

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.
Jan. 8, 1925.

Post-Christmas Joy.

The church keeps high festival for a long time after Christmas. "The Word was made Flesh" so fills her with joy that she pours it forth in a golden flood upon her children. How much of it are you getting?

"Little Christmas."

We are now in the octave of the Epiphany - the fest celebrated on January sixth in honor of the visit of the three Wise Men. "We have seen His star in the East, and are come to adore Him." The day is often called "Little Christmas" and in Catholic countries it is marked by many quaint and solemn ceremonies.

The Gifts.

The Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, symbols of charity, prayer, and penance. The long journey they took, the promptness with which they set out upon it, and the eagerness with which they pursued it, manifest their lively faith. Their reward, we know, was exceedingly great.

Visit the Crib.

The Church keeps the Crib before us throughout the whole month. It is a pious custom to visit it. Your mothers brought you to it as children, and explained to you the different figures. Much of what your young heart felt then has remained with you, though perhaps only as a dim memory. Whatever of love of God and promptings towards Him you have, you owe in a large measure to those early inspirations of your mother. Go often to the Crib, make it a daily practice, and try to bring your heart again to the wistfulness of a little child.

The Crib and the Tabernacle.

The Wise Men saw Jesus in the flesh "and falling down they adored Him." May we not suppose that they fondled Him? Perhaps even Mary let them hold Him in their arms. The Crib and the Tabernacle are not far removed. Without the Crib we would not have the Tabernacle. In the Crib the Wise Men saw the "Word made flesh." In the tabernacle we partake of the flesh.

"Follow the Bell."

This is proclaimed a fundamental. It is another to FOLLOW THE WISE MEN! Have you done it or are you still waiting for "something to happen"? The longer you put off that first confession and Communion the harder it will be for you to begin. Visit the Crib. "And a little child shall lead them."

John F. O'Hara, C.S.C.,
Prefect of Religion.