

The Catholic Journal

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ROME'S IDEAL COLLEGE.

Here the Propaganda Educates Youths for the Priesthood.

Dress, Study, and Mode of Living Among the Students—Dowdy Lives at Vacant Time at the Institute—American Games and Parties.

It is said, says the New York Sun, that the ambition of every young Catholic-American seminarian is to go to Rome and complete his study for the priesthood in the American College there. Only those who are most proficient or peculiarly gifted in the different branches of study required are selected by their respective Archibishops and allowed to take the exceptional course offered. The advantages of Rome as a place for theological studies are paramount, especially when the student is a Catholic.

Five of these young men recently sailed for the Eternal City to enter the college. Four of them, William C. Creeden, son of Police Captain Creeden, Martin Grosser of New York, Edward Terrier of New Rochelle, and William J. Sennott of Tarrytown, were selected from the diocese of New York by Archbishop Corrigan, and the other, John J. McMon of Brooklyn, was sent by Bishop McDonnell from St. John's Cathedral.

These young men will arrive in Rome in time to begin the regular term after the summer vacation. The course of study at the college varies from five to six years. The American student is generally ready to try for the degree of D.D. after four years' study of theology and one of philosophy. The college in itself is really a house of study and discipline. The lectures which they attend daily are delivered in the Propaganda in what is known as the Urban school, founded by Pope Urban. There students of the Greek, Irish, Armenian, Bohemian and various other nationalities attend the lectures, and it is a peculiar experience for the Americans to find his fellow student perhaps a Mongolian or a negro.

When the student first arrives at the American institution in the "Via dell'Umita" he, of course, has an idea of seminary life, and is already partially trained for its peculiarities. The system in the college abroad, however, is very different from that which he has already experienced. First of all, he is appointed a member of a camerate. There are always more than sixty students in the college, and they are divided into bands of ten or twelve. They are called cameratae, and are presided over by one of the students, who is the Prefect, and he has an assistant called the bidello, or beadle. After the student is assigned to the camerate he ceases to be a participant in the affairs of the outside world, and becomes merely a unit in the college life. He must never appear on the streets except in the uniform of the college, and not then unless in the company of all the other members of the camerate. Then his uniform is arranged for. He has to give up his American derby and clothes for the conventional costume of the student. This is made by an Italian tailor who uses American sewing machines. An Italian shoemaker also makes his appearance with the tailor, and soon the student is provided with his outfit. This consists of two hats, one for the house and another for outdoor wear. The house hat is similar to the beret worn usually by the clergy and by the priests going to and from the altar.

The outdoor hat is more of a Roman type. It is a beaver with three corners, and resembles the hat worn by the Continental soldiers in the American Revolution. It is worn with one corner in front, just the reverse of the Continental-style. His cassock is the principal part of his outfit, and it is this article of dress which displays his patriotism and distinguishes him as an American student. The cassock is a long black robe of serge fitting to the figure at the waist and at the shoulders and breast. One lapel folds over the other in front and is held in position by a fastener at the neck and at both hips. Three small blue cloth-covered buttons run diagonally across the breast at the left and perfect the fit. The robe is bordered in front with a narrow strip of blue running the entire length of the robe. There are also three blue buttons on each sleeve. This, with his white Roman collar, a vermilion sash, which is wound round the waist twice, and the ends dropped down on the right side, makes the red, white and blue the national colors of his native land. He also has another robe of lighter material for street wear, which runs from the neck to the foot, is open in front, and is generally carried suspended from the left shoulder and fastened with strings. His shoes are low cut, and he wears long black stockings, which are held at the knees by his knicker-bockers. This is his costume outfit, which does not change as to style until he is in his last year at college, when his robe is changed to another more priestly in character.

After the student is thus provided he begins the rigorous duties of life as an ecclesiastical student. All the students, from the porter to the cook, are laymen, and the student finds that though he may be simple Brown or Smith, it is not much for the natives, and henceforth he is known by a number. He is, now, for instance, Signor Due or Tre, and as plain Mr. Two or Three he goes through the college. The cuisine is mostly Italian, but the cook tries to satisfy the palates of the Americans with an attempt at one of

their home-made dishes now and then. The American likes the Italian style of cooking, and two days in the week when spaghetti is served, he almost regards it as feast days. It does not take him long to cultivate a fair appetite for the Italian national dish, served as it is in the original style with a rich brown dressing. Students in their fourth year are connoisseurs in the art of spaghetti eating, and there are few among the graduates whose palates are not highly appreciative of spaghetti. The food served at the students' meals is of a plain, substantial character.

The students are awakened at half past 5 o'clock in the morning, and spend half an hour in meditation and prayer. Mass is celebrated every morning in their own private chapel, and breakfast follows that duty. The intervening time up till 10 o'clock is devoted to study, and the students start out for the Propaganda to the lecture hall. Two hours are spent there, and dinner is served on their return at noon. The students enjoy a short recreation time in the pretty garden of the college after dinner. At 2 o'clock they again assemble in the lecture hall. The afternoon session like the morning, is of two hours duration, and an hour and a half recreation follows. This generally consists of walks to the Borghese Villa or to the Pincio or in visiting the famous ruins of ancient Rome. Thursdays are the weekly holidays. Then the students are allowed three hours and a half for recreation.

The cameratae are able to make longer excursions on those days, consisting generally of short trips into the country or extended walks. It is not until the summer time and its vacation period arrives, though, that the students have really the leisure time for thorough recreation. About the end of July all the members of the cameratae pack up their belongings and make arrangements to occupy their country home, the "Villa Americana," as one has called it at Grottaferrata. This home is a pretty villa situated among the Alban and Sabine hills and surrounded on all sides by picturesque landscapes. A short distance from the villa, half hidden in a grove of tall cypresses and oaks, is the celebrated monastery of the Basilian monks with its tall campanile or square bell tower peculiar to Italian churches. The Pope's summer palace, on the border of beautiful Lake Albano, is within sight, and there are other views of ancient buildings, pleasing to the eye.

It is at Grottaferrata that the students sacrifice the quiet dignity they always have in Rome so far as to indulge in the American national game of baseball and ride on donkeys. Three hours a day are allowed in the country for recreation, and the students have the freedom of the villa and surrounding country. The prefect, or the bidello, is always present to see that there is no flagrant breach of discipline. Baseball is now played at the country place in costumes specially imported from home. Formerly the students played in their cassocks, rolling them up and around their waists. The game is a very popular one with the students, and the natives look on in wonder. To see the students at baseball is a most thrilling sight to the visiting Americans, and to hear them calling "strike out" "slide for third" or "coach," sets the heartstrings tingling. The "four lines" are marked with American flags, and Old Glory is hung from the villa window.

Next to baseball the donkey ride is the most popular sport at Grottaferrata. The excursion party is made up on the day before, and all who desire to go have to put their names down for the trip. A committee of one is appointed to secure the donkeys and arrange for a dinner at Albano prepared in nearly the American style as the padrone of the hotel can command. Early the next morning the donkeys are at hand, braying before the students are out of bed. The students have already cast lots for choices of beasts, but it is usually as safe to have last choice as first, as an Italian donkey cannot be studied at a glance. The donkey rides are great fun for the students. They have races and make wagers as to whose donkey will be the first to stop, and on other little idiosyncrasies of the beasts. After a good dinner at the inn they return in cheerful spirits, and by the time they get home are tired enough to enjoy a period of quiet rest.

The Ave Maria, or Angelus, is the important prayer time of the day, and it is said at sunset. The studies and lectures are all gauged by the hour at which this prayer is said. One thing by which the student is distinguished at Grottaferrata is his cassock. Each one is provided with a cassock and they serve various purposes; but they are never used as weapons, except in such cases as an attack from a bull or dog. They also may be applied to the urging on of a stubborn donkey.

The great events among the American students, however, are the celebration of the holy days of the Church and the American national holidays. On these occasions all the students are allowed to assemble together and converse in English. Italian and Latin are spoken every day except on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, when the students speak English. On such occasions as Washington's Birthday, the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving Day, and other American holidays, a big silk American flag flies from the window from the dormitory, and the students celebrate in much the same manner.

They would if they were home. The American students are exceedingly popular in Rome among the shopkeepers and citizens, not only because they are their best patrons, but on account of their intense patriotism for their native country. Indeed, expressions of admiration may be heard on all sides for their patriotic tendencies. They sing the "Star Spangled Banner," "Hail Columbia," and "Yankee Doodle" whenever the opportunity is at hand.

After spending the summer at Grottaferrata the student is in full force for the winter's study, and less time in getting to work and making himself proficient in his studies.

The chapel at which he attends divine services is an imposing room with a high arched ceiling and five large windows on either side. The altar is at one end, with the tabernacle to the right. The arrangement of the seats is similar to those seen in choirs or chapels having choir stalls. Each student has a special seat assigned to him, and the prefect and bidello take their places at the head. At the other end of the chapel are the raised platforms and prie-dieu of the rector and vice-

rector. The refectory is also an interesting room. Four tables run the length of the room, and a reading desk occupies the entrance to the refectory. It is occupied during the midday and evening meal by each student in turn, who reads while others are listening and eating. The meals are always conducted in silence, the voice of the reader being the only one heard.

Ever since the opening of the American College by Pope Pius IX. on December 28, 1869, it has grown steadily, until now it is recognized as one of the foremost Catholic colleges in the world.

There were thirteen students in the first year. These represented the original thirteen States of the Union, and numbered among the clergymen who have since become famous Archibishop Corrigan and Dr. McGivney.

Many of the American prelates now holding high office in the Catholic Church of this country are graduates of the college, as the annual list shows.

The visitors' records of the college have in many instances received a Bishop's name, and the present rector, the Right Rev. Dennis J. O'Connell, a clergyman for whom Pope Leo XIII. has a deep interest, who is destined for high honor. He is regarded as one of the best and shrewdest men in Rome, and was at one time the secretary of Archbishop Satolli, the Papal Delegate to this country.

Archbishop Satolli is well known to the graduates of the American College now in the United States. Up to the time of leaving Rome he was for years Professor of Dogmatic Theology at the Propaganda, where the American students attended. He is a very popular with the students, who admire him on account of his great ability as a scholar. "It was like reading Cicero to hear him deliver one of his lectures in Latin," said one of the students.

The memory of the days spent at the American College is always fresh in the minds of the graduates, and the annual dinner and meeting of the Alumni Association is a popular reunion among the clergy who are members. Archbishop Corrigan is Honorary President, the Right Rev. D. J. O'Connell, D. D. Rector and Second Honorary Vice-President, numbers many names of distinction among the Roman Catholic clergy of the United States.

Superiority Wins by Contrast.
The Catholic Church demands the use of no articles, of no discrimination in her defense. Her history, during these nineteen centuries of her existence, is open to all who have the leisure and the education to study the past. And what a marvelous past it is! Human perversity and human weakness are very apparent in different ages and among great churchmen. He who ransacks the many annals, revealing these exhibitions of frailty, must ignore the records of such epochs as silent ages, because they bear in juxtaposition with the traces of much that is evil the traces of all that is best of what is stained with the blood of the saints. The divinity of the Church in a human environment, constantly beset with evils is the charter of her right to ennobles humanity here in preparation for complete emancipation hereafter. This is her mission. And what a glorious past it is!

DOMESTIC READING.

We will never go to heaven who is content to go alone.

Good manners are making of petty miseries.—Emerson.

How sweet it is to suffer in doing God's will.—St. Teresa.

A new universe is created every time a child is born.—Richter.

To religion, to do good and be good, and seek diligently after truth.

Hell-dental is one of the best traits on the narrow and rugged way of virtue.

There is no false religion which does not contain some elements of truth.—St. Augustine.

With self-interest man must begin, he may end in self-sacrifice.—Harcourt.

To call in question God's power to perform a miracle is not blasphemy only, but sin.—Jean Jacques Rousseau.

Can the pious heart not find in each new faith of human kind some grace that wins, some tie that binds, for God sees faith in all?

If the person who comes to worship is wicked at heart, he will not be heard, the oration will fail. The great thing is to be good.—Confucius.

It is a man's duty to have books.—A library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life.

To know oneself is the true testive with oneself in the good to conquer oneself in the beautiful.

Above the cloud which casts its shadow upon us is the star that sends its light towards us.—Victor Hugo.

Little girl, you may never know how much youadden your mother's weary heart by your daily love stories.

To hunger no more and to thirst no more is but to have our overreaching need perfectly satisfied, and from the overflow of our abundance to become walls of the water of life to other souls.—Lucy Larcom.

Be charitable towards your neighbor, liberal to the poor. Begged God alone in your actions, seek Him singlemindedly, sparing and humility, of service to thy Master.

It gives as much pleasure to someone that the date set for the appearance of Major Charlie MacLean, the "boy reporter," of New York, and Mr. John F. Nichols, the composer and pianist, of Boston, is on Wednesday next, as it does to someone that a singer's brother of great merit has come out and given his name to the title of his new composition.

Human love may change. The friendship of last year has grown cold. The acquaintances of yesterday have turned to aversion. But it is never thus with God's love. It is eternal. Our experience of it may be variable, but there are no variations in the love. Our lives may change, our sympathies of like love may fade out, but the love abides forever.

A woman of fashion who is employed in remarks on the weather, who observes from morning to noon that it is likely to rain, and from noon to night that it is not, that it is not to be for a wet evening, and being incapable of any other disease, has a sleepless conscience, and just as problematical who quotes Aristotle over his tea or talks Greek at a card-table.—Thornton.

There is much we can do in many directions. Let not the laymen wait for the laymen, let not laymen wait for priests, let not priests wait for bishops, and let not bishops wait for the popes. But let all go on in well-doing along the great road of moral cleanness, and then we are living out Christian gospel, and are leading the age, for which it happens, and thinks, in that church which when the nation comes to it, shall bear over its portals the name of the Catholic Church—Archbishop Ireland.

Here is an additional saying of the late General Sir Michael, that truly Christian warfare, which was enacted at his interview. A friend having expressed his admiration that after the valiant service he had rendered to the country he had not yet received the grand orders, he answered about this time that he would die tranquilly without them. There was another order which would look better on his coffin, as there was another world beyond the present ocean of the present which sacrificed ships and men where the world was lost, and in his conviction, here lie falls.

They who recognize, by the light of faith, the sovereignty of God in all things, will recognize the sovereignty of God in the family, and hourly determine to live according to the commandments of God.

“Dad,” said his son, “you are not here after three weeks, when we were in London and Scotland.”

Sir Michael Maloney, Sr., had the misfortune to be taken ill suddenly, after writing two plays.

Mollie Hayes left Wednesdays for Binghamton, where she had accepted a position in the Binghamton Female Hospital.

A young lad named McKale had his leg broken last Saturday, while engaged in a game of football on East Hill.

Newark.

The trolley factory employs thirty-five girls.

There is a new store store in Newark in the new Brewer block.

Miss Mooney, of Manchester, has been visiting her sister, Mrs. Frank McGuire.

Miss Alice Prendergast left for her home in Spencerport last week. Miss Prendergast will be greatly missed by her large circle of friends here.

A new postmaster has been appointed in East Newark.

Mr. McDonald and family drove to Utica Sunday.

DIOCESAN NEWS.

From Our Special Correspondents.

Memories.

Joseph J. Maxwell died here recently, in the 70th year of his age, after a long illness, borne with true Christian patience, which we trust, methinks for him a happy death. He was a good young man, well educated in high school by his own parents and friends, as his large funeral testified. He leaves a mother, one brother, and numerous nieces and nephews, all of whom are dead or gone before and passed an eventful life, all most respectable; and may we be allowed to add, pleasant to us. May he rest in peace.

Palmyra.

Palmyra is to have electric lights by the first of November.

The sermons delivered on Sunday evenings by the pastor, Rev. Father Hartley, at St. Ann's Church, are attended by a great many Protestants, thereby helping the church with the large congregation.

Establishing for the convenience of the poor a to the poor of the church, and for the poor to have money in the treasury, and use of the talents given to the church.

Number.

The latest addition to the library was November 10th, the "History of Mexico" by Col. Walter Scott, of Liverpool, and "The Modern Newspaper and how it is Made," was one of the most interesting books that we have ever heard. It is to be hoped that at Roger's brother of great influence over the church, and that he will continue to do his best for the church.

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