



Most Memorable Christmas

Here's the story behind the final www.Keys2Heaven.com song, completing *Stories of Faith: 12 Songs Inspired by You!*

Fr. Bill Lynn, S.J.

May I tell you of the happiest and most memorable Christmas I have ever had? It was in 1932 when I celebrated my tenth birthday, which was also Christmas (I was born on Dec. 25, 1922). My Dad, Eddie, my older brother, and I were living in the basement of a boarding house at 127 C Street S.E., just two blocks from the Capitol in Washington D.C.



Fr. Bill and his Dad at his First Communion, June 30, 1930

Dad had set up and decorated the tree after I had gone to bed. When I woke up that Christmas morning I rushed to the Christmas tree to see what presents I might have received. But as I looked and searched I was puzzled and did not know what to think. All I saw beneath the tree was a tiny brown paper bag, in which I found five tiny pieces of penny candy.

I began slowly to eat the candy, while I waited, thinking that Dad, who was in the kitchen, would soon bring in the big present I dreamed of. I waited, and then looked toward the kitchen where I could see Dad seated at the kitchen table, his head buried in his hands. I did not understand what the depression meant or what it meant that Dad was out of work, but I could see he was very sad, and I knew it was because he could not afford to give me anything else.

So I got up off the floor, went into the kitchen and sat on Dad's lap, put my arms around his neck and, holding back my tears of disappointment, said as convincingly as I could, "Dad, this is the best Christmas I have ever had." He hugged me tight and said, "Thank you son," and to my own surprise, those words did make it the best and happiest and most memorable Christmas I have ever had.

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What's Your Story?

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