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Seasons Greetings

Provincial Convent
of the Good Shepherd
Cathage, Ohio

Live Jesus and Mary

From our Provincial Convent at Carthage
Christmas, 1950

"Come, O Lord, visit us in peace, that we may rejoice before Thee with a perfect heart." Vespers of Saturday preceding second Sunday of Advent.

Loving greetings to you, Our Beloved Mother General, to our loved Mother Mary of the Holy Spirit, to the Mothers Assistant General, and to each loved Mother and Sister of our Holy Congregation.

Across the troubled sky of the world, as the old year ends, a bright light is streaming. It is the dawn of another year, and it brings new faith, renewed courage, and hope that it will lead men back to the old spirit of "Peace on earth to men of Good Will."

Happily for us, we can assemble in spirit around the Crib of our Infant Savior, and be united in religious affection on this, the sweetest feast of the year. Our hearts beat in unison with our Worthy Mother General, whose heavy cross could be compared to that of our Holy Father himself. Likewise, our sympathy goes out to our Mothers and Sisters in Soviet controlled countries, with the earnest wish that the former peace and liberty they enjoyed may again be theirs.

The Holy Year of 1950, which is fast slipping into Eternity, has been laden with abundant blessings, many of which were a renewal of those enjoyed in preceding years, and for which we are ever grateful to the beneficence of an All-Provident Father.

During the holiday season we re-enacted with Our Blessed Mother, the joyful mysteries of her rosary, high-lighted by the beautiful mass at midnight on Christmas Eve, followed later in the day by five others.

On Christmas Day the children of our three groups had the privilege of going home for the day. Our dear Sister in charge of the little ones of the Angel Guardian cottage, who always reminds us of the "woman in the shoe with so many children she didn't know what to do," remarked sadly, "It's going to be so lonesome with the children gone all day!" The little ones no doubt missed sister even more, for she is a real mother to them.

One of the "big" Christmas presents, a television set, was sent by an anonymous friend, through the kindness of Radio Station WCPO. Popular members of the Station entertained the girls at a Christmas party, sponsored by members of our Festival Committee. Our three Santas, impersonated by our good friends, Mr. John Cronin, Mr. Jesse Locker, a colored councilman, and Mr. George Mitchell, put on "good shows" too, and were every bit as popular as the radio stars at the Christmas parties given by different groups.

On the Feast of Holy Innocents the children of the primary grades sang the High Mass. We cannot imagine anything that could please the Baby Jesus more than the sweet harmony produced by those baby voices -- some high, some low, and others in between.

Another event of the Christmas holidays was the annual tea party given by the Christ Child Club (children of grades one to three) to welcome the Three Kings on their arrival at the stable of Bethlehem. A feature of the tea was the thrill of using their miniature tea sets, gifts from Santa, for serving the tea. The honored guests were members of the Fatima Club (fourth graders), and all the dolls under two years old!

The Christ Child Club reports on the grand inspiration of one of its members. Diligently seeking out ways of becoming more like unto the Holy Child, Betty had the happy thought which she formulated as follows: "We can be like the Christ Child by mindin' His 'Mamma!'"

Reverend Raphael Sourd, Vicar General and Co-founder of the Glenmary Missioners, visited Girls' Town during the holidays. Father told us of the great need of spiritual laborers in the rural sections of the United States and mentioned the fact that there are nearly 900 counties deprived of a resident priest.

The Epiphany Cantata was rendered very well by the Glee Club, and the following Sunday our holiday season closed with the presentation of a Christmas play, "The Christmas Thieves," by the girls and boys of St. Aloysius School, Bridgetown.

The girls of the fifth and sixth grades have become active members of the Tarcisian Club. This spiritual club was begun several years ago by Rev. Father Mateo, S.S.C.C., and has for its purpose the extension of the social reign of the Sacred Heart, with St. Tarcisius, the boy martyr, as patron and model. The children are urged to make many little sacrifices, especially acts of obedience and, together with assisting at Holy Mass and receiving Holy Communion as often as possible, earn many "Golden Pennies" for the Sacred Heart. The Club holds monthly meetings on the First Friday of the month, which is a very special day for the members. At these meetings the girls are given particular intentions to pray for, suggestions are made of ways of making sacrifices, and a virtue is adopted to practice. This club has strongly appealed to the non-Catholics who are given membership as Junior Tarcisians, inasmuch as they substitute Spiritual Communions for the actual reception of the Sacrament. If any reader is interested in this organizations, she may write to Rev. Francis Larkin, S.S.C.C., 4930 South Dakota Ave., N.E., Washington 17, D. C.

Our spiritual needs are carefully provided for by our two devoted chaplains, Reverend Father Ruthman and Father Clement, O.S.B. We have the privilege of two holy masses every day, augmented at times with a third on the occasion of a visiting priest. Two retreats were preached for the Sisters, the August retreat by Rev. Albert Murray, O. F., editor of that fine little magazine, Information,

November retreat by Rev. Mr. Haggerty, S.J., Superior at Milford. Both were splendid. Then our dear Magdalens had their retreat in July, closing with a ceremony on the feast of their holy patron, St. Mary Magdalen; lastly, the children's retreat ended on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, and was preached by Father Gilbert, Superior at the Passionist Monastery, Mount Adams. Father was well pleased with the children, as they themselves learned in a very peculiar way. The day following, a group of girls who were on their way to a CYO Basketball Clinic meeting at St. Mark's parish, took a taxi down our big, icy hill. The driver told them that he drove their retreat master to his monastery the day before and all the way he was talking about what fine girls they were, how recollected, and what a good retreat they had made! Talk about inflation, their berets are still too tight!

On March 19 our entire household gathered at the shrine of St. Joseph where our chaplain recited an Act of Consecration and hymns were sung. Perhaps your Charities would care to listen to an account of the history of the statue. The annals reveal that "In the year 1887 a great anxiety came to the Community at Carthage. Adjacent to the property, facing the village lay a beautiful slope of woodland, which to their consternation they learned was about to be sold for the purpose of making a pleasure ground and garden where a saloon was to be erected. Mother Mary of St. Joseph-David, Provincial at the time, appealed to St. Joseph, promising if this were averted and if she could secure this tract of land, she would have a large grotto built in honor of St. Joseph. Mother Mary of St. Joseph-David might truly have said with St. Teresa, "I never remember having asked anything of St. Joseph which I did not obtain," for another donation being promised from Mr. James Walsh, amounting to \$5,000, she was able to purchase the property in question, thus protecting the Community from objectionable neighbors, acquiring a valuable piece of property, and making the shrine of St. Joseph, accompanied by the Child Jesus, a reality."

In 1943 O.V.H. Mother Provincial decided that St. Joseph should be moved to a more central location inasmuch as the original site had become unsafe due to landslides. The Sister Sacristan at the time was interested in painting, sculpturing, etc., so the statues were taken to the church basement and every minute Sister could spare was devoted to rejuvenating them. St. Joseph was short and rather plump for the size of his head, so Sister elongated him by adding two feet or more to his stature, thus making him tall and dignified; the Child Jesus was at least a foot too tall, therefore Sister simply cut him down to the right size. Then she gave both fresh new robes, lifted their faces, and they were ready for the very fine grotto, a gift of the Mother of one of our Sisters. St. Joseph and his foster Son are very much at home in a corner of our colored children's recreation yard, and we and the children are blessed to have them there.

The beautiful month of May was our Blessed Mother's month indeed! Each category made a daily procession, culminating in the grand procession of our entire household on May 28. A dainty little miss from the Angel Guardian cottage crowned Our Lady.

On May 21 our three dear Sisters, Sister Mary of St. Ita, Sister Mary Rita, and Sister Mary of O.L. of Perpetual Help, celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary. The festivities began the evening before when the Sisters of the Community tendered these dear Sisters their felicitations, and the jubilarians admired their beautiful gifts received from the Mothers and Sisters of the province. The following day after High Mass the children presented a festive program, and in the evening all enjoyed a movie.

On Ascension Thursday eight children had the joy of receiving Our Divine Lord for the first time, and on the Feast of Corpus Christi our Most Reverend Edward T. Rehring confirmed twenty-nine children and one adult. After the ceremony His Grace and assisting clergy enjoyed the little entertainment in the auditorium. Some weeks later, to our deep regret, this good Bishop, our sincere friend, was

appointed Bishop of Toledo, Ohio, and was installed by our newly consecrated Archbishop of Cincinnati, Most Reverend Karl J. Alter.

We were grieved at the death of our revered Archbishop, Most Reverend John T. McNicholas, who had always been the essence of kindness to his Good Shepherd folds. May his precious soul rest in peace.

Our new Archbishop, the Most Reverend Karl J. Alter, honored us by coming to say mass in our chapel on Nov. 9, at which time the girls had the privilege of singing their most beautiful hymns which earned commendation from his Excellency. After breakfast the Archbishop graciously accepted the invitation to come to the Community room for a visit with the Sisters. This little family gathering was as informal as a good father's visit with his children could be, for our good Archbishop put everyone at ease with his charming simplicity. His Excellency promised us another visit in the not too distant future, as on that particular morning other pressing appointments made it necessary for him to leave around ten o'clock.

Ceremonies of Clothing, Profession, and Final Vows were held at the close of our two retreats, in which sixteen sisters participated. Our dear Lord has been generous this year and has sent a number of fine subjects to our Novitiate, for which we are very grateful. May He continue to inspire many chosen souls to work in His Good Shepherd folds.

Our Magdalen novitiate, too, has increased with the coming of postulants from the houses of the Province. So many times we have wondered why our Lord permitted such a large Magdalen monastery to be built. Now we know what He had in mind since the building now houses the Magdalen novitiate for the entire province. It is ideally situated and has been remodeled by our loved Mother Provincial to be the training center for the young Magdalens, with our dear Sister Mary of St. Adolph, Mistress of Novices. Sister is an ideal choice for she has had many years experience in

dealing with young girls, having several years ago celebrated her silver jubilee as mistress of the older girls at our Columbus house.

One of our dear old Magdalens passed away on the eve of her feast, January 20. Fifty-nine years before she left her home in Germany to come to America, and entered our Magdalen Community at the age of 21. When she became too old for the fine sewing, Sister occupied her time in making thousands of Sacred Heart badges until a stroke incapacitated her for that also. Sister was always a good, holy religious. May she rest in peace.

Our Annual July homecoming Festival brought thousands of visitors to Girls' Town. The success of this event is necessary to finance our extensive program of opportunities for the girls. We owe a debt of gratitude to our good friend, Mr. J. H. Albers, General Chairman of the Festival, ably assisted by the members of the Executive Committee, and to our many friends, who for the past six years have exerted every effort to make our annual Festivals successful.

We cannot express in words how grateful we are to our beloved Mother Provincial for our new school building which now houses our entire school -- elementary grades one to eight, and a four year high school course. This is a realization of a dream come true and the answer to our earnest prayers. Both Sisters and children alike are happy to be a part of it.

The little ones are so happy in their beautiful big room, and how they love the little tables and chairs! The other children would, we know, contest their statement that it is the nicest in the whole school, but, frankly, we think it is.

Our high school program is an interesting combination of general and vocational education. There is a happy balance of both; the goal of all the girls being to graduate and then to procure a good position. The concentration of the 11th and 12th grade girls is remarkable, for

they suddenly begin to realize that soon they will be "on their own" as it were, and that they have no time to waste.

The adjustment of the girls from eighth grade to high school is noticeable also. A good illustration of this change was related recently by one of the Sisters. As Sister was bringing the little tots in from recess she was attracted by loud talking on the stairs. Sister put her finger to her lips and said "Sh!" She was so surprised when a ninth grade girl, a real problem in the grades, turned to her companion saying, "We can't talk here; we must not disedify the little ones!" and turning the two went quietly up the stairs.

Reverend Father Ruthman, our chaplain, made a pilgrimage to Rome and the Holy Lands, bringing back gifts for the children. Since his return at his various religion classes Father gives a prize to the children who can tell him what they remember about his sermon the preceding Sunday. On this particular day, Gardenia, a little colored girl in the sixth grade, told Father that he talked about St. John. Father asked, "And who was St. John?" Gardenia promptly answered, "He was a Baptist!"

Graduation exercises were simple but impressive with quite a number of relatives and friends of the graduates present in chapel. After the ceremony the girls went to the library to receive congratulations and gifts from our dear Mothers and Sisters and from there to the auditorium for the entertainment.

When caps and gowns were doffed the graduates displayed to an admiring audience their beautiful dresses, made by themselves. Each girl selected and bought her own material and pattern, and every spare minute would find them in the sewing lab. with their teacher "standing by" to give a word of advice when needed. Not only the dresses but everything worn on their "big day" was made by their own hands. It was an accomplishment for which they deserved, and received the highest praise.

The choir is constantly being perfected and improved under direction of Mr. Joseph Fehring and assisting

Sisters. The singing of the fine liturgical compositions inspires all hearts with devotion and love, which, of course, is its true purpose.

Besides the many outings to Coney Island, Arena Gardens, and other places of pleasure and interest, the Glee Club and Band have had their share of engagements during the past year — to radio and television stations, civic and religious demonstrations, to St. Mary's Hospital to sing carols; several times they were invited to sing the high mass in the hospital chapel on special feast days, after which they were taken through the hospital to sing for the bed-ridden patients. On one occasion they were invited to Longview Hospital (for mental cases) and that was one time they couldn't get home soon enough!

Before leaving the music department we would like to relate this one: the Sister in charge of the music asked our octogenarian, dear Sister Mary of St. Bibiana, if she knew the words of the second verse of the song, "O Tannenbaum! O Tannenbaum!" Our little Sister said she remembered the first verse very well but would have to study a bit on the second. Sister musician went on about her duties, leaving our little old German Sister quietly singing "O Tannenbaum" in one of the less frequented rooms. Another Sister passing by stopped at the unusual sight and sound, and after listening awhile moved slowly away wearing a very puzzled expression. At that moment the musician came back singing the song in English, "O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!" Our worried Sister exclaimed, "Oh, is that what she is singing! It sounded like a song in honor of the Atomic Bomb!"

The physical education program continues the good work of keeping the girls in splendid healthy condition. Each season has its particular sport, which completely monopolizes their recreations — softball, volley and basketball, tennis, hockey, swimming, — these different programs are tied up with C.Y.O. clinics, where the captains are instructed in the techniques of the various games. Miss Betty Farians, Director of the Girls' Division of the

C.Y.O., personally directs the program at Girls' Town. Many opportunities are afforded the girls through her interest, and this, coupled with the thoroughness of her teaching, is greatly appreciated and is one factor to be considered when we find our children so happy and satisfied. At the end of each seasonal game a party is held to honor the champions and to award emblems and other prizes. After the tennis tournament, a dinner was enjoyed in the auditorium at which all the members of the C.A.A. (7th and 8th and high school students) and five lay teachers of the various sports during the past summer were present. Emblems were awarded the tennis and swimming champions, compliments were exchanged, and later, square dancing and games made it a perfect evening.

We were edified on September 17 when 200 members of St. Patrick Council Knights of Columbus attended mass in our chapel and received Holy Communion in a body. After mass they were served breakfast in the auditorium.

The blessed day on which our Holy Father proclaimed the Dogma of the Assumption of Our Lady an article of Faith closed with a most impressive torch-light procession. In the evening the Sisters, Magdalens, and children assembled along the driveway carrying lighted tapers. Singing the Litany of Loretto all proceeded to the grotto of Our Lady, at whose feet an Act of Consecration was recited; returning, the rosary was said. All hearts were thrilled with the beauty of it all, and it is our fervent wish that it be a yearly event.

On November 22, the day following the ceremony, a funeral cortege came from our convent at Price Hill for the burial of our dear departed Sister Mary of Mount Carmel, who passed away on November 20. Sister made her Novitiate here, and for some years previous to her mission at Price Hill had been employed in various charges at our Provincial Convent, where she endeared herself to all by her happy and humorous disposition.

Sister, herself, would be the first to enjoy this little incident which occurred that day at the cemetery. All the Sisters were coming one by one to sprinkle the dear departed with holy water; the undertaker was standing a little to one side, deep in recollection. When he looked up, there before his astonished eyes stood a Sister wearing a crown just like the one on the Sister in the coffin! The poor man was really disturbed -- he stared at Sister, then down at the coffin, and back again to Sister, and only relaxed when he noticed other Sisters wearing similar crowns. He is probably still wondering why the living and the dead were adorned alike.

The year 1950 brought us a new family of D.P.'s and our dear Mother Frioress had to start all over trying to make herself understood and also to understand the mixture of American, Lithuanian, and German languages. This group is composed of the father, mother, and two girls. The girls are in school and are very bright and cooperative, joining in all the activities, and in some arts, such as dancing, are superior to our girls.

And now, very honored and beloved Mother General, and dearly loved Mothers and Sisters of our Congregation, that our humble narrative is ended, we renew our filial and affectionate wishes that all the Joys of this Holy Season may be yours, praying the Divine Good Shepherd to protect us and to bring us ever closer to Himself during the year 1951.

United in sincere religious affection, we remain
in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Your unworthy sisters and servants in Our Lord,

The Religious of Our Lady of Charity of the
Good Shepherd of Angers at Carthage, Ohio

Blessed be God.