

# The Catholic Journal

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT  
 11 Cortland Street, Rochester, N. Y.  
 BY THE  
 CATHOLIC JOURNAL PUBLISHING  
 COMPANY

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 SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
 For Year, In Advance..... \$1.00  
 Entered at second class mail matter.  
 ROCHESTER TELEPHONE 2303  
 Friday, September 27, 1907.

**Good.**  
 It is really an extraordinary compliment which the London "Mail" pays to the Irish race in discussing crime in Ireland. The "Mail" comments: "Crimes against morals are so rare in Ireland that in the western counties of Mayo, Leitrim and Sligo, and also in Cavan, they were fewer during the year 1906 than one offense per 100,000 of the population."  
 It appears that the Blue Book on Irish criminal statistics issued in August not only shows that the Irish do not offend against morals but that "the whole range of indictable offenses was 9,495, which represents a rate of only very little over two offenses (2.2) for every 1,000 of the population. The cases of drunkenness (77,262) were less numerous than in any of the preceding ten years." This is a showing of which the race may be proud, since it is not equaled by that of any other European nation.

**Waking Up.**  
 Plainly the public conscience is waking up to the havoc which lack of respect for the marriage ceremony is playing in our national life. The passage of the Phillips law alluded to elsewhere, by the New York State Legislature; the many sermons from clergymen of all denominations; the frequent discussions of the subject in clerical and lay gatherings of our Protestant friends; all are earnest of quickened interest in the matter.

The Catholic Church has ever stood as a bulwark against the divorce evil, ever proclaimed the sanctity of the marriage relation, ever stood guardian of the home. While she tolerates "mixed marriages" she does not favor them for many reasons, not the least of which is that the non-Catholic party to the ceremony is not bound by the ecclesiastical rule forbidding divorce and remarriage while the Catholic party is.

Pope Pius X has gone a step further, while the Church has regarded marriages outside the Church between a baptized Protestant and a Catholic, as unlawful, yet looked upon them as valid. By the Holy Father's pronouncements, these marriages are not only unlawful but invalid in the eyes of the Church. In order that marriages be considered valid in the eyes of the Church they must be solemnized by a Catholic priest.

When tempted by the specious plea that "it will do no harm to be married by a minister or a justice of the peace," Catholics should bear in mind that such action, in the eyes of the Church, places them in a pale with those who are not married at all.

The Holy Father has taken a step which will redound still more to the unviolability of the marriage tie and the sanctity of the home.

**Congratulations.**  
 The Catholic Journal extends congratulations both to the parishioners in Ithaca and to Rev. William Harrington on the selection of the latter by Bishop McQuaid to fill that irremovable rectorate.

Father Harrington is eminently qualified to occupy the pastorate of so important a parish as the one in Ithaca, the home of a great state university. He is an educated gentleman, a devoted churchman and a loyal son of the Church. That he is able to adapt himself to all that classes with whom he might come in contact was amply demonstrated during his incumbency of the chaplaincy of the State Industrial School. That he is a splendid executive has been proven by his successful administration of the parish in Waterloo.

wish to go away from Waterloo and did his best to avoid the new party" after one loses the savings honor but he was too loyal a churchman to interpose his personal wishes against the desires of his bishop.

Once more we extend hearty congratulations to Rev. William Harrington, M. R.

**Real Problem**  
 In many Catholic papers in circles where Catholic thought is exchanged the opinion is frequently expressed that many thousands of persons are lost to the Catholic church every year who could and should be retained within its fold. Undoubtedly, there is too much truth in this statement but is there not another side? May not "Church Progress" be right when it says:

"A frequent and favorite discussion in certain Catholic circles is that which those participating therein have been pleased to call 'leakage in the Church.' It is just probable, however, that the time occupied in the discussion has been wasted. More than probable that trifles have been greatly multiplied. At all events this position is sustained by existing conditions. It is supported by the statistics which show the Catholic population of the country to have increased from 4,000,000 in 1840 to something like 14,000,000 at the present time. A further evidence is manifested in the unusual and somewhat pressing efforts to reach the people in remote places, who are denied the needs and consolations of the faith.

"If, therefore, there has been a falling away of membership, it has been of inappreciable proportions. It is certainly not of such moment as to be deserving of the discussion which it has provoked. As a matter of fact, the Catholic Church in the United States to-day is experiencing a most astonishing growth. The problem of the day, therefore, for the Church is not how to stop its loss, but how to meet its increase. In old and new fields everywhere churches and schools are multiplying beyond the supply of priests and sisters. Hence the most serious problem of the day for the Church in this country is vocations to the religious life."

**Fellow-Feeling.**  
 Those Rochesterians who put their money into what they supposed was a \$50,000,000 telephone company, only to be told later on that its promoters were mistaken, that the wrong figures had been inserted inadvertently but that if the holders only will send their securities to a reorganization committee, the latter, in due time, will send them back others with the real value—on date of issue inserted—may find grim satisfaction in the reflection that there are others.

There are rumors that the big \$475,000,000 New York traction merger was greatly over-capitalized and must be reorganized. As one of the magazines puts it: "There is a large amount of underlying street railroad stock, solemnly guaranteed to pay seven per cent. yearly dividends, and doubtless extensively purchased by innocent investors on the strength of that guaranty. But the seven per cent, it is said, was a sort of inadvertence. The gentleman who fixed that figure—before selling—guessed wrong. It ought to be only five per cent., or four. Similarly, it is discovered, by careful afterthought, that the four hundred and seventy-five millions of securities are too many by a hundred million or so.

"So the innocent investor, according to the Street, must expect soon to be addressed by a reorganization committee to the following effect: 'We find that the capitalization was quite erroneous. There isn't actually any seven per cent., or any four hundred and seventy-five millions, those numbers having been inserted inadvertently. Therefore, we must wipe the slate and figure again. Kindly send in your securities, and, in due time, we will forward you some others, which we hope, will have some substantial relationship to the values which they purport to bear—but on that point, of course, you must take your chances. To err is human.'"

"Far be it from us to suggest that the traction gentlemen would willfully do anything that tended to the commission of the unpardonable sin of alarming innocent investors. They must see, however, that persons who bought a seven per cent. that turns out to be only a five or four per cent., who took a share in a four-hundred-and-seventy-five million-dollar pot which turns out to be only three hundred million, may reasonably feel somewhat annoyed, if not actually alarmed. If the protests are too strenuous, they can, of course, blame it upon the heinous courses of the Administration."

After all, though there is slight

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