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## For a Happy Christmas - This and Every Year

by Ian Glass...

The Christmas story...each year we listen to it; read it; sing about it. In the midst of all this do we ever stop to think seriously about how old the story is and yet it never seems old at all.

Everyone likes a good story. A good story, of course, is entertaining, but it also tells us something. It gives us insight. It puts into words something we have thought or felt.

Christmas is not just the star; it is also the cross and the empty tomb. Without the latter the former would never have been remembered. The central Christian belief is that Jesus' death is the central clue to his life - around everything else we know can be gathered sensibly. We do not know how history will end; but we can be sure that it will be in agreement with the cross. The world may reject Jesus; but we can be sure that it is eventually judged by his

stature. Pride and lust and falsehood may play the very devil with the power in human hands; but the last man to control power will be the one with a clean heart and clean hands and whose word is as good as their bond.

The Christmas story is a love story; its author is love, its plot is love, its fulfillment is love. In Jesus' birth, life, teachings, and death, and resurrection we have the fulfillment of the love of God.

As the students, faculty, and staff who make up this university community let us not be satisfied with simply exchanging verbal pleasantries at this season. As we look forward to the new year 1976 may the love and peace of Christmas be foremost in all our activities.

and Bren Megannety

It seems ridiculously early...the first wee in Advent.. to be expressing Christmas greetings. But this IS the last issue of the Cadre before the holiday season

and so it is now or never. Had there been more time, both of us chaplains would have preferred to issue a joint message instead of two separate statements. We certainly are not addressing our words to our constituents but rather to every student on campus.

Perhaps it is a little fortunate that we were not afforded the time to prepare a joint greeting. This way I am able to be a little more personal and express sentiments not possible in a general letter. In wishing all U.P.E.I. students a holy and happy Christmas, I wish at the same time to thank you for making me so welcome on campus. I arrived here in September very very homesick for the University of Windsor campus where I had spent two happy years as chaplain. The genuine friendliness of every student I met right from the start made me realize that perhaps I would not die of loneliness after all! One lassie soon after my arrival, I recall, helped me

to announce my first Mass on campus by making for me fifteen signs. Only after that did I discover that I had made (or thought I had made) a real booboo. She wasn't a Mick at all! This kindness shown a complete stranger is not easily forgotten and I have found this friendly readiness to help to be a characteristic of U.P.E.I. students in general. Nice to be around!

My Christmas wish for you, you paper-and-exam harried undergraduate who has not yet had time to give Christmas a thought - my Christmas wish for you is that you never lose this spirit of openness and generosity. My hope for you is that you will bring this spirit away from U.P.E.I. out into government, business, education, the ministry, religious life, social work...marriage - whatever - and so, in the words of the Coca Cola carol - fill the world with love. May God bless you, your brothers, sisters and friends at Christmas and all through the year to come.