

Column071722

## Companions on the Journey

July17, 2022

Dear Friends,

You will remember the Christmas Carol whose lyrics appear below. You can sing the song in your mind and heart right now. You can hear Bing Crosby or Perry Como perform their rendition. Look at the words.

### Do You Hear What I Hear?

*Said the night wind to the little lamb. Do you see what I see (Do you see what I see?) Way up in the sky, little lamb  
Do you see what I see? (Do you see what I see?) A star, a star, dancing in the night. With a tail as big as a kite. With a tail as  
big as a kite.  
Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy. Do you hear what I hear? (Do you hear what I hear?) Ringing through the sky,  
shepherd boy? Do you hear what I hear? (Do you hear what I hear?) A song, a song high above the trees, With a voice as big  
as the sea. With a voice as big as the sea.  
Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king: Do you know what I know? (Do you know what I know?) In your palace warm,  
mighty king Do you know what I know? (Do you know what I know?) A Child, a Child shivers in the cold Let us bring him  
silver and gold. Let us bring him silver and gold.  
Said the king to the people everywhere: Listen to what I say! (Listen to what I say!) Pray for peace. people. everywhere.  
Listen to what I say! (Listen to what I say!). The Child, the Child sleeping in the night. He will bring us goodness and light.  
He will bring us goodness and light.*

What you may not know, and what I did not know is that the composer and lyricist wrote this in the late summer, early fall of 1962 (sixty years ago) as a musical response to the Cuban Missile Crisis and the nuclear danger that threatened all of humanity. I never knew that. The couple's names were Gloria Shayne and Noel Regney. The key phrase come towards the end: Pray for peace, people everywhere. It was a plea to pray to the Prince of Peace to bestow his peace on this world that was on the brink of a great catastrophe. And people did pray. And the crisis was averted.

Pope Francis has joined with all the Bishops of the World and all the priests and all the believers in dedicating and consecrating the countries of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Our Lady, Queen of Peace. This is not the time to stop our praying for peace to break out in those countries. The enemy has been defeated. We are to send him and his fallen accomplices to the foot of the cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the site of their greatest defeat. There shall not be victory of evil ever again. Whether we sing or whether we pray. Let peace be in our hearts—even in the middle of the summer.

In the peace of Christ,

Msgr. McHenry