

In the Gospel according to St. Luke we find a detailed account of the first Christmas, how Mary and Joseph went up to Bethlehem in obedience to the decree of Caesar Augustus to be enrolled in their own city and while there were denied shelter in the inn, how the Infant Saviour was born in the stable, how the shepherds keeping the night watch over their sheep were informed by the angel of the birth of their Saviour, how the multitude of the heavenly army joined in praising God, how, after the disappearance of the angels, the shepherds made haste to go to Bethlehem and there found the Infant with Mary, His mother, and Joseph, how all wondered at those things the shepherds narrated "but Mary kept all these words, pondering them in her heart," and finally how the shepherds returned praising God. This, in a few words, was the first Christmas. Today, sad to say, we have the same conditions. Holy Mother Church invites all to go up to Bethlehem, but there are some who deny the Infant Saviour room in their hearts, some who just wonder at what they hear. However, there are others, thank God, who like the shepherds hasten to find the Saviour. They prepare their hearts in the Sacrament of Penance, go to Bethlehem, Holy Communion, with Mary they adore their God, with Mary they ponder in their hearts. Christmas for them, as it was for Mary, is truly happy for they have with them the Source of Happiness. Is Christmas going to be Happy for You?

The Harvest

By BRO. CELESTINE ROONEY, O. P.

Today, in life's wide fields
Of joy or sorrow
Free-willed,
We wheat or cockle sow,
To reap the prize—
Or vengeance of the morrow:
Forever friend of God—
Or foe.