

The Catholic Journal

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CARELESS CATHOLICS.

It is, unfortunately, too true, that there are many who should be earnest and zealous Catholics who are careless in the practice of their religion, who are a stumbling block to other Catholics and whose example will never lead non-Catholics into the embrace of Holy Mother church. Too often these persons are the serious of truly Catholic families, and their fathers and mothers were living exponents of the faith that burned within them. There is no excuse for such as these deserting their faith or becoming careless in the practice of it. They were early trained in the way they should go, and they should have profited by the examples of pious parents.

It is true that there are parents who did not set a good example for their children. They are not regular in attendance at mass; they are not frequent recipients of the sacraments; they do not refrain from profane and vulgar language before their children; they lose their tempers; they quarrel; they are intemperate; in short, instead of exemplifying their faith, they practically belie it. It is not to be wondered at so much if such children fall away or grow careless. But there is no excuse for children of pious parents, and they bring the greater curse upon themselves.

Mixed marriages are often responsible for the carelessness or backsliding we have referred to. A Catholic woman marries a Protestant husband. At first she is active in the practice of her faith; after a while, if her husband be an indulgent one, she begins to think that he is a pretty decent fellow, and to wonder why she cannot be just as good without being so strict in the practice of their religion; after a while her visits to church are infrequent and oftentimes cease altogether. Her children are sent to the public school and, often, they are allowed to go with their associates to a non-Catholic Sunday school. When remonstrated with she is wont to reply: "Well, my husband is a good man. He does not place any restraint on us in anything, so why should I not meet him half way? He don't go to any church, neither do I. Well, well, all got to Heaven some day. Have you not heard such arguments before, dear reader? And did it not seem to you, as it did to us; that while the husband was not responsible to Almighty God for his wife's soul that she was, in a measure, responsible for her husband's salvation? Or that, at least, she was in duty bound to try to win her spouse to the right path? May not Almighty God hold her responsible for the souls of her husband and those of her offspring as well?

We have often remarked that this lukewarmness on the part of the Catholic principals in mixed marriages followed if the non-Catholics were an easy-going person, free from bigotry. As a rule, when the non-Catholic turns out a bigot or a fanatic, it is not an obstacle in the

way of the Catholic wife practicing her faith, the latter's obstinacy is usually increased and the quality and quantity of her Catholicity grows greater rather than less. It is not always an unmixed blessing when the non-Catholic principal in a mixed marriage is an easy-going person. Such a one is far more apt to weaken the Catholicity of the other than the one who is a hater of Catholics.

But be the reason what it may, there are too many careless Catholics, and we wonder they do not often shudder at the yawning chasm upon whose brink they are. Perhaps they do. We invite our readers in their applications to the throne of grace to include a prayer for the reclamation of careless Catholics, for it is too late and their souls be eternally lost.

BLESSING THE GRAVES.

The beautiful ceremony of blessing the graves at Holy Sepulchre cemetery will take place to-morrow afternoon. Those who have friends reposing beneath the sod in Rochester's beautiful "City of the Dead" should go there to-morrow to offer up a prayer for the repose of their souls. "It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they be loosed from sins." Catholics are the only Christians who practice this custom, and we should never neglect to do our part. We none of us know how soon we may need the prayers of friends and relatives for the repose of our own souls, and we should do unto others as we would wish them to do unto us.

Those who have no loved ones in Holy Sepulchre should also go and pray for the dead souls. There is no better form of charity, nor one that brings more blessings in return. No form of devotion is more worthy of our practice. There are thousands who pass away who have no one to have a mass said or to offer up a prayer. Who can tell what blessings will be showered upon those who offer up prayers for the unknown dead?

As for those who have loved ones reposing in their last resting place, they would be more than ungrateful if they did not offer up prayers to Almighty God for their speedy relief from the pains and the tortures of purgatory. He who neglects this duty will not have peace in his own soul. His conscience will ever smite him.

A prayer for the suffering souls may seem a little thing, but it brings a great reward.

ETERNITY.

The question of our existence after death is the most important and consequential of all questions. It is the fundamental question of life, decisive of our eternal destiny. Therefore it ever was, and must be, the ultimate and essential purpose of Religion to answer this question. Thanks to our Divine Redeemer, Catholics have the reasons of the faith within them implanted deeply in their hearts. Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life, who dispels all darkness, lifted the veil that that covers the next world and expressed Himself in the most explicit manner that annihilation is not our destiny, but that we are created for an everlasting life, either of bliss or of torment. "And these unjust shall go into everlasting punishment; but the just into life everlasting." [Matt. xxv. 46.]

The Rochester public schools are already over-crowded and inadequate in accommodation for the 23,000 pupils registered. What would be the condition of affairs if the parochial schools were all closed at once and their pupils turned into the public schools? It is quite probable that a howl would go up that would shake the City Hall. Yet there would be nothing reprehensible in the act.

Avarice and moral cowardice of the great nations of Europe are responsible for the Turkish outrage tacitly condoned if not covertly instigated and encouraged by the "great assassin."

The JOURNAL's best wishes go with St. Bernard's seminary that 1896 may be the most successful in its history.

AS TO HUMBUGS

Very pointed, indeed, is the following paragraph from the "Catholic Standard and Times" of Philadelphia: "The pretense of having a compulsory school in operation in New York would be a huge joke if its results were not so injurious to children. Pupils in fourteen departments of the public schools are shut out for want of new buildings and lack of money to carry on repairs. It is stated that when the school year opened this month there were less buildings ready for use and fewer sittings available for the pupils than there were just one year before. Yet enthusiastic advocates of the public schools invite parochial school pupils to attend them! What would be the result supposing they did? Simply the adding of many thousands of pupils for whom there would be no room, added to those who are now shut out for the same reason. The itinerant circus is far from being the only humbug of our age."

According to a cable dispatch the next papal consistory is fixed for the beginning of November, when it is said the Pope will raise the following Italian prelates to the cardinalate: Mgr. Olasco, secretary of Propaganda; Mgr. Nocella, secretary of briefs; Mgr. Stoner, reserved in pectore from the consistory of 1895, and Mgr. Alphonse Eschbach. At the same time three foreign cardinals will be named: The Pope will in public consistory invest the following cardinals with the scarlet biretta: Cardinal Ferrari, formerly Nuncio in Paris; Cardinal Jacobini, formerly Nuncio in Lisbon; Cardinal Oretoni, former Nuncio in Madrid; Cardinal Agliardi, former Nuncio in Vienna, and Cardinal Satolli, lately Apostolic Delegate to the United States. The appointment of a new Nuncio in Paris is involved in difficulties with the French government upon questions of personal selection.

These strangely different were the circumstances under which the Church grew in Florida, in Michigan, in Maryland. Yet in the designs of God it was that which seemed least favored that was to develop most wonderfully, till the episcopate starting from a three-fold source and blending into the hierarchy of the United States with the faithful sprung from these lands, and from Ireland, Germany, Switzerland, Poland, Italy, Portugal and from the native tribes, presents at the close of the nineteenth century a spectacle full of consolation and hope, exercising the highest moral influence, stimulating education, upholding the sanctity of marriage, inculcating charity to the rich and courageous endurance to the poor, detachment to all.

"JOHN GILMAR. SBA."

Every Catholic, who can, should belong to some one of the Catholic fraternal and beneficiary associations. Membership in such organizations makes one a better Catholic, while at slight cost provision is made for pecuniary benefit to those dependent on us when we are called to our last resting place.

We should value highly our Catholicity. It is a boon we should not despise. We should always try to so conduct ourselves as to reflect credit, not discredit, on our church.

There will be non-national, no state elections next year, except for justice of the court of appeals. This will be a cause of rejoicing to all except the professional politicians.

There is not a Catholic on either of the party tickets in New York state. Where and how is the A. P. A. to get in its dirty work?

This is a great year for political intriguing. The public man who only aspires to be a successful intriguer rarely finds favor with the public but for a short time.

It is no disgrace to be young. Many of the world's greatest men were distinguished in public life before they were thirty years of age.

THE GOSPELS

GOSPEL: St. Matthew, ix 1-8—At that time: "Jesus, entering into a boat, passed over the water and came into his own city. And behold they brought to Him one sick of the palsy lying in a bed. And Jesus, seeing their faith, said to the man sick of the palsy: Be of good heart, son, thy sins are forgiven thee. And behold some of the scribes said within themselves: He blasphemeth. And Jesus, seeing their thoughts, said: Why do you think evil in your hearts? Whether it is easier to say, Thy sins are forgiven thee: or to say, Arise and walk? But that you may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith He to the man sick of the palsy:) Arise, take up thy bed and walk into thy house. And he arose and went into his house. And the multitude, seeing it, feared, and glorified God that gave such power to men."

What are we to learn from this Gospel? We are to learn that when we are sick our first thought should be to place ourselves in the grace of God, thus healing our soul first, because diseases are very often a punishment for sins committed, hence a cure can scarcely be hoped for if the cause has not first been removed by repentance.

Weekly Church Calendar.

Sunday, Sept. 27—Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost—Eplst. 1 Cor. i. 49; Gosp. Matt. ix. 1-8.
Monday, 28—St. Wenceslaus, Martyr.
Tuesday, 29—St. Michael, Archangel.
Wednesday, 30—St. Jerome, Confessor and Doctor of the Church.
Thursday, Oct. 1—St. St. Remy, Bishop and Confessor.
Friday, 2—The Guardian Angels.
Saturday, 3—Office of the Immaculate Conception.

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Mr. James McDonnell, whose "ad" appears on another page of THE JOURNAL, is well known among the business men of Rochester, having been associated with Wm. T. Fox & Co for the past five years. He has the practical business experience necessary for success in all the varied branches of plumbing and sanitary engineering. He carries a large stock of plumbing material, has under his control a large force of competent mechanics. All orders will be received promptly and careful attention. Good work, low prices, satisfaction guaranteed.

Coal Goes Up.

Coal advanced in price 25 cents a ton Sept 1st, making the new price \$5 95 a ton. An advance in freight rates on the various coal lines is the cause of the rise in price. Better leave your order now with L. C. Langie, 208 East Main, or at either of his yards, before the price advances any further.

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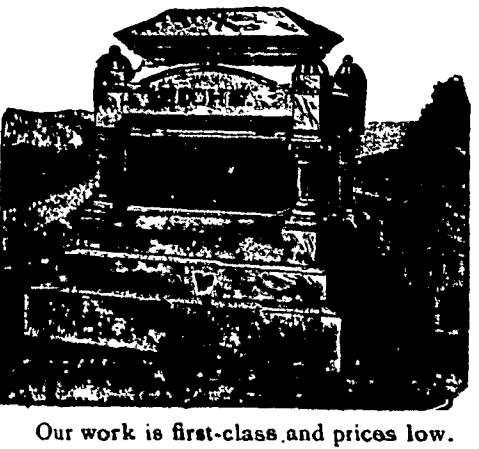
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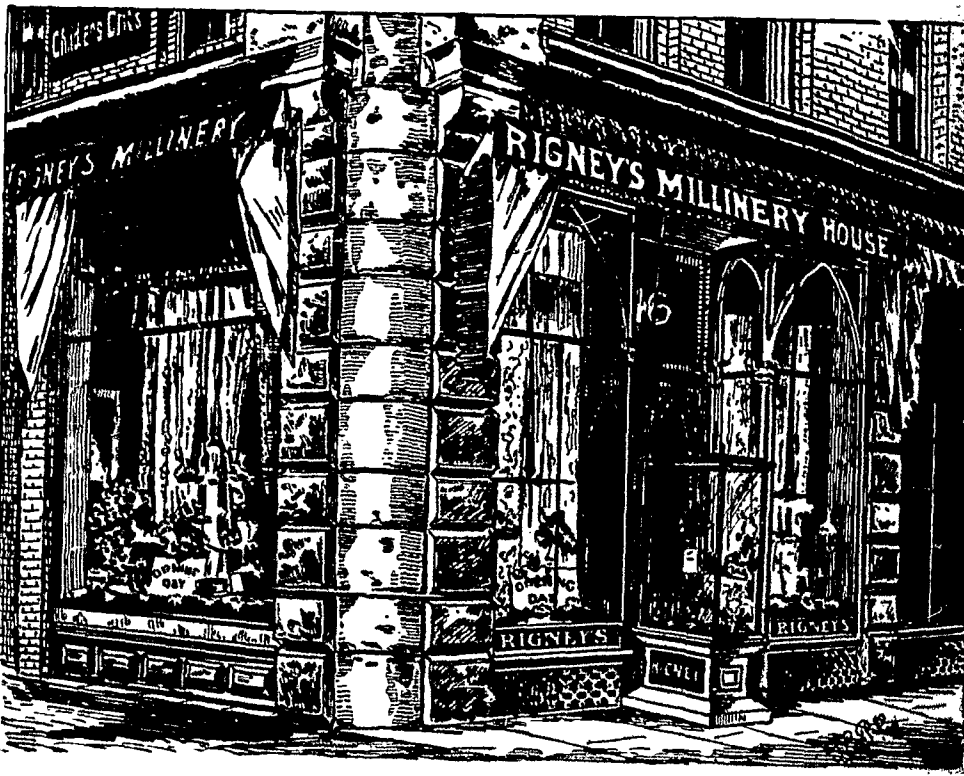
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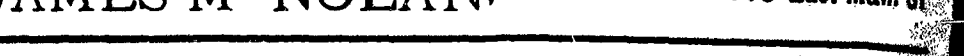
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