



Adoration of The Shepherds :
Gerard van Honthorst : 1622
Wallraf-Richartz Museum : Cologne



My Prayer for You
is that you have a Blessed, Peaceful,
Satisfying and Fulfilled
CHRISTMASS,
Surrounded by Love.
May
2012 AD
be just that - A Year with the Lord.

Special Love,
ROY tssf

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Christmass 2010: Last year some of us 'los-koppe' met at **Jenny Yates** for a super bring and share trad lunch; but this year we might go to my Club if it's not too expensive. Will save a lot of effort for all of us caught up in our parishes. I'm not even going down the line of the changes of Clergy in city parishes and some of the Bishop's very odd appointments. No doubt the Lord will look after His Church, somehow ! It does mean people move about avoiding those ill-trained or *odd* priests that bore them to a frazzle. What happens if you are in a far-away place and get one of his duds ?! **Terry** and cousin **Donald** had their 65th anniversary this year, but sadly Terry Herbst died suddenly at supper one night. The city has lost a very active and brilliant DA Councillor. What a civic funeral ! One of my few weddings was of a delightful couple. **Megan** dances and teaches ballet in Cape Town (v.good) & **Ian** is a fine Dr specializing in Orthopedics - esp of the wrist and hand. The **Du Plessis-es** 'took over' **Pumba Game Lodges** (nr Grahamstown) and it was a wonderful event. Because of the lions, we were escorted to our chalets each night !, etc.
In **St Paul's Parish**, my 'home' church, the Rector is on the ball. Vestry is during a sit-down Supper, & well attended. Business flows between courses, and is well attended to. Because the church

→ was moved to the present site **50 yrs ago**, we have had a *Jubilee Year*. Nothing happens here without some sort of an "eating-meeting", so our **Jubilee Dinner** filled the hall with eager and happy parishioners, and A1 food was produced by us. I even tried my hand (with my Maggie's help) & we produced two rather nice casseroles of Bobotie. **Fr Ruthell** uses me (& the other 2 'retired' Priests), so we don't feel quite redundant and it's nice 'to have an Altar' ! [Note: I turned 77 at my birthday in October, so **am** a Golden Oldy now.] One of our parish 'building blocks' are the many Bible Study " *Small Christian Communities*" making up our participation in "**Renew Africa**" - devised by the Roman Church. They are always streets ahead of us, and our ACSA 'Grow-the-Church' programme doesn't even seem to have gotten off the ground So many in the Youth Group, they had to divide into two. (And what a lovely little orchestra for the evening Mission Mass these youngsters have formed.). Am I HAPPY in this parish? Guess !!!
I wonder if any of you saw the French-English subtitled film '**Les Homme de Deux**'. A master-piece of character studies of Trappist monks in N. Africa. A moving portrayal of utter dedication to our Lord, and His witness through loving-service in a Moslem Village. All **martyred** later.

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→ **Fr Eric Kleb** (80) was with me at College, and till recently Assisting at St Cuthbert's Parish. He is looking for another Spiritual Home and may join us. However, **we** see quite a lot of each other which is nice. His family do their own thing, and we go to the cinema, organ recitals, eat together or out, read the same things (sometimes odd books he finds in the library), or look at a DVD - or '*the winking lady*'. Nice friendship.

One of his former parishioners at Komgha is a lad I'm trying to find a job for, but what a task ...! **Bramley** is one of many in the queue for jobs.

I'm still involved to some extent in **Rotary**, 'tho it is not the same as when I joined, through **Bill Rodda's** invitation in 1971. In fact I'm quite worried about our attendance at meals - not up to the 60% per 6 months it should be. Yet our out- reach projects seem to do so well, and we help so many needy people in the local "bottomless-pit" of need. Nor do we take as seriously as before the '*Vocational Service*' our common friendship is supposed to exhibit at Club level. At least the meals at **PE-St George's Club** are a weekly treat.

Things are not right at our **Regiment**, due to poor Leadership and (it seems) some skulduggery. The annual Parade to the Cathedral etc seem to have stopped, because of course the new RSA has not the appreciation of our common history, and "Reserve Regiments" teeter on as government funds go 'elsewhere' !!! so **P.A.G.** saddens us a lot.

Also, some '*Attitude*' by the fluctuating staff at the cathedral has not helped, and it was even mooted that the Chantry Chapel be abandoned - or at least the Regimental Colours be removed.....

An interesting event was **Founders' Day** at my old School, **Graeme College**, in Grahamstown. For a few of us it was the 60th Anniversary of our Matriculation year. It was a lovely re-union. Being also an 'Old Boy' of **Pretoria Boys' High**, one of the Commonwealth's most prodigious schools, (the turn-over of the annual budget is ± R 67 million, which is more than some of our smaller State Provinces). They employ a Financial Director, and are in the process or raising a mere ±R16m. for a needed new School Hall. The Old Boys kindly include me in their fun events, down here, as well.

Sadly, at our age, we see the departure (**RIP**) of many beloved old friends and parishioners, too many to list. Despite age, we had a most →

satisfactory **TSSF Chapter** Weekend in P.E. - at the splendid RC-St Luke's Retreat & Conf. Centre. During the year our Southern Guardian (**ACSA** boundaries), **Celia Wolfe**, came to visit, officially. What a pleasure it was for us all, and for me esp..

I enjoy being Editor of our News Letter : "**Pax-et-Bonum**" (which you can read on the inter -net), which is published 4-5 times p.a. I try to cover most of the Church Calendar usefully.

The **RSCM** united choirs put on lovely worship to mark feasts like Easter (at St Paul's) and King James Bible 400th Anniv. (Cathedral). All splendid.

Many friends have had major birthdays or anniversaries (various) and we celebrated accordingly. Our schools put on really good shows and these have been a treat. What talent prevails in our city. One of the Church's sadnesses was the heart attack and death of renowned friend and organ builder, **Jimmy Riadore**. He must have been chuffed at the pontifical, musically tops, "High Requiem" at St Michael's Observatory. !!!

Another family shock was the death of our nephew (Fr) **Russell Campbell**, who left our jurisdiction for the bosom of "Auntie" (RCC). ++George Daniel said he did a wonderful ministry, and was an able teacher at Pretoria CBC, attested to by over 500 at his Requiem (Ca. Early Oct.). On that very day my next-up brother (**Quin** for Quintus) died of an aortic aneurism in Cape Town. As my eldest sister **Vonne** (who turned 98 on Nov 4) said: 'One does not expect to see one's children die.'. [A brother & nephew in one week.....].

I went to friends near Mossel Bay, with the hope of spending time with Quin & Dinah at Rivers -dale. But they rushed to C.Town because Deidre had broken her ankle roller-skating (I ask you !), and so I missed them before Quin died. I keep contact with my dear **CR** Sisters, and the **OHP** Brothers, in Grahamstown; and try to keep in touch with my many friends through E Mails. I am slowly mastering the PC and Internet. I don't Think I'll manage a visit to **Cape Town** before Christmass, but perhaps a trip in January. I stop along the way for 'visitings' - a "Roy-al Progress".

Have you managed to grind your way through this *Epistle of the Bishop of BIGga-BONGa*? Well Done! To those of you who are not so well, or were bereaved this year, Special Love. But I hope you all know you are in my heart. too. LoL. **ROY**.