

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE - C.H.M.L. - Christmas, 1960.

It is a great pleasure to extend a very merry Christmas to you who have gathered about this Christmas Altar this morning.

I am very happy, too, through the facilities of radio station C.H.M.L. to wish all within range of this broadcast, an abundance of the precious joys of this holy season.

The gospel narrative of Christmas Day brings a thrill of joy and exceeding great happiness to all who hear or read it in the spirit of faith and hope. --

"For today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be a sign unto you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the Highest, And on earth peace to men of goodwill."

The world sadly needed those good tidings. The curse which original sin wrung from the justice of God was blighting its face. Man was losing the knowledge of God. He strove no more for heaven. Sin abounded because men were beginning to forget they had immortal souls. Men were making a divinity of the mortal and the corruptible.

As with individuals, so it was with nations: the true knowledge of God was lost to all save to one small nation. Humanity was dying the death that sin brought upon it and the truth of Paradise was almost obliterated.

To ignorance came the word of God. To sin came a Saviour. To Heathenism, God manifested Himself. To barbarism came the Prince of Peace. To a dark world came Jesus Christ, the light of light, the Redeemer of His people. Well might the Angel say, "I bring you good tidings of great joy that shall be to all the people".

The "good tidings of great joy" is with us again today. "For a child is born unto us, and a Son is given unto us." The lesson is clear to all who will read and understand.

Unless men are prepared to recognize Christ as God, and as their own personal God, unless they are prepared to do His Will as it is expressed through His loving voice on earth, the Child in the crib is an empty symbol.

The Child who appeared in Bethlehem on the First Christmas is no mere historic character of the far distant past. He is God; we are His children. He is born again today in our Altar, and He speaks to us today with the same voice that He used on earth in human form. This is Christmas for men of faith.

It is the merry, joyful Christmas we wish you all today.

Perhaps in the midst of your Christmas preparations, you read the pre-Christmas broadcast of the Holy Father. He called upon world leaders to act honorably in the face of increasingly grave global conflicts.

The news, the Holy Father said, ever more grave, moves us at this Christmas season to direct a word to those who have the highest responsibilities in the public and social sphere and to invite them, in the name of Christ, to place their hands on their breast and to act honorably in these days of general danger.

The Pope's appeal was directed also to all who are responsible for public opinion which is being formed or deformed by means of the press, radio and television, by cinema, by meetings and exhibitions of every kind.

Against the truths of Christ and the Church the Pontiff said -- a current of modern truth was raising an anti-decalogue-----the opposite of God's ten commandments-----encouraging man to kill, to commit adultery, to steal and to bear false witness.

And the Holy Father concluded by urging all men of goodwill to have a sacred terror of spreading those germs which desecrate love, break up the family, mock religion, loosen the foundations of the social order.

If strong in our faith, He said, and by the side of Jesus Christ, we will cross not only the little Lake of the sea of Galilee, but all the seas of the world.

As you assist at the midnight mass, offer a prayer with the Holy Father for the peace of the world, the peace which the Babe of Bethlehem offers us again this Christmas morn if we are really of goodwill.

As you dwell today in the comfort of your own home with your family gathered about you, resolve that you will live according to God's commandments, always honoring the truth, dignifying your immortal heritage by a life that is above reproach - - a life that will be prelude to the eternity that you hope to spend with the eternal Babe of Bethlehem.

I bring you good tidings of great joy, the Church says to us this morning, as the crib is unveiled. Kneel before that crib and tell your God, in humble infant form, that you will walk the remaining days of your life as His stalwart ally ---

Such is the merry Christmas I wish you all at this midnight mass.

God send you a happy Christmas! His blessings be on your home,
His love be around your loved ones - Wherever on earth they roam.
God send you a holy Christmas! His name be in every mind;
And close to the crib of Bethlehem - True happiness be yours to find.
God send you a peaceful Christmas! To you and to all you love;
On your home may the Babe of Bethlehem - Smile down from His home above.
