

# From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

THE BLESSING OF A CHEERFUL FAITH

Text: "Rejoice in the Lord Always, and again say, Rejoice." Phil. 4:4.

Rejoice is a distinctively Christian word. It sums up the spirit of the New Testament, and this letter is full of it. It translates a word which was in common use in the time of the early Christians.

The Greek meeting his friend would say "Be happy!" and parting from him, "Be glad." Such is the idea underlying this word wherever it occurs in the New Testament.

It seems as though the early church was bubbling over with joy. Are we enjoying the blessing of a radiant faith today? A Cheerful faith is a valuable protection against evil. Indeed, it is the only sure protection we possess. It is when we become despondent and melancholy that we most easily succumb to our temptations.

A REJOICING faith sets up a barrier against all manner of evil. It saves us from becoming anemic and weak. A rejoicing faith is also a powerful witness to our Gospel. A sunny soul is a good advertisement for Christianity. There are people who do not understand our ways and our beliefs, but there are few that do not respond to a smiling face and a cheerful spirit.

That was what Paul discovered. When he was in prison at Philippi, he sang praises to God so that the other prisoners should hear, and again--this time in Rome--he says: "I am rejoicing in my chains." Every time his guard was changed, Paul's sunny, cheery faith must have impressed yet another soldier. For a glad faith is surely contagious. Christian joy makes life worthwhile, protecting our souls and making us powerful witnesses for Christ.

WHAT ARE the springs of this joy? Paul gives the secret in the text. He does not merely say: "Be glad and again I say be happy." That is the kind of advice the Greeks would give. He said: "Be glad in the Lord and again I say be happy." Our rejoicing is the result of a new vision of God and a new relationship with Him. Our joy rests in the love which holds us through all the experiences of life.

Is it possible for us to tap these great resources of which the Apostle is thinking? Surely yes; first, by utter and entire surrender to Jesus Christ. It is union with Christ that keeps our hearts cheerful. If we lose ourselves in Him, then all the fountains of joy will flow for us. The divided soul can never be at rest.

Then service follows surrender as surely as night follows day. Christian happiness is maintained by Christian service. There is always a reward of joy in doing something for others. "Serve the Lord with gladness.

## OHIO CHURCH GROUPS FUND EQUALITY PROGRAM

COLUMBUS - (NPI)--Six religious denominations of Columbus and Central Ohio have committed their joint multi-million dollar purchasing power to the national Project Equality movement for racial justice and equal job opportunity. The move, which combines the Presbytery of Columbus, United Presbyterian church in the U.S.A.; Ohio West Area conference, Methodist church; Columbus Roman Catholic Diocese; Columbus Regional council; Southern Ohio Episcopal diocese; and Central Southeast association, Ohio conference, United Church of Christ, makes Columbus the first city in the nation to field a Project Equality program on an interreligious basis from its inception.



REV. D. M. CLARK

# "Children Are God's Apostles"



## POPE APPOINTS NATIVE BISHOP FOR JAMAICA

KINGSTON, Jamaica - (NPI)--The first native-born, black bishop for the Diocese of Kingston was consecrated early this year after his appointment by Pope Paul VI, Negro Press International learned.

He is the Most Rev. Samuel E. Carter, S.J., a Kingstonian, who studied for the Roman Catholic priesthood in the United States.

BISHOP CARTER was consecrated in a colorful ceremony, rich with all the pomp and tradition of the Catholic Church, by Richard Cardinal Cushing of Boston, who had also ordained him to the priesthood in 1954.

Bishop Carter, who in addition to his priestly degrees holds a Master's degree in social work from Boston college, was appointed to serve as auxiliary bishop to Bishop John McEleney, who heads the Kingston diocese.

The diocese embraces the entire island of Jamaica (about the size of Connecticut) as well as the Cayman and Turks Islands, with a Catholic population of about 100,000.

Bishop Carter, scholarly, affable and zealous, was formerly headmaster (president) of Campion college and was rector of century-old St. George's college at the time of his appointment to the episcopacy.

He was a former civil servant before going off to study for the priesthood in Massachusetts. He joined the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in 1944, and after his ordination taught for a year at Holy Cross college in Boston.

NOTHING could be more exemplary of Lowell's observation that "Children are God's apostles, sent forth, day by day, to preach of love, and hope and peace" than the story of Las Vegas' Mickey Mouse Club whose membership, in part, is shown visiting little Jack Oliver who is recovering from injuries suffered in an automobile accident last month that took the lives of his father, Ernest Oliver, and his ten-year-old brother, Orlando. Jack's mother, Mrs. Vera Oliver, suffered a broken arm in the crash, and that is Jack's baby sister; he is attending while recuperating.

The "Mousers", laden with fruit and gifts for Jack, called on the youngster and gave him an abundant sample of their own brand of love and cheer by entertaining him with all the latest dance steps.

Mrs. Frankie I. Davis, Mrs. E. L. Tatum, and Mrs. Carlean Burks, sponsors of the Mickey Mouse Club are all mothers, and when queried about the origin of this most wonderful group said that it simply began a little over a year ago when their own children and friends confided they wanted to have a club that did things for people. And that is the extent of their activities aside from voluntary bible study among many of the members. Age group? 3-18.

Yes, "Children are God's apostles", and these little 'Mousers' have set an example for us all.

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