

and the flood, but we take a very casual and academic attitude toward Him who made the wind and the sea. Lest we forget, our security in this world may well be uprooted by the wind or the sea or the flood, but it does not necessarily follow that the destruction of our earthly accumulations brings about the collapse of our peace of mind. Man's peace of mind becomes shattered only when, because of his confused priorities, he loses contact with the Uncreated Beauty of the Infinite God. His faith in a Supreme Being becomes shattered. His hope is gone, and the eternal cravings of his immortal soul seek satisfaction in all the flippancies of his make-believe world.

All of us want peace, but the peace that we need comes from God and God alone! Therefore, dearest Brothers and Sisters, this Christmas, let us do violence to our usual inclinations. By experience we should have learned that our usual inclinations always fail to satisfy us. The costliest Christmas gift seems never to contain that little something we are in search of. WHY? This Christmas, let us really turn our steps toward Bethlehem, and when we arrive there, together with the poor and humble shepherds, let us enter the lowly stable. As we kneel on the dirty straw, in the darkness of the cold night, together with Mary and Joseph, we will come to realize that our search has ended. In the poverty of that scene we have found the riches of Heaven – we have found God. We want peace – the Stable in Bethlehem is the only place on this earth where we will find that peace – ALL opinions to the contrary notwithstanding.

MERRY CHRISTMAS – we must stand upright in the winds that blow!

God bless you one and all. You are in our constant prayers. Please keep us in your prayers and love.

+ *Ronald Gaikine, d.S.B.*
Abbot

