

The Real Love of Christmas

(Bishop Anthony Jordan, O.M.I.)

He loved me and gave Himself up for me. (Gal. 2.20.)

On Christmas Eve, in the year 1223, Francis of Assisi and his brethren met in a cave complete with an ox, an ass and a manger. In that cave, a priest offered Holy Mass and Francis fulfilled his pious ambition: "I want for once to celebrate seriously the coming of the Son of God and see with my own eyes how poor and miserable He wished to be for our sakes."

That may seem quaint to the worldly, and quixotic to the cynical but it represents the attitude with which we should approach the holy day. It is not

sentimentality we need to fear but sophistication. No one is formal or supercilious to a baby—and Christmas was the birthday of a Baby.

What do we see at Bethlehem? A young girl aglow with love and excitement, unbelievably beautiful; and her Son, stung pink by the wind, helpless, utterly dependent on His mother. And is this God? Is this He who lit the stars, and threw the planets swirling out into space, who anchored the continents, heaped up the mountains, walled in the seas? Yes, this is He. What is He doing there in these surroundings, this disguise? St. Paul answers that question,

and almost two thousand years later you can catch the sob in his throat: "He loved me and gave Himself up for me." "For me," notice! Not for "humanity" as a faceless, anonymous mass, but for each of us individually. We can, therefore, make St. Paul's words our own.

What a difference this birth made to the world! When we thus exclaim, we are thinking of how the pagan world with its heritage of cruelty, impurity, injustice and false worship was transformed by Our Lord's teaching. But it is important to ask: "How much difference has Christ's birth made in our lives? Some, to be sure; but how much? We are Christians—and that means, in its full richness, not merely the deontology keeping of the commandments, fulfillment of obligations, but a return of love. St. Paul does not merely say: "He loved me" and end the sentence there; no, "He loved me and gave Himself up for me" He loved me and expressed His love in action. Does my love for Him similarly show and prove itself?

Scout Gets High Honor

The highest award a boy scout can receive was bestowed on Troop Leader A. Ross Ingram of the Third Prince Rupert Troop in a ceremony conducted at a meeting of the troop.

F. E. Anfield, district commissioner of Boy Scouts in the Prince Rupert area, awarded the King Scout badge and expressed appreciation of the work done by Troop Leader Ingram in bringing the honor to his troop. The award is the first of its kind to be presented in this city.

Another award was presented by Mr. Anfield at the request of the 26 boy troop. Dennis Garon, scoutmaster, was presented with a gold watch and chain as the boys, erect in snappy uniforms, looked on. The boys presented the gift as a token of their appreciation for the work done by the scoutmaster.

Honor penants and the "Good Turn" picture were bestowed by Fred Conrad, group chairman of the troop, on the leading patrol in troop competition.

The meeting closed with presentations of other well earned awards and a successful and enjoyable Christmas party.

IMPORTANT TO ITALY

Agriculture, the most important of Italian industries, employs more than one-third of the population

Scout Investiture After First of Year

Investiture of scouts of the Fifth Prince Rupert troop after the New Year is expected. Under the leadership of Scouter Walker Page, the group meets weekly at the Annunciation School hall. The boys are engaged in exams so that the entire troop may be invested as scouts in January.

Ray Reflects . . . and Reminisces

From different parts of North America come melancholy hints that the cost of coffee is rising. It's hovering between 7 and 10 cents. Think of it. Once, a nickel and a cup of coffee were partners. They travelled together—something like pork and beans or bacon and eggs. Once, there was the dollar watch, the dollar shirt, the ten cent plug, the 15 cent shave, the good 5 cent cigar, and the large size 5 cent candy bar. Perhaps we have more cash today but is there more or less happiness?

Several railway trains were needed to carry—not all—just part of Joe Stalin's birthday gifts. Being, presumably, a gentleman, he will personally acknowledge each.

It is urged in Prince Rupert that local users of the telephone during busy seasons in particular, restrict the time. It can be done. It can be talk instead of leisurely conversation. It is astonishing how much can be said in two or three minutes if you really utter it with no rambling or wasted words. The point is well taken. It's good to have terminal facilities and use them.

Industrial and labor chiefs are saying 1950 will be more encouraging. Strikes will be reduced and war's likelihood less. If more would keep on saying and thinking this, no explanations would be necessary later on.

Ketchikan, immensely proud of being a national record holder, has the right idea. Officially recognized as being the nation's wet spot—more than 200 inches of rain in 1949—the Alaskan city strikes a distinguished pose, and asks what wouldn't drought-stricken New York City give for a good, splashing handout from her abundant store.

Governor General's Christmas Greetings

Many Christmas greeting messages are arriving at the Mayor's office but one of the most interesting which Mrs. Nora Arnolds received is one from the Governor General and Lady Alexander. It is personally signed by Their Excellencies and the feature is a delightful family group picture taken in the viceregal home at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. The Governor-General and his lady and their children are seen.

It was announced in Terrace recently, by J. C. Martin, provincial construction supervisor, that the plans for an infirmary had been changed, and the building will become an old men's home. Changes will be started immediately. It is expected work will be finished in March.

Christmas At Conrad Hall

Conrad United Hall Sunday school enjoyed their Christmas parties on Wednesday. The pre-school children had their party in the afternoon with 23 present along with their mothers. The afternoon was spent in singing Christmas songs and carols and the Nativity story told with an anelgraph. As the children went home they were given a bag of Christmas treats and a peppermint stick. Mrs. C. Marineau, the teacher of the little tots, was the sponsor of the party.

In the evening the older children had their party. About fifty boys and girls gathered with one of their parents to enjoy a short evening together. Two items highlighted the evening—the showing of colored Nativity slides beginning with the prophesies of Christ's coming, interspersed with carol singing, and the Christmas treats.

Among those active at the party were Mrs. A. Bussanich, Mrs. C. Marineau, Mrs. William Dunn, Mrs. R. W. Large, Martin Stuart and Rev. L. G. Sleber. Others, teachers and friends, greatly helped in making the party possible, providing treats and decorating the Hall.

The Sunday School sent a box of oranges and a box of peppermint sticks to the local Radio Station for the boys and girls at Miller Bay hospital.

Hear Rate Case Again

OTTAWA, (C)—The Board of Transport Commissioners said today that it will hear further submissions from the Canadian railways in February on their application for a general twenty percent increase in railway freight rates.

This announcement came a day after the Supreme Court of Canada had handed down a judgment expressing the opinion that the board had failed in its duty by not making a final decision on the application when it awarded the railways an interim increase of eight percent in September.

Rowland Miles of the Civic Centre staff sailed Thursday on the Prince George for Vancouver to spend the Christmas and New Year holiday season.



Season's Greetings

Our best wishes for a Merry Christmas

Our sincerest hopes for a Happy New Year

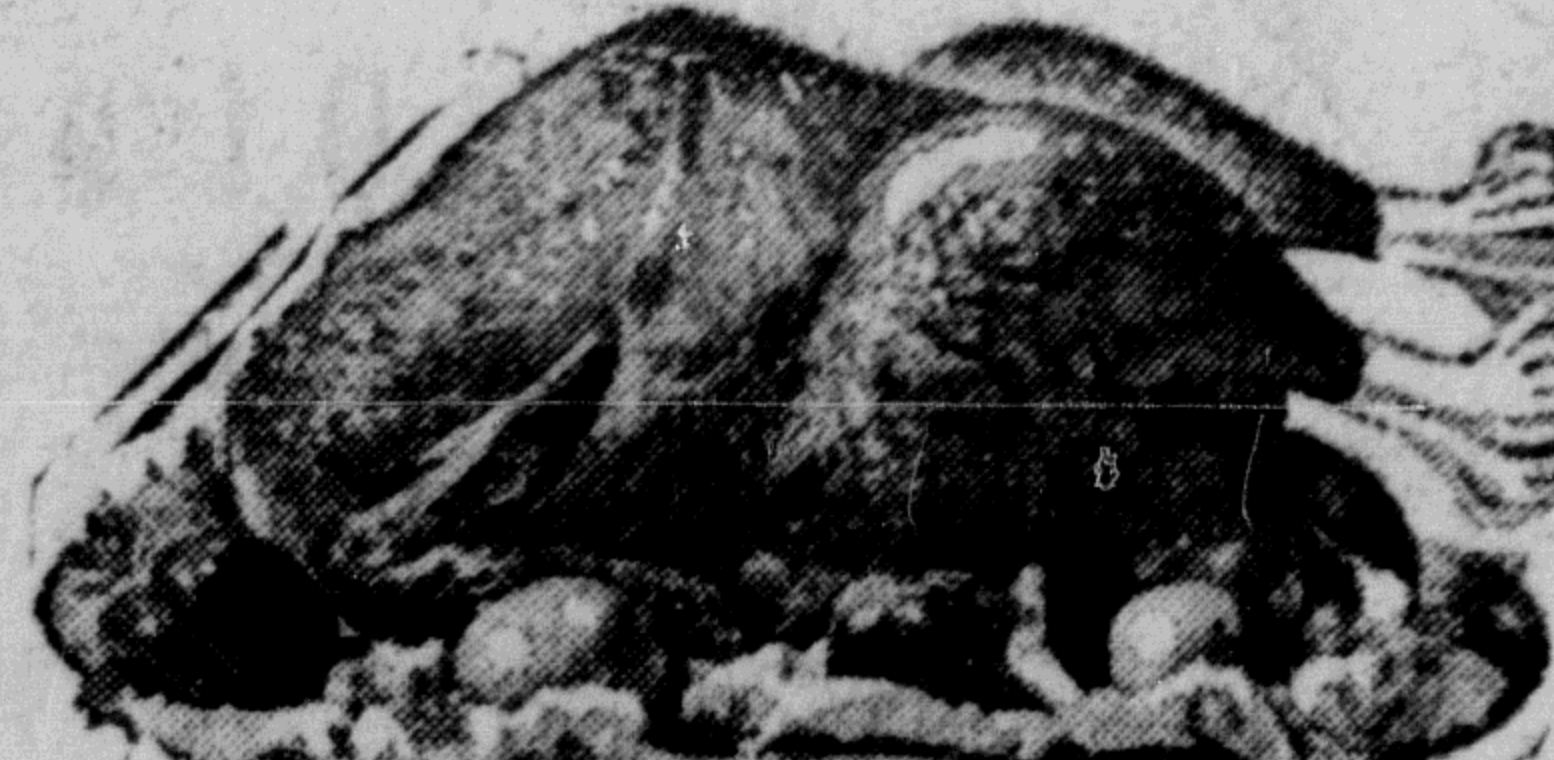
Noble & Wick



The years go on and our celebrations may change with time . . . but the wishes are always the same—A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to You and Yours!

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Miss Gladys Findlay, Miss A.E. among those leaving at the Waterman and Mrs. Edith M. of this week for Vancouver. Larsen of Port Simpson and Miss spend the Christmas with Kathleen How, teachers of nat-Year holiday season. Five schools in this agency, were

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