts are as foul a their own putrid imaginations.

But how different the attitude of a Newman, a Manning, a Faber, a Bay-ley, a Mother Seton, a Doane, a Benof the thousands of earnest con verts, holy men and wemen who through high and conscientions motives and convictions have entered the Church! Thinking men cannot fail to mark the fine quality of these sincers converts who retain only affection and respect for their old triends, though their conscience has led them to the altar of the living

flood of nastiness and bigotry break-

lows:
"I despise bigotry of whatever nature. My time is too valuable to spend it in listening to purveyors of flith and falsehood. Though I attended the Baptist Church for twenty years, before becoming a Catholic, it has never since occurred to me to raise my voice against the purity of ing a few paltry dollars from admir my friend, but my change of belief was due to conviction. I entertain profound respect for clean men and with which to properly express my contempt for defamers of virtue."—

## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Rev. Wm P. Cantwell, in The Mon

By Cardinal O'Connell Swiftly fly the days, as nearer we

approach the great Christmas festival—the Christ Mass. At the very time that the days are darkest, the great light comes, "Lumen de Lum-

In Christ, God gives us Himself. Perfect love can never stop short of that. It must give and give until the giver has exhausted His treasure, and finally gives Himself. And what we give back?

One thing only we have to offer— one thing alone He will accept. It is the best that is in us—Good Will.

Through the frail clay in which we are so feebly fashioned, so weak of purpose, so filled with piteous flaws, runs this wonderful vein of gold, the only riches we possess—Good Will.

The Babe of Bethlehem stretches

out His tiny hands for it, for it is His own. We need not hide our faces. He knows us all so well, His poor, weak brothers, troubled by so many cares, torn by so many conflicts.

We must not feel ashamed of the rage of poverty which cover us. He knows them all so well.

The shepherds were as poor as we but no false shame, no proud bash-fulness held them aloof from Him. Let us take their hands and go to Bethlehem, sorry for His sake that we have nothing to offer but just our poor selves, poor clay with a little thread of golden will running

through.

But to one another we have so much to give, all of us, the least of

Mutual forbearance, a kind, sincere word heartily spoken, silence when a word might only hurt, an injury forgotten and forgiven.

What trifles they seem! Yet they are the very finest things in all the world. Come, let us offer them to one another, on that day when God comes down to earth, to make all men brothers.—Philadelphia Standard and

### NUNS AS WAR NURSES

The following item headed a

"I was visiting at the convent in Carlisle Place the other afternoon when Lord Kitchener called and asked for the reverend mother. Reverend mother,' he said, 'can you let me have immediately 100 nuns as nurses for the front?' After a moment's thought she realized she could do as he desired, and forthwith t was arranged that they were to leave within a week.

"If he could, Kitchener of Khar-toum would have nuns only as was nurses, having the highest opinion of them in such capacity.'

This must prove a delectable morsel for the blatant bigots who are denouncing the Catholic Sisterhoods. At any rate, it will help to counteract the effect of some of the oisonous vomit of the unfortunate individuals who are suffering from anti-Catholic convulsions.—St. Paul

# REFUGEES IN ENGLAND

There are now 700,000 Belgian refugees in England and 25,000 more are expected in a few days. All have combined to give them welcome, and it is refreshing to find the charity displayed toward them by non-Cath-Many Anglican and Dissenting churches are supporting a hote entirely among their own congrega-tion, and in most cases have invited the local priest to visit the Belgians. Some clergymen, too, with roomy rectories are giving hospitality to

small families. Both universities, Cambridge and Oxford, have issued an invitation to all Belgian students, not only from Louvain but from other universities, to come to them. They will provide not merely the mental hospitality required but also the physical needs of impoverished students. On Nov. 15th, there will be a great gathering of these people at Westminster Cath edral, for on that day Cardinal Bourne has conceived the happy His coming. In spite of sin and wickedness Bethlehem's cave still A convert priest out in Henryetta, Oklahema, looking out upon the Church Progress.

#### CATHOLIC NOTES

Mr. W. D. Brady, of Little Rock, is the generous donor of a handsome statue of St. Benedict to the Bene dictine Abbey at Subiaco, Ark. He is a non Catholic, but his son is at Subiaco studying for the priesthood.

Moneignor Faisandier, S. J., Bishop of Trichinopoly, who has been one of the most active workers for the Marian Congress to be held in India early next year, has issued a circular announcing its postponement to a more auspicious time.

An English paper tells us that an application by Catholic authorities in Russia for permission for Catholic to the spiritual needs of Catholic soldiers has been granted by the government.

Among the many stained glass windows in Antwerp Cathedral, one was given by Henry VII of England to commemorate his treaty with Philip I of Castile. In the sixteenth smashed many of its statues and im-

On November 9, in the chapel of the English College, Rome, Admiral Darcy Irvine of the British Navy was received into the Church. He ewas baptized by Bishop McIntyre, rector of the college, and received the sacrament of confirmation from Cardina Merry del Val.

The Handelshlad of Amsterdam has published a report from Christiania, aying that the managers of the Nobel institute have decided to give this year's peace prize, which amounts to about \$40,000 to the Netherlands government, to be applied to the support of Belgian refugees in Hol-

Professor Gibson of the University of Louvain, calls the ruined city s "new Pompeii"; everywhere an "oppressive silence; everybody has fled; at the windows of cellars I see frightened faces; at the street cor-ners sordid, immovable, silent Prusstand the walls of St. Peter's, now a grinning silhouette. Entering St. Peter's, I find the big bell among the ruins, the vaults caved in; the city

exists no longer." Associated Press dispatches from Copenhagen, Denmark, announce that postoffice officials there have carried out the idea of printing stamps for one, two and three cents, bearing the picture of St. Martin, Belgium's patron saint, and for eight cents, bearing the picture of the Belgian royal family, which are to be sold for the benefit of Belgian refugees. The press subscription throughout Denmark for the same purpose has been most successful.

Lady Holmes who was received into the Church on All Hallows' Eve by Canon Drake at St. Bernard's Convent, Slough, England, is the widow of Sir Richard Holmes, K. C., V. O., V. P. S. A., for thirty-five years librarian to Queen Victoria and King Edward VII. at Windsor Castle: she is also the eldest daughter of the late Rev. Canon Richard Gee. D. D. for many years the Protestant Vicar of Windsor and canon of St. George's.

His Eminence Cardinal Aristide Cavallari, Patriarch of Venice died year of his age. Chioggia, Italy on February 8, 1849 His theological course was completed at the Seminary of Venice where he was ordained on September 24, 1872 He served for many@years in Venice under Cardinal Sarto, Patriarch of that See, and later Pope Pius X, whom he succeeded as Patriarch of Venice on February 15, 1904. He was created and proclaimed Cardinal in the Consistory of April 15, 1907, by the late Pope Pius X.

by the late Pope Plus X.

Cardinal Di Pietro, dean of the
Sacred College of Cardinals, died in
Rome, Dec. 5. Cardinal Di Pietre
was born May 26, 1828, in the Sabine Hills of poor parents who, despite their poverty, fostered the holy voca-tion of their son, until he ultimately became a priest. He had held many offices of distinction in the Church. In 1970 he was Nuncio to Brazil, in 1882 to Munich, and in 1887 Madrid, succeeding Rampolla, who was then created Cardinal. He was highly regarded in Spain by the court as well as the Government. In 1893 he was created and proclaimed Cardinal. At the time of his death he held the office of Datarius.

The Rev. Hugh F. Lilly, O. P., the cldest member of the Dominican Order in the United States in point of service, died Dec. 3, in his seventy-fifth year at Columbus, Ohio, of pneumonia, which followed an accilent of a week ago. For many years Father Lilly was prominently identiled with the missionary work of the Deminicans, making his headquar-ters in New York. He had much to do with building up the work of the Dominicans in this country. Bern in Ireland, Father Lily made his

college studies at Memphis, Tenn. The Civil War was in progress when be started for the nevitiate of his order, and he was arrested on his way to Springfield, Ky, the military authorities mistaking his seelestas-tical letters of introduction for important military documents. Father Lilly brought to this country the Rev. Tem Burke, the famous Irish preacher.