Dear Parishioners of Saint Mary's:

Since AVE last went to press, another General Convention of the Episcopal Church has come and gone. It was a Convention of great fervor for the missionary cause in a world so torn by anti-Christian principles and methods. It was a Convention by way of legislation that, among other things, presented the Church with a new hymnal, declined to alter the existing marriage canon, voted a generous sum of money to aid the missions of the Church of England in the Americas, postponed any definite decision on the Concordat with the Presbyterians, refused to legalize communion by intinction or in one kind, re-adopted the quota system for giving to the General Church, and committed the Episcopal Church to membership in the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. Not a few have been disappointed, indeed distressed, by this last item of legislation. I am impelled, therefore, to make this the subject of this month's letter to you of the flock of Saint Mary's.

From what I can gather, we Episcopalians were legislated into membership in the Federal Council of Churches on a wave of emotion stirred up by world distress. It was sincerely believed by the majority of the Convention that the Episcopal Church should stand shoulder to shoulder with the Protestant sects that make up the Federal Council for co-operation with regard to industrial, economic and social questions of common concern to Christians. Such co-operation almost invariably involves taking sides in politics.
The ideal sounds very great-hearted, but frankly it is fraught with great danger.

In the first place, many of us feel that the Church of God should stick to her work of converting souls to the love of their Lord, leaving it to such converted souls to leaven the lump of human society according to Christian principles. In the second place, though technically we are not committed to the Federal Council in matters of faith, yet it seems certain that commitment in these other matters will involve sooner or later matters of faith—such as intercommunion services, marriage regulations, religious and moral instruction in connection with the public school system. We should then be called upon under the cloak of broad tolerance to belittle, if not to belie, the Faith. In the third place, the Federal Council of Churches (if I understand it correctly) is a Pan-Protestant organization. It has been my observation that such organizations, be they local or national or supra-national, too often adhere to the popular philosophy “It does not matter what you believe as long as what you do is right.” Here the cart is placed before the horse. If our actions are not based on our beliefs, God save us from our actions. They will only add to the world’s chaos. Since our beliefs are those which our Blessed Lord set forth in His three years of definite teaching on this earth; since they are the beliefs which, with the aid of God’s grace, through His Holy Sacraments, have brought self-surrendered souls into the closest and happiest union with Him; since they are the beliefs which form the great background of the Book of Common Prayer and are definitely those of the Church Catholic of the Ages; since they are the beliefs witnessed to by the martyrs and confessors of the many ages of the Church’s life, we as loyal Episcopalians and Catholics must not diminish in any manner our stalwart witness to these beliefs.

What shall we do? We shall cling to our glorious Catholic heritage. We shall teach it to others. We shall become better Catholics, both in faith and practice, that we may become better Episcopalians. We shall protest firmly but lovingly against any breaking into the Treasury of Faith that bits of it may be thrown into a Pan-Protestant melting pot. We shall take only such actions by way of protest as become part of the whole protesting action determined upon by the great group of Episcopalians who glory in their Catholic heritage. We shall pray hard that in all things God’s holy name may be glorified and that His Holy Catholic Church may not be compromised and thereby further disunited.

Affectionately,

* 

OUR Patronal Festival, the Feast of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, December the eighth, falls this year on Sunday. We are most fortunate in having with us as preacher at the High Mass Father Joseph of the Order of Saint Francis.

Envelopes are enclosed for a special thank offering on our Patronal Festival. In this way all of the loyal members of Saint Mary’s will wish to express tangible thanks for the many blessings that have been theirs through the years in this our beloved Parish. May the Patronal Thank Offering worthily represent such gratitude!

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CATHOLIC Christians happily throng the confessionals and the altars at the Christmas Feast. It is well to remind ourselves that if we are preparing to receive our Christmas communions at the Midnight Mass on December the twenty-fourth, that evening should be spent in quiet spiritual reflection. The fast before the communion should begin immediately after the regular evening meal.
Christmas Offering envelopes and cards of admission to the Midnight Mass will be mailed to all communicants of the parish about the middle of December. For the convenience of others interested in Saint Mary's, we are printing the following list of Christmas services and confessions:

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24**
- Church School Festival
- Evening Prayer: 6.00 p.m.
- Midnight Mass (with communions): Midnight

**CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25**
- Low Masses: 7, 8, 9, 10 a.m.
- Morning Prayer: 7.40 a.m.
- High Mass and sermon: 11.00 a.m.
- Evening Prayer: 6.00 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS**

**FATHER TABER**
- December 23: 4.30-5.30 p.m.
- December 24: 1.30-2.30, 5-6, 7-9 p.m.

**FATHER PEEBOD**
- December 23: 7-8 p.m.
- December 24: 11-12 a.m., 3-5, 10-11.45 p.m.

**FATHER CRAVEN**
- December 24: 12-1, 1.30-2.30, 4-5, 7-8, 11-11.45 p.m.

**FATHER PATCHELL**
- December 23: 12-1 p.m.
- December 24: 5-6, 8-9, 11-11.45 p.m.

**ARE you planning your Christmas Offering as your Christmas gift to your parish in genuine need of increasingly generous gifts as the days go on?** Too often a Christmas Offering represents a casual afterthought at the conclusion of Christmas bargaining, with no forethought whatsoever. How fine it would be this year if large numbers of the communicants of Saint Mary's were to give generously to the parish offering even if such giving meant a decrease in giving to those who are in no need and have no use for many of the gifts that are given! Surely it would not be amiss for a Catholic Christian to say at Christmas, "Since I must curtail my giving, this year I am making gifts only to my Church, to children, and to those in need."

**ENCLOSED** with this copy of AVE you will find a printed schedule of retreats to be held here at Saint Mary's. Those who already know the blessedness of a day of retreat will welcome the opportunity for further retreats. It is earnestly hoped that many who as yet have not known the joy of spiritual growth during hours of quiet will join the group of retreatants. The Catholic who has once made a retreat almost invariably looks forward to the privilege of more retreats at not too infrequent intervals.

Our Advent Retreat this year is to be conducted by Father Joseph of the Order of Saint Francis on Saturday, December the seventh, beginning with Mass at eight and ending with Benediction at the close of the last address.

**THE Guild of Saint Mary of the Cross is busily working for the American Red Cross in making garments for war refugees. This year the activities of this Guild are under the charge of Sister Mary Josephine, S.H.N., who is being loyally assisted by the following advisory committee elected by the members of the Guild: Mesdames Blake, Buffel, Doring, Frey, and Rocks. The Annual Sale of the Guild of Saint Mary of the Cross is being held this year in Saint Joseph's Hall on the afternoon and evening of Wednesday, December the eleventh. There will be tables of candy, groceries, useful and fancy articles, as well as a grab bag. Tea will be served. Contributions of money or materials or small articles for the grab bag will be gratefully received. These should be sent to the Guild of Saint Mary of the Cross in care of Sister Mary Josephine, The Mission House, 133 West 46th Street.
SAINT MARY'S has recently received two gifts with which are connected tender associations. The first is a pyx sent to us by Father Roland of Plymouth, Indiana, who studied for the priesthood under Father Barry before the latter became Rector of Saint Mary's. The pyx is set with very beautiful amethysts which were formerly in the morse of a cope given to Father Roland by Father Barry. Father Roland has recently retired from active service as a priest. He wished to have the pyx used where Father Barry so faithfully served in his last priestly charge. Thus the pyx is happily in use here at Saint Mary's.

The other gift is a silver ciborium, set with jewels, given by Miss L. V. Pickersgill in memory of her sister, Ella, who was baptized here at Saint Mary's by her first Rector, Father Brown. For some time the ciborium was offered for use in a parish in Pittsburgh. Now it is given to the Ward of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament here at Saint Mary's. It is already being used in our Tabernacle.

Both gifts are prized for their genuine beauty but still more for the blessed memories they recall.

* * *

OUR 1941 Churchman's Ordo Kalendars have an excellent picture of Our Lady's Shrine and the Baptistry. Every home in the parish should have one of these Kalendars as a reminder that a happy year is one lived in communion with our Blessed Lord and His glorious company of saints. These Kalendars make welcome gifts. They are on sale in the Rector's office, and on the Sundays in December at the Tract Table in the rear of the church. The price is thirty-five cents.

* * *

THE Junior Group of the Guild of Saint Mary of Nazareth is holding a Christmas Fair on Monday, December the sixteenth, from three in the afternoon until nine in the evening. Christmas gifts made by the children and Christmas cards will be on sale. A puppet show will be given at three forty-five, after which tea may be enjoyed. At four-thirty in the afternoon and at eight in the evening is scheduled a comedy in dance, portraying scenes in Bethlehem. A Nativity tableau will also be presented. The proceeds from the Fair will be used for war relief.

ON Thursday, December the nineteenth, a requiem mass will be celebrated at eleven in the Chapel of Our Lady of Mercy for the sweet repose and happy progress of the soul of Thomas McKee Brown, Priest. Father Brown was the founder and first rector of the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin. He is remembered with affection by all to whom he ministered as a true shepherd of souls.

* * *

THE re-organized Church School at Saint Mary's is going forward very happily, thanks to the prayers of the faithful and to the co-operation of the parents and godparents. Indeed, the enrollment is now more than double that of last year. Please God we shall not rest until all of our boys and girls are enrolled.

The Christmas Festival of the Church School will be held this year on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December the twenty-fourth, at three in the afternoon.

* * *

SAINT Mary's Guild, a Guild of women of the parish devoted to the making and repairing of vestments, had an opportunity recently to buy a quantity of linen at an unusually advantageous price. It was extremely wise to make this purchase even though it has depleted the treasury of the Guild. Perhaps several kind members of the congregation would like to make a contribution that the work of the Guild may be adequately supported. Any donation will be gratefully received and acknowledged, if sent to Saint Mary's Guild or to the Rector.

* * *

THE New York Postmaster asks us to co-operate with his department by getting Christmas cards and parcels into the mails early for delivery before Christmas Day. Parcels and envelopes containing cards may be marked "Please do not open until Christmas." There will be no delivery of mail on Christmas Day when the post office department plans to excuse from duty many employees that they may attend church services and enjoy a day at home with their families.
THE Sisters of the Holy Nativity have religious Christmas cards on sale at the Mission House. There is a choice assortment of such cards. The prices are modest, ranging from two cents upward. Inexpensive crucifixes, rosaries and medals may also be purchased at the Mission House. Proceeds from all sales go toward the support of the work of the Sisterhood of the Holy Nativity.

* *

At the request of the New York Tuberculosis and Health Association we are happy to print the following:

"The children on the 1940 Christmas Seals sing out glad tidings of good health. With the courage of youth they call upon us all to unite and face the serious problems of our day. Will you join thousands of others this year who are using the Christmas Seals on their letters, cards and gift packages to help us continue our fight against tuberculosis and our labors for better health for all New Yorkers. The Seals are $1.00 for a sheet of 100. If Christmas Seals have not reached you through the mail won't you secure them from the New York Tuberculosis and Health Association at 386 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y. CAledonia 5-2240."

* *

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

RECEIVED BY CANONICAL TRANSFER

"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers."

October 4 — Miss Frances R. Bartlett
Robert Thomas Scott

October 5 — Miss Lydia Thompson

October 11 — Mrs Lena W. Sutcliffe
Miss Marion Iva Sutcliffe

October 14 — Arthur Hartt Batchelder

October 28 — Mrs Alma Duffey Steele

October 31 — Burton Waston Ashton Wagner

MARRIAGES

"Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder."

October 25 — John Richard Iander and Lillian Williams Banks

BURIALS

"Grant them, O Lord, eternal rest, and may light perpetual shine upon them."

October 14 — Matilda Elizabeth Turner

* *

THE altar flowers for the month of December are given in memory of the following:

December 8 — The Patronal Festival. Susanna and John Willis

December 15 — The Third Sunday in Advent. The Reverend Frederick Lynch

December 25 — Christmas Day. (High Altar) Thomas McKee Brown, Founder and First Rector. (Lady Chapel) Haley Fiske. (St Joseph's Chapel) Florence Loretta Jones and Sarah Elizabeth Jones.

Of your charity pray for the happy repose of their souls and of the souls of the faithful departed. Requiescant in pace.

* *

CORPORATE Communions for the month of December are as follows:

Sunday, December 1, 9:00 — The Guild of St Mary of the Cross.

Monday, December 2, 8:00 (Mission House) — The Associates of the Sisterhood of the Holy Nativity.

Wednesday, December 4, 9:30 — St Mary's Guild.
Sunday, December 8, 9:00 — The Guild of St Francis.
Friday, December 13, 9:30 — The Woman's Auxiliary.
Wednesday, December 18, 8:00 — The Associates of the Community of St Mary.
Wednesday, December 25, at the Midnight Mass — The Guild of St Vincent.
Friday, December 27, 8:00 — Associates of the S.S.J.E. and members of the Fellowship of St John.
Sunday, December 29, 9:00 — The Church School. The Guild of St Mary of Nazareth.

We acknowledge with thanks the following contributions towards the expense of printing and mailing AVE: Anonymous, $10, $1; Mrs Katherine Collins, $3; Miss E. Maud Dellegar, $2; Mr W. C. W. Durand, $1; Mrs Edith C. Eckerson, $1; Mrs A. L. Grover, $2; Mrs J. D. Henderson, $3; Mrs Walter Jones Hewlett, $2; Mrs Christopher O. S. Mawson, $1; Mr Raymond Nold, $2; Miss Miriam Schlotterbeck, $5; Miss Jessica Thompson, $1; Miss Mabel Wade, $1.

AVE is published monthly (July, August and September excepted) and is sent gratis to communicants and supporters of the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin.

It would be a great help if readers who value AVE would send an annual contribution towards the expense of its printing and circulation.

Inquiries concerning AVE should be sent to the Editor, THE REV. FATHER TABER, 145 West 46th Street, New York.

To insure delivery of AVE, the Parish Secretary should be notified promptly of any permanent change of address.

KALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

1. Su. ADVENT I.
8. Su. CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY. Com. Advent II.
17. Tu. Feria.
22. Su. ADVENT IV.
23. M. Feria.
27. F. ST JOHN, AP.EV. Com. Octave.
29. Su. IN OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY. Com. St Thomas of Canterbury, B.M.
30. M. In Octave.

Days indicated by ★ are days of precept, with an obligation of attendance at Mass. Days on which votive and requiem Masses may be said are printed in italics.
MUSIC LIST FOR DECEMBER

DECEMBER 1 — ADVENT I

MASS, “Missa Octavi toni” ........................................ Anerio
Motet: Hosanna to the Son of David ....................... Gibbons
EVENING: The Litany and Benediction
Motet, Ave Maria .................................................. Bruckner
Motet, Adoramus te ............................................... Rosselli

DECEMBER 8 — CONCEPTION B.V.M. (ADVENT II)

MASS, “Messe solonelle de Ste. Cécile” .......... Gounod
Motet, Beata es, Virgo Maria ........................... Gabrieli
EVENSONG:
Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis .......................... Willan
O Salutaris ........................................................ Elgar
Motet, Adoramus te ........................................... Palestrina
Tantum ergo ......................................................... Nicholson

DECEMBER 15 — GAUDETE (ADVENT III)

MASS, “Missa Secunda” ........................................ Hassler
Motet, Rorate caeli .............................................. Palestrina
EVENING: The Litany and Benediction
Motet, Ave Maria .................................................. Victoria
Motet, Adoramus te ............................................... Pitoni

DECEMBER 22 — ADVENT IV

MASS, “Missa Cantabo Domino” .................. Viadana
Motet, Ecce Dominus veniet ............................. Händl
EVENING: The Litany and Benediction
Motet, Alma Redemptoris ................................ Palestrina
Motet, Adoramus te ............................................... Ruffo

DECEMBER 25 — FIRST MASS AT MIDNIGHT

MASS, “Missa in honorem Sancti Josephi” ........ Peeters
Carols

DECEMBER 25 — HIGH MASS AT ELEVEN

MASS, “Missa O quam gloriosum” ................ Victoria
Motet, Hodie nobis caelorum Rex ................ Desderi

DECEMBER 29 — IN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY

MASS, “Missa Gotica”* ................................ Gebhard
Motet, Hodie Christus ...................................... Palestrina
EVENSONG:
Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis ........................ Byrd
Carols O salutaris .............................................. Henshel
Motet, Adoramus te ......................................... di Lasso
Tantum ergo ......................................................... Victoria

*First time.

SERVICES

SUNDAYS

Low Mass ................................................................. 7:00 a.m.
Morning Prayer ..................................................... 7:40 a.m.
Low Mass ................................................................. 8:00 a.m.
Sung Mass ................................................................. 9:00 a.m.
Low Mass (Lady Chapel) ........................................ 10:00 a.m.
High Mass, with sermon ....................................... 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service and Benediction, with address .... 8:00 p.m.

WEEK DAYS

Mass, daily ............................................................... 7, 8, 9:30 a.m.
Also on greater Holy Days as announced . 11 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.
Morning Prayer (with Litany, Wednesdays) .... 9:00 a.m.
Evening Prayer (with Litany, Fridays) ........... 6:00 p.m.
Special Devotions, Fridays ................................. 8:15 p.m.
Holy Hour, Saturdays ........................................... 5 to 6 p.m.

Other Services during the Week, and on Festivals, as announced on the preceding Sunday.

The Church is open daily from 6:30 a.m. till 9 p.m.

Adults or children can be prepared at any time for First Confession, Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

The Parish Secretary’s office is open at the following times:

Mondays to Fridays .............................................. 9:15 to 1 and 2 to 5
Saturdays ................................................................. 9:15 to 1
Closed on legal holidays.
SACRAMENTS AND OTHER RITES

CONFESSIONS

Father Taber: Saturdays, 4 to 5 and 8 to 9 p.m.
Father Peabody: Saturdays, 3 to 5 and 8 to 9 p.m.
Father Craven: Fridays 7 to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 3 to 4 p.m.
Father Patchell: Thursdays, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Confessions will also be heard Sundays, 8:30 to 9:00 a.m.
A Priest can always be seen after any service.

BAPTISMS.—Sundays after High Mass by arrangement with the clergy. Proper sponsors should be chosen.

MARRIAGES are solemnized only after arrangement with the clergy and after three days' notice has been given. A certificate of Baptism should be produced by both parties. Those to be married should, if confirmed, receive Holy Communion. A nuptial Mass is suggested. It is against God's law to marry anyone divorced, as long as the other partner is living. Marriages are not solemnized during Lent, nor on Sundays or Christmas Day.

SICK CALLS, Holy Unction and Communion of the Sick, on application to the clergy, in person, by telephone, or by post.

BURIALS.—The clergy should always be consulted before any arrangements are made. The bodies of baptized persons may be brought to the Chantry of the church at any time before the day of the funeral. It is the usual custom at St Mary's to have the funeral service a requiem Mass.

MUSIC.—Arrangements for music at weddings or funerals should be made directly with Mr Nold, the Director of Music.

PARISH GUILDS AND ORGANIZATIONS

All persons who come regularly to the Church of St Mary the Virgin are urged to ally themselves with one of the Guilds and thus take their share in the work of the Church and its missionary activities. Any inquiries concerning each particular Guild may be addressed to the Chaplain, who will gladly give information.

THE CHURCH SCHOOL.—Sundays, Sung Mass and Instruction, 9 a.m. Corporate Communion, last Sunday, 9 a.m.

THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY.—Second Fridays, Corporate Communion, 9:30 a.m. Business Meeting, 10:30 a.m. Father Taber, Chaplain.

ST MARY'S GUILD.—For making and care of vestments. Working meetings, Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Corporate Communion, first Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m., monthly business meeting, 10:30 a.m. Father Taber, Chaplain.

GUILD OF ST MARY OF THE CROSS.—Works for the support of St Mary's Summer Home, Keyport, New Jersey, and for missions of the Church. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Monthly devotional meeting, third Wednesdays, 8:30 p.m. Corporate Communion, first Sunday, 9 a.m. Father Craven, Chaplain.

GUILD OF ST MARY OF NAZARETH.—For Girls, Thursdays, Junior Group, 4 p.m.; Senior Group, 7:30 p.m. Corporate Communion, last Sunday, 9 a.m. Father Patchell, Chaplain.

GUILD OF HELP.—For forwarding the social service work of the Church. Meetings as announced from time to time.

ST MARY'S DRAMATIC SOCIETY. Father Patchell, Chaplain.

GUILD OF ST VINCENT.—For Altar Servers. Meetings last Wednesday of the month, 8 p.m. Father Craven, Chaplain.

GUILD OF ST FRANCIS.—For Young Adults. Meetings first and fourth Sundays, 5:30 p.m. Corporate Communion, second Sunday, 9 a.m. Father Taber, Chaplain.
DEVOTIONAL GUILDS

Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament.—St Mary's Ward. Meetings (Lady Chapel) first Fridays, 8:15 p.m. Father Taber, Chaplain.

Living Rosary of Our Lady and St Dominic.—St Mary's Ward. Meetings (Lady Chapel) second Fridays, 8:15 p.m. Father Taber, Chaplain.

Guild of All Souls.—St Mary's Ward. Meetings (Lady Chapel) third Fridays, 8:15 p.m. Father Taber, Chaplain.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Fellowship of St John.—Object: Prayer and work for the Society of St John the Evangelist. Corporate Communion, December 27th and May 6th. Father Taber, Chaplain.


THE PARISH LIBRARY

William Edward Jones Memorial Lending Library.—In the Sisters' Mission House there is available a collection of books in theology, apologetics, ecclesiastical history, religious biography and devotional literature. Books may be borrowed for home-reading. Hours: Week-days, 4 to 6 p.m. Sundays, half-an-hour after High Mass and before Evensong.