
THE AWAKENING

The morning air is rudly stirred,
The men get up, their eyes are blurred;
They grope about, they gripe and shout;
But deep inside the will is stout.

Their toilet o'er, they slowly file,
Across the walk and down the aisle;
They bow their heads and humbly pray;
St. Dunstan's men begin their day.

—DAVE KENNEDY '52

"CHRISTMAS AND THE FAMILY"

During the Christmas season families are knit closer together than at any other time of year. The bond of mutual affection of the family is stronger. Could not this bond of affection be extended to other seasons of the year? Is it not possible for parents to prove to their children and to the world that in this era of iron curtains and armed truce, the spirit of Christ in Christmas is needed to restore the bond of perpetual charity between God and His creature, man? Surely, if such an atmosphere permeated family life, human society would experience a much healthier vitality.

Christmas is particularly a time for children who must be consoled and kept happy. Even though world problems are pressing, parents cannot neglect to be always solicitous for their children's general welfare. Parents need only remember that God himself comes at Christmas as a child, a helpless Babe, utterly defenceless, needing the comfort and support of others.

The application of the Nativity to the degenerate conditions of modern family living is vitally significant. Over seventy years ago, Leo XIII lamented that family life had been overtaken by many deplorable conditions. Among those indignities, Pope Leo enumerated the violation of the dignity of Matrimony as reduced to a mere civil contract, neglect of mutual fidelity, decline in obedience and respect of children for their parents, and relaxation of the ties of domestic affection. Since the time of Pope Leo the pernicious evils assailing homes and families have greatly increased. So apparent are the vices in