

December Laity Minute

I dread it every July. I know it's coming and I know it will be hard to deal with. It's something that happens every year and I squirm thinking about it.

Christmas in July.

I see the sales at the stores. I even boycott QVC for the whole month of July because watching them sell lipstick with Christmas trees and sparkly decorations in the background just doesn't seem natural. Thinking about all of the merry ho-ho-ho's is something I just can't seem to swallow when it is 100 degrees outside. Where did this idea even originate and who in the world thought this up?

This time we can't blame it on marketing. Her name is Fanny Holt. Fannie thought up the idea in 1933 for Keystone Camp (a girls' summer camp which she co-founded) in Brevard, North Carolina. They still celebrate this today with Santa, presents, elves, carols, and the whole works. Though Fannie passed away in 1942, her legacy still shows up on my TV every July. Thanks, Fannie.

Well, now it is actually Christmastime and the trees are here along with all the sparkly decorations. So, you know what I say to that?

It's time for 4th of July in December!

Where are the fireworks? The hamburgers and hot dogs? I'm ready for the ice cream and the patriotic tunes. Where are all the red/white/blue sparkly decorations on QVC? It sounds almost as silly as Christmas in July, right?

Well, Fannie didn't think it was silly. She thought it was a great idea to get the girls involved and have a little fun. And it seems to have worked back then and still today. So, no matter when Christmas crosses your mind (or your TV), think about it in whatever way makes you happy. If that's in July, then great. If it in January when you buy presents for next year, have at it. If it's May and you are sitting in our beautiful sanctuary and you think about Christmas, even better. And if it is this month when the happiness of Christmas is at its best for you, enjoy it. Christmas is a special time, no matter when you think about it.

Because we know, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Ecc 3).

Merry Christmas!



Keystone Camp, 1930s