

Christmas 1958

Dear Reverend Father,

The Holy Night of Our Lord's  
Birth is at hand.

"From Paradise to earth He came

That we with Him might dwell."

It will be my first Christmas as bishop.  
I will offer solemn Pontifical Mass in Holy  
Trinity Cathedral for the priests and people  
of my diocese. This I am required to do by  
Canon Law. But I feel impelled to do some-  
thing more than this minimum. Therefore,  
at nine o'clock on Christmas morning in  
my private chapel, I will offer my second  
Mass exclusively for the priests of  
my diocese and for their intentions.

By this action I will ask the Eternal High Priest to do for His priests of the New Ulm diocese what their bishop feels Jerusalem did - to thank them and reward them for the help and consideration received from them during the eleven months that span the existence of the diocese.

Christ's Priesthood began when He became our Brother in the flesh. Therefore, Our Priesthood, derived from His, has special association with the Feast of His Nativity. In the spirit of this association I wish you, dear Father, a Merry Christmas. I pray that this wish in fact issue forth from Our Lord to you and may He fill you with the true merriment of this holy time - the joy, Peace and Holiness which He brought to earth.

May Mary, too, Mother of Bethlehem's Babe and Mother of Priests, obtain a special 'thank you' from Her Son for you in my name, for I have reason to feel that she has been <sup>an</sup> interested and watchful mother over our young diocese.

Please, dear Father, continue to pray for me.

Yours in the Infant Saviour,

+ Alphons J. Schladweiler

P.S. I am sending you herewith a picture of our Cathedral, suitable for framing.