

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

1044 East Main Street, Rochester, N. Y.

CATHOLIC JOURNAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

It is not received Saturday notify the publisher... Report without delay any change of address... Communications submitted from all Catholics...

SUBSCRIPTION RATES For Year, in advance... \$1.00

ROCHESTER TELEPHONE 2353. J. J. Ryan, Residence Phone, Bell 148 Main V

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 1903.

Weekly Church Calendar. Sunday June 21—Gospel, St. Luke, xv. 1-10—St. Aloysius Gonzaga, confessor.

Monday 22—St. Paulinus, bishop and confessor. Tuesday 23—St. Etheldreda, virgin and abbess.

Forty Hour Devotion. This Forty Hour Devotion will be held in the following churches next week: June 21—St. Aloysius, Auburn; Port Byron.

Five Minute Sermon

The Parable of the Lost Sheep. The sheep is a very simple and dull animal, which, while grazing in the field, does not notice that it has left the fold. It is lost, and when lost does not know its way back to the fold.

OWN A PEW.

A Duty Every Family in a Parish Owes to the Church. Not infrequently does one hear complaints against pastors because of certain regulations which they have been compelled to adopt with regard to the pews in their churches. It is made to appear that charges are levied for the privilege and duty of hearing mass, that pastors seek to make a show of poverty by setting aside seats for those who cannot pay for them and similar unwarranted criticisms, but all are without foundation.

A REBUKE TO FRANCE

THE REFUSAL OF HIS HOLINESS TO RECEIVE PRESIDENT LOUBET.

It May Serve to Open the Eyes of "the Eldest Daughter of the Church" and Halt Her Policy of Religious Persecution.

Protestants in France were just beginning to realize that the government intended to proceed rapidly with a programme of persecution for them as well as for the Catholics when, like an electric shock, came the important news that the pope would not receive President Loubet. France, the somnambulant, awakens on the edge of a precipice.

Perhaps M. Loubet will not now ask an audience—will not visit Italy. It matters not. Such was his intention, and the holy father decided to close against him the stately doors that so lately swung open to welcome Edward of England and William of Germany.

What! Refuse France the courtesy granted to her hereditary enemies? Is not France the eldest daughter of the church? Why deny the chief of the foremost Catholic nations the honors accorded to the two greatest Protestant monarchs?

The Vatican has a rule indeed that no head of a Catholic country can be received there who first pays his respects to the Quirinal, as President Loubet would undoubtedly have done. Don Pedro paid his respects from outside the walls. That probably will be all the explanation granted by the Osservatore Romano, the newspaper of the Vatican.

True as far as it goes, but days before any explanation comes due Christian France will have sought and found another reason for the snubbing of M. Loubet by Leo XIII. Casuists in the doctrine and practice of the church may try to evolve a solution from the fact that a sincere Protestant is a part of the soul of the church, while a born Catholic puts himself out of communion by mere neglect of religious duty, not to say recalcitrancy or open hostility to Catholicity.

But Leo XIII., naturally gentle and urbane, would not shock a whole nation for its chief magistrate's private offense against church law. He shuts the door sorrowfully in the face of Loubet to rebuke the French nation for its own sore delinquency. The act shocks France, and that is evidently what was intended.

Dreaming of restored monarchy, Catholic France has let oppressive atheism chain her. In vain did Leo counsel again and again that French Catholics should all accept the republic as a fact and be loyal to it. They neglected their political duty in this arrondissement, declining to vote, and in that split up into Orleanists, Bonapartists and republican factions.

Thus divided they were no match for the powerful secret society which secured nominations for its members all over France in the general election of 1893 by being all things to all men, socialists here, conservatives there, but having ever in mind a single purpose, no longer called separation of church and state, but separation of God and man.

A CATHOLIC PAPER.

If You Do Not Subscribe For One, What Is the Cause?

Dozens of Catholic families are able to take Catholic papers, but neglect to do so because "Catholic papers do not interest them."

Why? Let us analyze the cause. With all of us the "sensational" is apt to be more interesting than routine news. In the daily papers we are apt to go first for the write up with the glaring headlines which tell of the bloody murder, if we want a constant diet of this kind we take the Police Gazette. Then our taste for reading becomes wholly depraved. Not even the most attractively got up paper interests us.

This illustrates how a reading taste and interest may be cultivated for good or evil. On the other hand, thousands of people are interested in Catholic papers. We have on our list hundreds who say they "would not be without a Catholic paper."

It is possible that the reason you are not interested in the Catholic paper is that there is something at fault in your taste for reading.

You may be lacking in loyalty to your church, which means, of course, that you are not interested in Catholic events and Catholic opinion. You may have a frivolous, gossip craving mind that cannot put up with intelligent newspaper matter.

You may be too much of a worldling in your interests. You may be decadent in sympathy with your coreligionists. Give the matter some consideration and see where the fault lies, or, to be perfectly certain about the problem, take a Catholic paper for one year, industriously read it and see whether an interest in that kind of reading will not be engendered.

That is an excellent plan. Try it—Catholic Home Companion.

A Minister a Convert.

News has been received from Rome that the Rev. Henry Ormond Riddell, an Episcopal clergyman, has changed his faith and become a Roman Catholic. Mr. Riddell was ordained a deacon in 1885 and was advanced to the priesthood the following year. For a time after his ordination he was in charge of St. James' mission, Cumberland Furnace, Tenn. He then became an assistant in St. Peter's church, Roxboro, Philadelphia, and in 1887 he accepted a call to a curacy in Trinity chapel of Trinity church, Manhattan. Later he became an assistant in Emmanuel church, now St. Martin's church, Brooklyn, of which he was elected rector in 1898. In 1898 he went abroad. After his return Mr. Riddell became chaplain to Bishop Charles Grafton of the diocese of Fond du Lac, Wis., and held that office until he again went abroad last year. Mr. Riddell was received into the Roman Catholic church on Holy Saturday. He was an adherent of the high church party and leaned to extreme ritualism.

The Head of St. Agnes.

The Jesuit priest Father Florian Toubarce has discovered in the Church of Sancta Sanctorum a skull believed to be that of St. Agnes. At the bottom of a chest he found a silver casket wrapped in Byzantine cloth of great value. In the casket was a skull and on the outside the inscription "Caput Sanctae Agnes." It had hitherto been believed that the head of St. Agnes was destroyed during the sack of Rome in 1527 by the constable of Bourbon, but since this discovery there is reason for hoping that the treasure of the reliquary in the Church of Sancta Sanctorum, of which the head formed part, has also escaped destruction. The reliquary contained all the relics and most precious valuables of the church of that day.

The Labors of Love.

Healing, consoling, tender to the unfortunate, even to the evil, love engenders light beneath her feet. She clarifies, she simplifies. She has chosen the humblest part—to bind up wounds, wipe away tears, relieve distress, soothe aching hearts, pardon, make peace, yet it is of love that we have the greatest need. And as we meditate on the best way to render thought fruitful, simple, really conformable to our destiny, the method sums itself up in these words: Have hope and confidence; be kind.

Afar Off.

St. John stood by our divine Lord in the great sacrifice of Calvary. Peter and the others stood "afar off." Most young men follow the example of Peter and the others at the holy sacrifice in these days.—Church Calendar of West Virginia.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

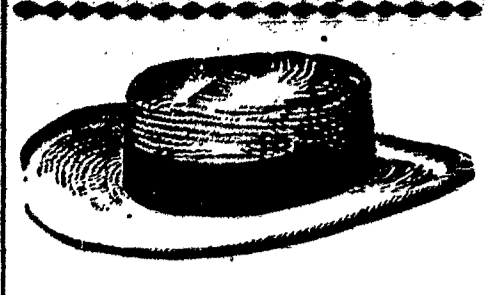
The membership of the Catholic club in New York has reached its constitutional limit of 1,000. There has been recently a large acquisition of non-resident members.

The German Center party, it is announced, will next devote its efforts to securing the return of the Lazarists and Sacred Heart nuns, prohibited by law from entering Germany.

The conversions to Christianity from Mohammedanism and Buddhism last year in all pagan countries are now officially placed at 250,000. Of these the Catholic church received 74 per cent.

The Catholic Democratic league at Liverpool is thinking of taking for one part of its work an agitation in favor of getting the poor out of the great cities and finding that class homes in the country.

Right Rev. Edward J. O'Dea, bishop of Nequally, has announced the removal of the see of his diocese from Vancouver, Wash., where it has been since the diocese was first formed, and to permanent location in Seattle.



Straw Hats Now

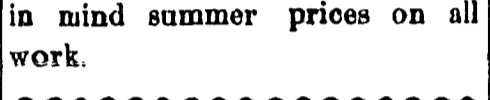
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