
Christmas and Giving.

Christmas simply means Christ-giving. God, the Father, gave His Son -as man- to show man how to become like God. Baptism imitates this mutual sharing; the other sacraments increase it. Gifts and greeting cards chosen in this Catholic sense express the Christ-like character of both sender and receiver. Books are always acceptable. Three recent ones are notable for their blending of other-worldliness and this-worldliness.

Chesterton's Autobiography.

Many of you remember this picturesque figure. Here you have the inner-self to whom nothing cultural was completely alien. There is something for every taste in his response to art, literature, philosophy, history or theology. The volume seems absurdly small. The covers, however, expand indefinitely for here is the essence of his unnumbered writings, his own testimony to the things that moved him. "The chief idea of my life," he writes, "was taking things with gratitude, and not taking things for granted." So with rollicking good humor he reexamines his buffetings with quacks and nostrums, political, social and educational; with isms, scientific, psychological and spiritual until, speaking of confession he says, "I had found only one religion which dared to go down with me into the depths of myself." And what happens there he thus describes: "The Catholic believes that, in that dim corner, and in that brief ritual, God has really made him in His own image. He is a new experiment of the Creator." This, in truth, is the Mystical Body in action. An inspired apologetic of faith and works. (Sheed and Ward \$3.00)

A Papal Chamberlain by Francis MacNutt.

These recollections of an active official at the Vatican glow with the high romance of religion, travel and diplomacy. Born (1863) at Richmond, Indiana, into a curious blend of Quakerism, Presbyterianism and Episcopalianism, yet all his spiritual cravings inclined towards the little Catholic church in the town. Later he learned that this was a heritage from English Catholic ancestry lost through indifference and mixed marriages in Virginia. At twenty he was baptized in Rome. An attraction to the priesthood, tested at the Accademia Nobili in Rome on the advice of Cardinal Manning, was finally decided in the negative by Leo XIII. His happy marriage with Margaret Ogden, a convert, ended his spiritual quest. His student days at Exeter and Harvard were of short duration as he was chiefly occupied in collecting bric-a-brac and getting into debt. Then travel in many lands, secretary of the U. S. legations at Constantinople and Madrid, prepared him for his appointment as Papal Chamberlain by Leo XIII in which he continued under Pius X. His diplomatic days ran the gamut from the Spanish-American War to the Peace Conference of Versailles. He formulated plans for the solution of the relations between the Vatican and Italy along the lines finally adopted. His last line is: "I shall have carried intact, amid all that has been evanescent and unsubstantial, two deathless treasures, my Friendships and my Faith." A conspicuous example of the Lay Apostolate. A book anyone will enjoy and, the real test of its worth, will want to read again. (Longmans \$3.50)

Vagrant Essays by Reverend P. J. Carroll, C.S.C.

Here is a book that is in no sense autobiographical. It is none the less a vivid expression of personality. Some writers dwell with the few in the rarified atmosphere of towering peaks; others, with the many, prefer the milder air of the valleys, the place of the poets. That "beauty lies along the road of simple things" is truly the mood of Vagrant Essays. "Hobbies," "Razor Blades," "Bringing Up The Baby," "Mothers-in-Law," give some clue to the varied interest of these pages. One cannot escape their spiritual flavor, subtle though it be. Nor can one suppress the laugh their pauky humor provokes. A household book, so a gift that will go far. (Ave Maria Press \$1.00).

PRAYERS (deceased) E.R. Adelsperger, '90; father of Ray Keating, '36. 1 sp. int.