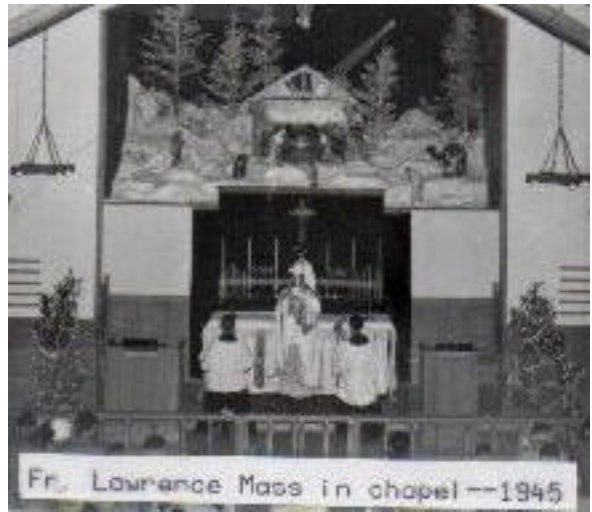


A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE
From FATHER LAWRENCE, O.S.B.

OF ALL THE CHRISTMASSES IN MY PRIESTLY LIFE (54 IN ALL) I AM HAPPIEST TO RECALL THE ONE ON SHEMA IN 1945. THE WAR WAS OVER AND THE MEN WERE HAPPY AT THE PROSPECT THAT THEY WOULD BE GOING HOME SOON AND THAT MADE THE MIDNIGHT MASS ESPECIALLY JOYOUS. THE CELEBRATION, BOTH IN THE GYM AND IN THE CHAPEL, WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL THAT YEAR. TWO MEN, CONO di PIETRO OF BROOKLYN AND AMBROSE (BARNEY) BOREHEIMER OF MILWAUKEE HELPED TO MAKE IT SO. DI PIETRO BUILT A CRIB SET THAT COVERED THE ENTIRE SPACE OVER THE ALTAR WITH CHRISTMAS TREES, STATUES OF THE INFANT JESUS, THE MOTHER MARY AND JOSEPH ALONG WITH SHEPHERDS AND SHEEP. THE COTTON SURROUNDING THE CRIB LOOKED LIKE SNOW. HE ALSO PAINTED A LARGE PICTURE (6 FOOT BY 4 FOOT) OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH WHICH HUNG OVER THE ALTAR. BARNEY BOREHEIMER RECORDED EVERYTHING ON FILM ... THE MIDNIGHT MASS, THE CRIB AND THE CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON SERVICES. IT WAS A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION THAT WILL REMAIN IN MY MEMORY AS LONG AS I LIVE. THERE MUST HAVE BEEN MORE THAN A THOUSAND PEOPLE IN THE GYM THAT NIGHT. WE ALSO HAD A CHOIR!! I AM 81 YEARS OLD NOW BUT STILL VERY ACTIVE. RECENTLY I CELEBRATED MY 60th ANNIVERSARY OF MY PROFESSION ALONG WITH TWO CLASSMATES, IT HAS BEEN A GOOD LIFE AND I CAN COUNT MY TWO YEARS ON ATTU AND SHEMA AS TWO OF THE BEST, WITH THE 1945 CHRISTMAS ON SHEMA AS THE HIGH POINT.

(See pictures on next page)



Fr. Lawrence Mass in gym -- 1945

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