

# The Catholic Journal.

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## A Brother's Prayer

In the great city of Chicago one afternoon two Sisters of Mercy on a sick call in their close black bonnets and long cloaks, were passing swiftly along a quiet street. Standing on the steps of a respectable dwelling, watching them coming towards her, was a little girl. As they passed without having noticed her, she sprang after them, and when near enough she whispered:

"Dear ladies, we are not Catholics, but papa is so sick we are afraid he will die, and won't you ask God to spare him to us?"

"Where is he?" said the Sister. "We live there," said the child, pointing to the dwelling which she had just left; "but papa hates Catholics so much that he might frighten you with his temper, and besides he might be angry at me if he thought I asked you in. Just drop in by accident and don't let on you know he is sick."

The Sisters smiled and went their way.

Their errand accomplished, they were on their way back when an inspiration entered the heart of the senior Sister, who said to her companion:

"Here is a soul to save! In the name of our Lord, let us strive for it. We will visit that child's father. Something impels me to do so."

"I have the same thought," said the other. "Let us pray that we may accomplish some good."

In silence they proceeded and soon reached the house. They entered the vestibule and touched the bell. There was no response. Then they knocked gently at the door of a room.

"Come in," said a masculine voice.

They entered, and in the rear of a pleasant apartment, which was fitted up as a bed room, they saw a rather handsome man sitting up in bed and reading a newspaper. He had gone in consumption. At sight of his visitors a furious expression overcame his face, pale and emaciated as it was. Raising his voice, he cursed horribly.

"What are you doing here?" he raved. "Get out of my house! I want none of your kind!"

"I beg your pardon," said the senior Sister. "We were visiting the sick, and hearing you were ill, we thought it would cheer you to receive a friendly call. In a long and weary illness a gentleman like you must miss the activity to which he is accustomed, and be pleased to receive an occasional visitor."

The soft tones of the speaker, her refined manner and quiet disregard of the violence of his reception rather shamed the invalid.

"Well, if you don't talk of any cursed religion I shall tolerate you. That is if you are not after money, for I have none to spare. But I warn you if you talk about religion it will take very little provocation to make me send a bullet into you. I keep this (holding up a revolver) under my pillow to frighten away intruders. I am a sick man, and I won't be irritated."

Showing no sign of fear, and even smiling faintly, the Sister, still standing, replied:

"Oh, we won't talk religion, and we don't want money. We only want to relieve the tedium of a long sickness by some pleasant words and, perhaps, by bringing you something you might like. Sick people, we find, very often relish something that a friend brings more than anything they get at home, no matter how delicious. We have a Sister in our hospital diet kitchen who makes delightful gelatines and jellies. Some day we shall drop in and leave a little for you, if you will accept it."

"If you'll guarantee not to poison me," growled the invalid.

And the Sister smiled, or rather laughed—a short, merry laugh. And it must have been contagious, for the sick man's face wore the ghost of a smile.

"But," continued the Sister, "we have intruded too long. You

must pardon us. We live at the convent, Forty-ninth street, and if you happen to wish us, to call before we come uninvited, just send word. We shall be glad to come. And now good-bye. I do hope you will soon get better."

And the Sister gave her hand to the sick man, and with a sympathizing smile turned towards the door.

As she turned she faced the sick man's wife, who drew back in surprise.

"We have just had a few pleasant words with Mr. T.," said the Sister. "We heard he was sick and were so glad to call. You know it is one of our duties to visit the sick."

"Why," faltered the wife. "I did not know anyone was here. We don't leave my husband alone often."

"Well," said the Sister, "I am afraid we disturbed him some, but he knows now we had the best motives in coming. And we shall pray for him at home every day, that he may not suffer, but soon recover and be about again. Good-bye."

And the Sisters quickly passed out of the house.

"Here is a subject for earnest prayer," agreed the Sisters on their way home. And when they arrived at the convent and told their story earnest and fervent appeals were made in their little chapel that God might take pity on this poor soul.

Sister Esther, who had charge of the visitation of the sick, prayed most of all. She waited day after day, hoping that a spontaneous call would come from the invalid. She felt sure that a spontaneous call would come from the invalid. She felt sure that in his long hours of weariness he would desire some novelty. Why not a visit from the nuns?

Mrs. T. had been a Catholic, but had gradually fallen away from the Church after her marriage. Her husband was a violent hater of all religions, and as for anything Catholic, to mention the word was sufficient to drive him into an insane fury. Indeed, he often flourished his revolver and threatened to shoot and abide by the consequences if religion were mentioned. The wife's surprise, therefore, at seeing the nuns almost took her breath away, and she was cautious never to mention the subject again.

Two weeks had elapsed since the Sister's visit, and Mr. T. was more irritable than ever. Nothing seemed to please him. One sunny day he sat in his chair at the window and saw two Sisters pass along the street. They didn't so much as glance at the house.

"Just like them," snarled the invalid, "after promising to call again, too! Guess I scared them half to death."

"Call again!" exclaimed the wife, quick to catch the note of desire in his voice. "Do you want them to call, Thomas? I think they would be glad to come; at least that Sister said so."

"Then why don't they?" he snapped. "Talk is cheap."

"Suppose I ask them?" said she.

"Don't you dare!" he shouted. "I don't want them."

"Very well, dear," said his wife, and there was a little sigh back of her voice. She knew his thoughts, and she knew her own, but she did not dare express them.

The next morning Mr. T. was a little worse than usual and more irritable.

"Marian," he remarked, "those nuns said something about their hospitals. I wonder if they have any cases like mine there?"

"Surely, Thomas, you don't mean to go to a hospital?"

"Who said I did? But maybe they know something that might relieve this infernal cough. I have rest neither night nor day, and I wouldn't give a button for the doctor's medicine. It has done me no good."

His wife said nothing. What could she say? She and her little daughter were worn out trying to relieve the poor sufferer, who really was greatly to be pitied, especially during his "bad spells." She saw her husband get the telephone book.

"Forty-ninth street," he muttered. "Yes, here it is. Here, Marian, call them up. Say Mr. T. wants those Sisters who called on him to call again."

The amazed wife mechanically took the book and called up the convent. Promptly came the answer:

"Sister Esther will come down to see you this afternoon."

To be continued.

## A Massacre of Lepers in China.

A few weeks ago the daily papers published a short paragraph alluding to the killing of lepers in China. The report had been received through a Catholic priest and the circumstances have since been revealed.

The Foreign Mission Seminary at Maryknoll, (Osining, N. Y.) sends us a summary of what has happened.

It is with mingled horror and indignation that we view the details of the massacre of Chinese lepers, as described for us by the venerable Bishop of the province of Kwang-Si. Nothing can give us a better idea of the distance between Christian civilization and pagan barbarism, and of the enormity of the task which confronts those who would teach the law of the Gospel in heathen lands.

On the morning of the 14th of December, thirty-nine lepers were cruelly murdered in Nanning, the capital of Kwang-Si, at the instigation of the leading men of the city and by order of the president of the province.

For eight years Catholic missionaries had cared for these lepers, who, like hunted beasts, had taken refuge in some woods a short distance from the suburbs of the town. Recently they had bought near this place a plot of ground on which they were erecting a leper hospital. Though they were at first promised the support of the authorities, it soon became evident that the people of the higher classes were opposed to the movement. The missionaries, however, went to the president and pleaded the cause of the lepers. They were received with the greatest courtesy and assurance of official co-operation. Then, like a bolt from heaven, came the news, "All the lepers have been killed."

The confirmation of the report only added more terrible details. A hundred soldiers had surrounded the lepers so that none could escape. Then, driving them like cattle to the slaughter, they plunged them into a trench, the bottom of which was covered with a thick layer of wood. The order "Chal (Kill)" was given and the gun was fired upon the unfortunate victims. Afterwards petroleum was poured over their bodies and the rising flames announced that the "notables" of the city had conquered.

A crowd of people witnessed this inhuman spectacle without a sign of pity and the instigators of the crime have shown no evidences of remorse for their cruelty. They have, on the contrary, started a man-hunt, offering a reward for the disclosure of lepers, who are seized, shot and burned as were those first taken. The government is proud of its exploit and looks for universal approval.

So far removed from our conception of right and wrong is the darkened mind of paganism.

**Gulf Coast Fruit Farms Company**  
References: Mobile Chamber of Commerce, M. F. McDermott, President Bank of Mobile, T. J. Touart, Ass't. Prosecuting Attorney Mobile County, Nicol & Hume Consulting Engineers, Mobile, Ala. Rev. Herman Schmidler, St. Bridgid's Parish, Whistler, Ala.

The E. O. W., Pedro Club played at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Buchan, Wednesday evening. Prizes were won by Mrs. E. J. Ryan and M. J. Cunety. Mr. and Mrs. Cunety will entertain next.

## Banquet and Dance of the Knights of St. John

The first annual banquet of Rochester Regiment, Knights of St. John was held in the Powers Hotel Wednesday night and was enjoyed by 500 members of the organization and their wives and friends. An elaborate seven-course dinner was served to the banqueters at round tables prettily decorated with pink carnations. Zeilner's Orchestra furnished the music, many of the selections being popular airs of the day, with words appropriate to the occasion sung by those present.

Bishop Thomas F. Hickey was the guest of honor and principal speaker.

Bishop Hickey's remarks were of an informal character. He said among other things, that he was glad to attend a large function given by the Knights of St. John as it gave him an opportunity to thank them collectively for the crozier they had given him a few days before his consecration as bishop, eight years ago. He followed that introductory by a short address, in which he reminded the men of the organization that in their social, domestic and political lives they were to be true knights, taking advantage of the various opportunities that came to them—from time to time in the age of unrest and unusual activities, to show to the world that they were loyal to both their country and their religion, and could not be led by the destroying element that was in evidence in these times, threatening the quietness of good government.

Colonel John P. Smith acted as toastmaster and toasts were responded to by Colonel John L. Schwartz of Buffalo, who spoke on "The Knights of St. John," Rev. Matthias J. Hargrath, "Church and Society," Mrs. Teresa M. Renner, supreme president, "The Ladies Auxiliary," and Colonel Frank J. Schwab, "Our Regiment." Dancing followed.

## Death of Frank J. Hughes

Frank J. Hughes, County Purchasing Agent, died at the home of his mother at Selye Terrace, Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock, after lingering between life and death for eight weeks. Mr. Hughes, who was 51 years of age, leaves a mother, Mrs. Julia Hughes; a brother, Oswald V. Hughes; and two sisters, Miss Minnie S. and Helen A. Hughes. He had been in delicate health for a long time. For several years he had been an active member of the Republican organization and it is the opinion of many of his friends that his last illness may be directly traced to his activity in the last campaign.

On January 1, 1908, he became secretary and Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety, under Commissioner Charles S. Owen. He held that position until January 1, 1913, when he resigned to become County Purchasing Agent.

Mr. Hughes was a member and past president of Phi Rho Sigma Fraternity, Wahoo Tribe, I. O. R. M.; Genesee Camp, M. W. of A.; Knights of Columbus and Musa Caravan, Order of Alhambra, Rochester Yacht Club and was a director of the Rochester Humane Society.

The funeral took place Thursday morning at 9 o'clock from the family home and at 9:30 o'clock from the Cathedral. Acting as escorts to the body were Past Grand Knights of the Knights of Columbus, of which Mr. Hughes was one, and Fourth Degree Knights, as well as officers of Rochester Council, the Union Club and the Alhambra.

In addition, seats were reserved for the Cathedral School alumni, Rochester council, Knights of Columbus, city officials, county officials, the Red Men, Modern Woodmen of the World, the Humane Society and the Rochester Yacht Club. The members of the Board of Supervisors attended the services at the church in a body.

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## Catholic News Notes

It is said that Cardinal Gibbons' world-wide work, "Faith of Our Fathers," has had a sale of over 1,100,000 copies.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Boston has been raised to the rank of a Metropolitan council with the jurisdiction over New England, and no longer subordinate to the New York council.

In Mason City, Ia., the Sisters of Mercy contemplate the building of a \$100,000 hospital.

St. Joseph's church, Needham, Mass., took fire from squirrels chewing the insulation of wires and was destroyed at a loss of \$35,000.

The damage to the Dayton Catholic Church buildings is estimated at \$18,000. Water in Holy Trinity Church was six feet in depth; the altar floating to the middle of the church.

Cardinal Gibbons has received a handsome photograph of former President Taft, bearing complimentary sentences and autograph of the sender.

In Chicago, two Redemptorist Fathers, Rev. H. Meyer and Rev. Charles Meyer, ordained by Archbishop Kenrick in Baltimore, have just celebrated their golden jubilee.

The fund for the building of the new St. Agnes' Home for foundlings, at Hartford, now has reached a total of \$2,277. It is announced that Rt. Rev. John J. Nilan, D. D., will lay the cornerstone on May 30.

Very Rev. A. E. Otis, S. J., has been made rector of Loyola University, New Orleans. He was rector of St. Mary's University, Galveston.

The Peoria Catholic diocesan orphanage, founded by Archbishop Spaulding, at Metamora, Ill., in 1877, is to be transferred to Peoria and enlarged.

Rt. Rev. Mgr. George W. Devine, rector of St. John's church, Baltimore, celebrated his silver jubilee last week. One feature of the program was the "children's day," when Cardinal Gibbons spoke to 1,200 little ones gathered to honor their pastor.

The Rocky Mountains Catholic Coeur d'Alene Indians, 600 in all, receive holy communion on the first Friday of every month.

The new home for Catholic working girls at Milwaukee is to be known as St. Catherine's. City treasurer Joseph P. Carney is chairman of the committee that is arranging to finance the institution.

The new combined chapel, school and society hall of St. Joseph's parish, Frackville, Pa., of which Rev. Thomas J. Hurton is pastor, will be dedicated by Most Rev. E. F. Prendergast, D. D., on Sunday, May 18.

The Church in Montreal will have to erect eleven more schools to relieve the present congestion.

The Nova Scotia annual pilgrimage to St. Anne de Beaupre will take place on June 24th next under Fr. Monbourquette's management.

The University of Breslau, Germany, has conferred the degree of Doctor of Theology on the aged Franciscan Father Lambert Schulte, Ph. D., and rector of the Royal Gymnasium.

## News From Ireland

Mathew Walsfield of 16 West-end Cottages, St. Luke's, died an engine-driver, was accidentally killed on the night of the 21 at Thurles railway station in County Down.

During a recent violent storm in Mid-Cork a flash of lightning struck the roof of a dwelling in Ballyhoura of a man some Connor and hurled a dramatic fall of ware to the ground.

Died.—Recently Mr. McQuinn, Drogheda, was killed by a train at Lough Linnagh, Drogheda.

The death has occurred at Maynooth, Co. Wick, of Miss Anna Malton, daughter of Mr. Malton, from an attack of influenza which she contracted some weeks ago when visiting a friend at her home. She had been stricken with the illness several days before her death.

Dr. Peter H. Langan has been appointed medical officer of the Mater Hospital, Dublin.

The death of Sister Mary Augustine Lyons took place on March 19 at the Convent of the Sisters of Charity, Upper Gardiner Street, Dublin.

Rev. Anthony Waters, Rector, has been presented to the rectory of Killybeggs, Co. Wick, in succession to the late Rev. J. Kelly.

Considerable damage was done by a fire which occurred on March 19 in the basement of the St. Peter's, Church, Drogheda.

A home attached to a property of John Kelly, of the city, was destroyed by a fire which occurred on March 19. The fire was caused by a gas stove which had been left burning.

A French sailing vessel, "Alberic," bound for London, was wrecked on the coast of Ireland on March 19. The vessel was carrying a cargo of goods and passengers.

Patrick O'Connell, son of the late Michael O'Connell, was ordained a priest on March 19 at his farm at Ballymore, Co. Wick.

A sad tragedy occurred in the Redemptorist church in the early morning hours of March 21. Miss Hayer, Catherine G., who had received holy communion at the church, was just after returning from the rail when she was struck by a train and killed.

John Scanlan, Kilkeel, has been appointed master of the Lough Linnagh workhouse, in succession to Mr. Farrell who resigned on pension.

A middle-aged woman named Johanna Dordy, of Cranston, was burned to death in her home on March 20.

A farm of land at Gawn, near Thurles, was sold by auction on March 15 for \$230, which is almost 100 years' purchase of the annuity, \$2 3s 4d.

The following deaths have taken place: March 26, Mrs. E. Ryan Doonish; March 20, Miss Kate Kertin, College St.; Chalmers; recently, Mrs. O'Farrell, Bar-Rack St. Cahir.

The personal estate of the late P. J. Power, M. P., has been proved for probate at \$5,748.

Died.—March 17, Bridget wife of James Sheehy, Drogheda, Ballyporeen, mother of the Rev. Patrick Sheehy, C. C., Clonsilla, March 16, at 20 Bernick street, Waterford, Mrs. Ellen March Walsh; March 21, James Henry French street, Waterford.