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Come, Lord Jesus!

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DEC. 3 — The whole theme of Advent can be summed up in this song of the Church. As we await the coming of Christ at Christmas, we cry out, "Come, Lord, come and save us!" (NC Photo)

Editor's Desk

A Letter from the Mail Bag

"Dear Father,
We hope that you had a fine Thanksgiving.

Our family, as always, has so much to be thankful for. My husband and the children are all well and happy. Two of the children are again attending the parish school. The boy has a fine teacher and we are very pleased that he is still doing so well and enjoys school so much. His report card was really one to be proud of. The little daughter loves first grade. She hasn't brought home a report yet, but her daily papers show a great improvement from week to week. The two pre-schoolers are still my traveling companions to and from school.

There isn't too much else new from our house. Needless to say, I am constantly on the 'move' with my little group, but I would not change a day of my life with anyone. . . ."

This correspondent, a parishioner during one of our previous pastorates which involved the administration of a parochial school, personally drives her children 12 miles daily one way to classes. Within our present Cary parish there are parents most willing to make similar efforts and sacrifices.

In comparison, the following headlines were seen in the Catholic press related to the parish schools: "Says Cath. Ed. must be Free of Narrow Denominationalism; Warns on Abolition of Non-Public Schools; Calls for Broader Educational Financing; Pressure Urges Parents for Non-public School Aid; and to quote the King of Siam, 'Etc., etc. etc.'"

It's still worth the sacrifices and effort.

And a second letter, this one from our sister, a Benedictine nun:

"Appreciate your work on the paper . . . do feel you put effort into the selection of your news. See Editor's Desk, page 8A."

Thanksgiving Observance

Ecumenical Service Conducted in Raleigh

RALEIGH — This Thanksgiving season, Protestants, Roman Catholics, Greek Orthodox and Jews worshiped together here.

The joint service in observance of the National Day of Thanksgiving was held at the Raleigh Memorial Auditorium. A choir of 450 children sang seven anthems.

The service was an ecumenical milestone for the relations among men of faith here. It was especially fitting that there was this common opportunity for all to present their thanks to God as a community group at this national holiday.

A dialogue reading of psalm 103 was made by the Very Rev. Charles J. O'Connor, Cathedral rector and the Rev. Henry Coffey. The Prayer of Thanksgiving was offered by the pastor of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. The Rabbi of Temple Beth Or gave the call to worship and the benediction.

Among the children's choir

were a group of students from the Cathedral Elementary School and Our Lady of Lourdes School.

An estimated 2,000 persons attended.

Among the co-sponsoring groups were the Father Thomas F. Price Council of the Knights of Columbus and Court Bishop Hafey of the Catholic Daughters of America.

Melkite Rite

Picks Patriarch

BEIRUT, Lebanon — (NC) — Melkite-rite Archbishop Georges Hakim of Acre, Israel, has been elected Melkite-rite patriarch of Antioch and all the East, it was announced here.

The 59-year-old prelate succeeds Maximos IV Cardinal Saigh, who died here Nov. 5.

Twenty-one bishops participated (Nov. 22) in the election held in the patriarchate here.

Catholic Chaplain Missing in Viet Action

DAKTO, Vietnam — (NC) — Father (Maj.) Charles Watters of the Newark archdiocese, officially reported missing in action, was last seen assisting the wounded on Hill 875, about 12 miles southwest of here. He was chaplain with the second battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade.

On Sunday evening, Nov. 19, after hard fighting, the battalion had reached the upper slope of the hill, held by North Vietnamese troops in strength.

In the small area described as a natural clearing a perimeter was formed into which the wounded were brought to await evacuation by helicopter.

SURVIVORS SAID they saw Father Watters bringing two wounded men into the perimeter

on his shoulders.

Pfc. Dale Goodman of Van Nuys, Calif., who was himself wounded, said he saw the priest, whom he knew well, helping men, giving them water just before an explosion that took some 20 U.S. lives inside the perimeter. Pfc. Goodman, a Methodist aged 21, attended Father Watters' services. He said the men thought very highly of him.

(A battalion has only one chaplain. Hence, the second battalion had no Protestant chaplain with it.)

Another California soldier, John Flagg, a Catholic, said the men "thought the world" of Father Watters.

"I AM NOT a Catholic, but I

USO Another 'Home' For U.S. Soldiers Serving in Vietnam

By FR. PATRICK O'CONNOR

SAIGON — (NC) — "When you walk through the door, you feel you're home again," is a typical U.S. serviceman's comment on the USO in Vietnam.

There are 15 of these doors wide open to him all the way from Danang down to Vung Tau southeast of Saigon. A 16th will soon be opened farther south in Cantho.

Inside the door he can find hot dogs to eat, a juke box to listen to, a tape recorder for his voice message to the folks and a Polaroid camera for a photo to send with his next letter.

The homey feeling comes naturally, since the home folks have created the USO and keep it supplied with everything from money to melody.

SIX AMERICAN civilian agencies form the USO, which stands for United Service Organizations. The six are the Young Men's Christian Association, the National Catholic Community Service, the National Jewish Welfare Board, the Young Women's Christian Association, the Salvation Army and the National Travelers' Aid Association.

The National Catholic Community Service is represented by 11 men and women in the professional staff of 45 operating the USO clubs in Vietnam.

It is estimated that in one month some 650,000 servicemen make use of USO facilities in this country.

What do they appreciate most?

"The snack bar," answered Sam Anderson of Pine Bush, N.Y., USO executive director here. "They get the things they eat at home, a hamburger, for instance, a hot dog, ice cream or a milk shake."

IT'S ALL PART of the home atmosphere.

"Sometimes you see them sound asleep in the chairs, completely relaxed," Margaret J. Roach of Corvallis, Ore., who works in the Di An USO, said. This club serves the men of the Big Red One, the 1st U.S. Infantry Division.

The USO clubs in Vietnam are invaluable, in fact essential, because of the war conditions. Here the armed forces can provide only limited facilities for relaxation and entertainment.

Without the USO, many servicemen would be restricted to these limited facilities or would have recourse to the kind of "bars" that are a disgrace to both the Vietnamese operators and their American customers.

THOUGHTFUL PEOPLE at home send gifts to the USO for distribution to the G.I's. Any day

may bring fruit cakes, cookies, shaving gear, tape recorders and tapes, and cash donations. Christmas always inspires special generosity for the season when the man or woman overseas thinks most wistfully of home.

Letters come, too, to remind the serviceman that he is not forgotten.

"We get heartening letters from communities of nuns," Mrs. Patricia K. Krause of San Diego said, in her crowded little office in the USO here. (She is the widow of a U.S. Navy officer.)

"I have read some of these letters on our radio program. 'We want you to know we are praying for you,' one letter said, and it was signed by a whole group of Sisters. We get spiritual bouquets, too, and assurances of Masses offered."

Evangelist Gets Belmont Degree, Warns of Change

BELMONT — At a special academic convocation honoring Billy Graham, the internationally famous evangelist returned to Belmont Abbey College, here, for the second time to address the faculty and student body and to receive an honorary degree Doctor of Humane Letters from the famous Southern Benedictine institution.

Speaking to the largest crowd ever to assemble on the campus, Billy Graham directed his address to the college students who packed the college gym and crowded into a large dining hall to hear him by closed circuit television.

Billy Graham warned that there are radical changes taking place because of the rapid advances of technology, but there are other areas that do not, cannot, and will not change. The present changes are shaking human society.

"**THE DAYS** will come, in which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down," Graham quoted from the Bible, Luke 21, and outlined the problems facing the world today — Vietnam, the Middle East crisis, trouble in Rhodesia and Greece, a pessimistic atmosphere in the United Nations, and domestic problems with civil rights and poverty.

He added the growing population. See Billy Graham, page 2A

went to Father Watters' Masses and I learned to pray on Hill 875," Spec. 4 John Steer, aged 19, of Minneapolis said. He had been wounded and brought inside the perimeter, where he was wounded again by a bomb explosion.

"I can't say enough in praise of the man," Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John W. Hulme of Jackson, Tenn., Methodist brigade chaplain, said of Father Watters. "The men who came in from the battalion were praising him every way they could. Most of them could not talk about him without breaking down. He was a father to Protestants as well as Catholics."

Chaplain Hulme gave his testimony between the tents of B

Medical Company, where he himself continued his constant attention to the wounded.

Chaplain (Maj.) Nofman Walker, a Baptist from Pascagoula, Miss., also of the 173rd Brigade, likewise busy with wounded, said of Father Watters: "He was a very wonderful man. I have known him only two months and feel that he was a real brother in Christ."

FATHER WATTERS had finished his full year of service in Vietnam last summer, but volunteered to extend his time here.

The four-day fight to eject North Vietnamese troops from Hill 875 was part of a series of battles lasting some three weeks in the Dakto region and involving. See Chaplain Missing, page 8A