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Time of Crisis.

It may well be feared that we are proceeding at too fast a pace in these days and that a halt should be called. Certainly, the pace of to-day is so strenuous that without a solid foundation of religious and moral training many a human craft is likely to be swamped in the fast-running surf of the sea that kills.

Careful observers of nowadays affect to see a comparison of our mad rush after luxury and new sensations in a return to the days when Rome began to go backward and high living sapped the national vitals. Many persons argue that we are too highly civilized to go the way the Romans did but is that so? When gifted writers who have the entree to the magazines and other periodicals which reach millions of readers openly defend immorality, when publicists, so-called glorify divorce and free-love, when so-called scientists openly approve child-murder on the theory that quality, not quantity is desirable in families, are we not justified in a fear that we are apt to follow in the footsteps of the ancient Romans?

Whither are we drifting?

Courage Needed

We are not of those who would have Catholics go round with chips on shoulders seeking controversy with our non-Catholic friends. We confess that quite often we feel inclined to pass over in silence ill-mannered and ignorant flings at our religion and ourselves, on the theory that this silent contempt is more likely to induce cessation of such attacks than open warfare. But we must confess that we have considerable sympathy with the sentiments put forth by "Truth," the vigorous little magazine sent out by the International Truth Society, when it says:

"Catholic priests and laymen in such States as New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Illinois, can easily dismiss the subject with the comment that 'they guess the Church will survive the onslaught,' but 'Truth' says that is not the point. It quotes from a letter written by a priest in a little Southern town, who declares that the cordial relations between his people and their neighbors have been unduly shattered by a week's lectures by a one who claims to be an ex-priest, a layman of the highest standing recently admitted that his defeat at the polls was entirely owing to the circulation of bogus Papal encyclicals condemnatory of American government and American institutions.

These conditions exist all over the country, and still the Catholic men stand idly by and do not raise a finger to offset them. Why? Are we cowards that we will permit our sisters and our priests to be slandered by a gang of impure-minded preachers whose every thought runs to dirt? Are Catholic men so taken up with the flesh pots that they have no time to give to spreading the truth? Are

we so craven that we can wink at the onslaught of the ungodly and hobnob with the swine who wallow in their own filth? Surely, we are not so dead to our religion as all this.

Practise It.

An exchange tells the story of a young woman who was raised a Catholic, so she said, but is not one now.
"Why are you not one now?" she was asked.
"Oh, I don't live up to its teachings and I am not leading a very good life."
"Don't you ever go to Mass?"
"Well, I go at Christmas and Easter, and that's about all."
"Do you go to confession?"
"No, I don't and I won't either."

These answers tell the story. No one can fail to live a good life if he practises the Catholic religion. No one can avoid leading a careless, useless life who fails to practise his religion. It is impossible for a Catholic to lose his faith if he practises his religion.

Therefore, if we would not heap remorse upon ourselves in latter days, let us practise our religion faithfully and according to the light which is within us.

Blessing Graves

Sunday will take place that beautiful annual ceremony of blessing the graves in Holy Sepulchre cemetery. This is a beautiful custom and one which should interest every Catholic. Scarcely one of us but has a loved one buried in Holy Sepulchre or some other city of the dead. This being so, we should want to help them all we can. And how can we help those gone before better than by offering up for them the sacrifice of the Mass and by praying for the eternal repose of their souls?

The annual ceremony of blessing the graves permits us to join with the Bishop and priests and our other associates in sending up one grand chorus of prayers for the happy deliverance of souls from Purgatory and we all should join in it.
Our non-Catholic friends, even if they cannot comprehend the efficacy of prayers for the dead, nevertheless, appreciate that we do not forget our departed friends and relatives and many of them wish that they could join with us in our prayers. This being so, the greater the number who participate in Sunday's ceremony the grander the sight and the more impressive example we will set to our non-Catholic friends.

A voluminous history of the Catholic Missions in North America has been undertaken by the Rev. Father Ortolan, once superior of the seminary at Ajaccio, Corsica. He is now in Canada, where he is to study on home ground conditions which will assist him in compiling material for his stupendous work.

The King of Saxony, Frederick August, is a Catholic. His brothers, Prince Max, is a distinguished priest. The King occupies the somewhat unusual position of being a Catholic ruler over a Protestant land. Out of a population of about 3,000,000, only about 80,000 are Catholics.

It is stated that a Jewish boy recently won the first prize for the best written translation of a short essay into Irish.

The first explorers of the great rivers of North and South America, the Mississippi, the Amazon, the Orinoco, Plata, Napa were no government agents or representatives of learned societies, but Catholic priests of the religious orders.

"Hustlers," but not "Champs" for Rochester in 1912.

There are in the various missions conducted by the Lazarists: 13 Bishops, 300 missionaries, 195 Brothers, 1,143 European Sisters and about 300,000 Catholics. In 1911 there were 37,000 conversions of infidels and 58,000 baptism of infants.

Says the Watchman [Baptist] of the Catholic Encyclopaedia:—"We take pleasure in again testifying to our high appreciation of the ability, breadth and fairness of the treatment of the various subjects in this work."

Rev. Simon Fitz Simons of Lima, appointed Rector of St. Mary's, this city.

Rev. Simon Fitz Simons, irremovable rector of St. Rose parish, Lima, will become rector of St. Mary's church this city, within a few days' his appointment having been announced by Bishop Thos. F. Hickey.

As the successor to the beloved Father Gleeson, the new rector will be received with the deepest gratification as Father Fitz Simons is one of the best-known and best loved rectors in the diocese.

For twenty years he has been the head of St. Rose's church, and besides being recognized as a priest, he is a writer of marked ability, his writings having been directed against the attacks upon religion leveled by atheists and other fanatics.

Father Fitz Simons was also rector of St. Joseph's church, West Bloomfield, N. Y.

At a recent fire in the Mercy Hospital, Chicago, a still alarm and silent arrival of the fire department prevented a panic.

The law library of the late Judge David H. Belden, for twenty years an occupant of the Superior bench of San Francisco, Cal., was presented to the Institute of Law of Santa Clara University by his widow.



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