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The Archbishop's Christmas Message

My Dear Santamarians:

When you ask me for a Christmas message I can hardly be wrong in assuming that you look for a Christian message.

There was a time when certain so-called Christians tried hard to suppress the celebration of Christmas, and, at least in their own circle, succeeded for a time. Soviet Russia is at present engaged in the same ungrateful enterprise, and, as far as they may dare, Adolf Hitler's neopagans are working to the same end. Apart from these, all the civilized world, Christian and otherwise, takes some sort of share in the Christmas festivities, if not all in the true spirit which gives meaning and should give zest, to the enjoyment of this festival of festivals.

On the coming of Christ, the newborn King, that spirit was confined to a restricted few, though varied in character. Apart from the angelic hosts who filled the midnight sky with the glory of His coming, there was but His privileged mother and foster-father, the three wise truth-seekers from the East, and the group of Judean shepherds. To all the rest the story was "there was no room for them in the inn". "The light shineth in darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it". "He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not". "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not". And so down to the scene on Calvary when they thought they had put an end to His earthly career, and all that went with it.

But divine wisdom and power did not thus manifest infinite love for man but to be thwarted in its application. The "only begotten of the Father" came into this world for a purpose, and that purpose included the possibility of all mankind to be made beneficiaries of it. "Of His fulness we have all received"—(John I: 16). "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, Who will have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth"—(1 Tim. 11: 3-4).

In ever widening circles, therefore, have His name and His deeds and teachings been brought to the knowledge of men. Since man's first creation no movement has affected the world in even remote comparison



HIS EXCELLENCY, JOHN T. McNALLY, D.D.

with that of Christianity, nor has any met with more persistent and determined opposition from every subversive agency of man and devil. Through the preaching, the miracles and the blood of His disciples, Christ's kingdom was rapidly established upon earth, and has spread ever more widely down through the ages, waxing and waning among various peoples, some having cast away entirely His teaching and His law, others having distorted and subjected them to every human caprice and passion.

The reason for this is that the spirit of Christ is ever a contradiction and a reproof to the spirit of the unthinking world. To His disciples, in that glorious last dis-

course, He says: "If you had been of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

And with what wiles the evil one lures the world-wise! What hordes of followers he has found to carry on his designs against the reign of Christ among men! During the French revolution he inspired his dupes to attempt the destruction of Christianity and to set up a Goddess of Reason in its place. The attempt proved a boomerang, as it does always; and the untiring demon changed his tactics, and gets farther with foolish men by the plausible invention of a purely human

Christianity—Christ a great and a good man, yes, but not God, and religion reduced to a series of lectures on morality.

Christ the Master says, "If you love me keep my commandments". The world says, "We will keep what good form and the conventions of this world require, and for the rest try not to be found out—by men". "As to God, He is at most a remote witness of our actions, and He is too kind to punish our short-comings". And yet many who live thus in profession or fact, claim to believe the Bible to be God's word, and perhaps have read the twenty-fifth chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel.

Again Christ says, "Going teach ye all nations; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you". The world says—and often with voice claiming to speak in His name: "We want no creed or dogma but only right living". Surely this a shabby-genteel Christianity—teach without doctrine and govern without laws; and trust in the vain presumption of personal rectitude of life.

Surely Christ our God did not humble Himself to the form of His creature, live in privation from cradle to grave, and die an awful death for the same creature, to then leave His revelation and the government of His kingdom on earth to the vague, inconstant and contradictory speculations of every human individual!

To you I may venture to say, "vos autem non ita didicistis Christum". "But you have not so learned Christ"—(Eph. iv: 20). Jesus is the light of the world, a light that is never hidden from right reason and logical mind, from docile will and loyal heart. To such He says, "Yet a little while the light is among you. Walk whilst you have the light, that the darkness overtake you not." May He, this Christmas season, make us all happy, by granting us the wisdom to follow faithfully the path that light unerringly discloses to the world; and the strength to "do His will with a great heart and a willing mind", bending our too stiff necks to the saving bondage of Him who has said, "My yoke is sweet and my burthen light", "Learn of me, and you shall find rest for your souls".

†JOHN T. McNALLY, D.D.

Merry Christmas :-: Happy New Year



Mike Greene

SPORT



John Theriault

From where I SIT

BY MIKE GREENE

View it from any angle you wish, Thursday night was a big night for St. Mary's. Tech's heavy artillery were all S.M.C. Alumni—some of the best we've ever had. Our own pucksters had to hustle plenty to get the edge.

For my money, and according to the players themselves, a big share of the credit goes to Father Rector's dressing-room pep-talk, and the presence of S.M.C.'s most loyal supporters—Archbishop McNally. I ask you—how could we lose?

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No sport column would be complete without reference to those figures of the past—recent and far away—athletes of other days. The men who once wore St. Mary's jerseys, fought St. Mary's battles, and shared in St. Mary's victories and defeats—to them we owe a real debt of gratitude, a debt that increases with the years. Tradition, like wine, becomes more precious with age—in the years to come, St. Mary's will be rich in the memory of its one-time athletes who established the standards we try so hard to live up to. Let's sort-of check-up on a few of them.

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Ed. Coolen, football and hockey star. At present Ed is a lieutenant in the 1st Ack-Ack. Stationed in Halifax, we occasionally run across Ed, looking like a million, and a soldier.

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Burly "Dud" Chisholm, shoulder-mate of Ed Coolen in many a rough-and-tumble, is running a profitable service station and automobile agency in Dartmouth.

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Teddy Flynn, who made up in speed and canniness what he lacked in weight, is happily married and a valued employee of Texaco.

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Tommy Farrell, affectionately known as the "Rat" to hosts of Santamarians, is a family man these days, and is teaching school in the U.S.A., just where, no one seems to know.

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Clary "Scratch" Grant, of the same vintage as brother "Rat", is another mystery man. He walked in on us last year, mumbled something about Antigonish, and promptly disappeared again.

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"Amby" Hennessey, scourge of the dormitory and despair of body-checkers, is reported to be with the Air Force, somewhere in Upper Canada. Wherever he is, I bet he has a chair-rung and the same passion for swing music.

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Larry O'Connell—it would be sacreligious to skip "Moony". Joining the R.C.A.F. at Regina, Moon was transferred to Hamilton some three weeks ago. Soon to get his pilot's papers, he has already completed several solo flights. Moon should make a good pilot—he always shone most brilliantly on his lone dashes.

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So-long 'til 1941. A very Merry Christmas to every one, and the best New Year ever.

St. Mary's Take Tech, 3-2

Saint Mary's College moved into first place berth of the College Service Hockey League by virtue of a well-earned 3-2 win over a fast Technical College sextette in a tight game at the Halifax Arena last Thursday night.

Star performer of the night was flashy "Bunny" Mulcahy of Saint Mary's, who, although suffering from the "flu", played a bang-up game, pulling the hat trick, scoring all three goals for his team.

For the first two periods things looked bad for Saint Mary's, as the fast and smooth-working line of West, Vaughan and Flemming skated rings around S.M.C. It was only the spectacular work of Pineo in the Saint's nets that kept the score down. Saint Mary's, however, were handicapped in the first canto with successive penalties.

The scoring got underway soon after the starting whistle, with Vinnie Vaughan banging in a pass from Defenceman Miller.

George West put Tech two up about midway in the second canto

when he tallied on a well-executed play, combining with line-mates Vaughan and Flemming. Just before the period ended Saint Mary's got right back in the fight with Mulcahy scoring his first goal on a pass from "Bunker" Hill.

The third period was the fastest of the three with the Saint Mary's machine gathering momentum. From the opening whistle both teams battered back and forth at each other, with the Santamarians setting the pace. A penalty to the Tech outfit gave the Saints the break of the night and they capitalized on it with Mick Ryan and Hughie MacDonald setting up a play that Mulcahy made no mistake on, slapping the disk past the Tech goalie.

With two minutes to go, it looked like a draw. From one of the scrambles in front of the Saint Mary's net "Bunker" Hill slapped a pass up to Mulcahy who was cruising around the blue line. "Bunny" gathered it up, rased down centre ice, slipped through the Tech defencemen, drew Goalie Macaulay and it was all over.

SAINT MARY'S NEARS CENTENARY

As this year gradually ends, Saint Mary's College approaches the celebration of her centennial year. It was 100 years ago next March, 1941, that an Act was passed in the Local House of Assembly which launched the young college on its career as an institution of higher learning.

During that hundred years the college has had a varied history. Many times it has changed its location and many times, too, it has been staffed by different Catholic religious orders. The name, "Saint Mary's College", however, has prevailed and that name is known far and wide-spread by the distinction of her sons. Many of her men are to be found in the fields of higher learning; many are active in the professions; still more grace the ranks of the clergy of this city and the mission fields abroad. In the realm of sport she holds a high place because of the prowess of her teams and the good sportsmanship of her players.

She has won the admiration of hundreds for her splendid traditions and her magnificent spirit of loyalty. It is that same spirit of loyalty and "Fightin' Irish" tradition that is winning distinction for her sons as they fight on land and sea and in the air in the aid of Britain.

The founding of Saint Mary's came in the early years of the 19th century when a practical interest on the part of the clergy and the Catholic people of Halifax began to manifest itself toward the all-important matter of education. This interest found tangible expression in the foundation, under the inspiration of Right Reverend Bishop Fraser, of a college for Catholic students. This college was carried on for some time without any financial assistance or official recognition from the Provincial Government.

The college was situated on the site now occupied by Saint Mary's School on Grafton Street. Its first principal was Rev. R. B. O'Brien, D.D.

The Bill for incorporating the Trustees of Saint Mary's College

was passed in the House of Assembly March 29th, 1841. In 1852 another Act was passed making the privileges of Saint Mary's perpetual.

For some years after this the President of the College was Rev. Michael Hannon, who in 1861 was succeeded by Rev. Patrick Power.

In the meantime the site of Saint Mary's had been transferred to Belle Aire Terrace and placed under the direction of the Christian Brothers of the Congregation of Saint John Baptiste de la Salle. Subsequently the college was transferred to a site now occupied by Saint Theresa's Home on Barrington St.

In 1903 the college was reorganized by His Excellency Archbishop O'Brien and the present site at Quinpool Road and Windsor Street was obtained. The Right Rev. Monsignor Kennedy was appointed president, and was succeeded by Right Reverend Monsignor McManus. In the year 1913, on the invitation of His Excellency Most Reverend E. J. McCarthy, the Christian Brothers of Ireland undertook the control of the college. Rev. Brother P. J. Culhane was the first president under the new administration of the college. This year the Jesuit order assumed control of the college, coming here at the invitation of Archbishop J. T. McNally.

Saint Mary's was affiliated with the Nova Scotia Technical College in 1916 which allows students who have completed a 3-year engineering course at Saint Mary's to continue their studies at the Technical College.

By an Act of the Nova Scotia Legislature in 1918 Saint Mary's was granted further privileges: "Saint Mary's College, originally incorporated in 1841, shall continue to be deemed and taken to be a University, with all the necessary and usual privileges exercised by universities, including the power of conferring Degrees in Arts, and in all other faculties."

This year, besides being the Centennial, is the first under the direction of the Society of Jesuits. With such a capable staff under the rectorship of Very Rev. C. J. Keating, S.J., Saint Mary's is headed for "even greater things in the future than in the past".