

# The Catholic Journal.

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## The Apostle of His Family

Percy Brown, without doubt, is in Heaven with the angels and saints. Indeed, his short career was so unusual that he deserves a place among God's apostles.

When a little fellow of five years he was a frequent visitor at a neighbor's house next door to his own Protestant home. And for this reason, in one of the rooms of this good Catholic family there hung a large and beautiful picture of the crucifixion of Our Lord. It was something new and strange to Percy, and the very first time he saw it he demanded an explanation, which was given with due deference to the supposed infantile intelligence of the inquirer. He was awed and impressed and constantly spoke about it at home. He was not understood, of course, and no attention was paid to his prattling. His visits to the picture continued, however, and the good mother of the Catholic home instinctively felt that there was something unusual about Percy. His two brothers took him to the public school when he was a little over six years old. But he was not satisfied there, and left after a few days, and without the knowledge of his parents, went to the parochial school with a little Catholic friend of his own age. His brothers mentioned the matter at home, but when Percy seemed so happy his parents said it "made no difference," and permitted him to continue.

The next year, during the Ember Days of September, the younger children of Saint Mary's school were prepared for first confession. Percy, who had learned his Catechism and the method of confessing, marched to the church with the rest and took his place near the box.

A lady who was making a visit to the Blessed Sacrament in the church had her attention attracted to the children and was surprised to see the little "Protestant boy," who had never been baptized, seated with the Catholic children before the "box." She knew Percy fairly well, and was quite a friend to the little boy; in fact, the picture of the Crucifixion to which we have referred was in her house. She immediately spoke to the Sister in charge of the class.

"Sister, isn't that Percy Brown?"

"Yes; Percy is going to make his first confession. He is well prepared."

"But, Sister, don't you know every one belonging to him is Protestant? Why, the child has never been baptized in any church."

"What!" exclaimed the Sister, turning pale, "Percy not a Catholic—not baptized, you say?"

"He is not a Catholic and has never been baptized," repeated the lady. "I live next door."

The Sister lost no time in going over to Percy and telling him that he could not go to confession—that she did not know that he was not a Catholic. The effect upon Percy was startling.

"Oh! Sister," he sobbed, "I am a Catholic. I do want to go and tell my sins. I ain't a Protestant."

His grief was heart-breaking. The children all stood up and looked at the little fellow, thinking he was reprov'd for some misdemeanor; and the priest, hearing the noise, came out of the confessional and asked what was the matter. The Sister told him. Looking at the tear-stained little face and the swimming blue eyes, the priest smiled and said:

"Why, my boy, what is the reason you want to go to confession?"

"To tell my sins," said the little six-year old, between his sobs.

"But your sins cannot be forgiven by absolution. You have never been baptized."

"Well, then, baptize me, Father, and let me go to confession!"

The priest hesitated. The little face was thoughtful, even though

drenched with tears.

"Well, you may come into the confessional. But you must stop crying and not distract your companions." And the priest returned to the box.

Percy was quiet at once, and when his turn came he went into the confessional. When he came out he went straight to the altar, kneeling and kneeling there in prayer. As he left the church he said to the Sister: "I'm going to bring my mother to Father—tomorrow. I am going to be baptized a Catholic."

The Sister was rather surprised at the emphasis of the little fellow, and said warningly: "Don't make your mother angry, Percy. You ought to wait until you are older."

"But suppose I should die!" said the little philosopher. "You told us yourself, Sister, we would never see God without being baptized."

The Sister acknowledged the fact, but not wishing to cause trouble in a Protestant household, told Percy to say a fervent prayer before he asked his mother.

What Percy told his mother we do not know, but the very next afternoon she came to the rectory with Percy.

She explained that the boy gave her no peace, insisted on being baptized, and was so serious and earnest that she and his father saw no great harm in gratifying him; and she asked the priest to baptize him. Percy was radiant with joy. The good pastor baptized him, and the mother with a few others who were present watched the ceremonial.

Percy received the name of Joseph, and was so delighted that he would answer to nothing else, except from his father, who always called him Percy.

He bought a small crucifix and wore it around his neck, and continued his attendance at Saint Mary's School. He was obedient and attentive and possessed the usual amount of boyish liveliness. After a year or two he began to tease his mother about his two brothers. He told her that they would never go to Heaven if they were not baptized, and he continually spoke of the beautiful instructions and the many interesting things that happened at the parish school. In the end he persuaded her to send the other two boys to Saint Mary's with him.

The Sisters were surprised and delighted one morning to see his two elder brothers (not much older to be sure), and have them placed on the school roll. This young apostle never ceased until he obtained their consent and that of their parents to their baptism, and both boys received the sacred waters of regeneration. They appreciated the grace that was given to them through their little brother and they loved him with an extraordinary tenderness, in which all at home shared. In due time all three were confirmed and made their First Holy Communion.

Percy now became an altar boy and his piety and diligence were remarkable. He had an altar erected in his little bedroom at home, where he hung his precious crucifix and all the medals and sacred pictures he received at school. One day his father, annoyed at some childish misdemeanor, commanded him to take "that Popish trumpery" down. "If you don't," said the angry man, "I'll throw the whole business into the fire and take you from that Papist school."

Percy stood still, as if he were rooted to the spot. Then the large tears gathered in his eyes and he rolled down his cheeks and his frame shook with emotion. He fell on his knees.

"Papa! Papa!" he cried, "you will break your little boy's heart. Oh! papa, you don't know how good they make me."

The father's heart was touched to see his darling boy, his favorite son, in anguish. He lifted him up and told him that he might keep his pictures and stuff. But as Percy nestled to his father's breast his heaving bosom and convulsive sobs showed

how the little heart was wounded.

After that his father never permitted him to be crossed in his piety or his "religious notions," as he called them. Percy was frail, and to his parents he seemed like an angel, too sweet and rare to belong to this earth—his face was so pure and spiritual, his sayings so unusual, "old-fashioned," as they phrased it.

After Percy left school he went to learn a trade, and sometimes had to make great efforts and even sacrifices to hear Mass on Sundays and receive the sacraments. On one occasion he was detained late on Saturday night and he overcame his mother not to let him oversleep himself.

"You know, mother," he said, "Catholics commit a mortal sin if they stay away from Mass on Sunday."

His mother promised, but when she went to call him he looked so weary and slept so soundly she "had not the heart" to rouse the poor boy. When he awoke and found the lateness of the hour he rushed out of the house without his breakfast and ran from church to church, only to find even the last Mass almost over. He returned home dejected and sad over "this accident," and his mother assured him she would never disappoint him again. It was then that Percy asked her to go with him on Sundays, and to please him she consented, and later accompanied him to Mass. One grace led to another, and before the end of the year she was baptized and made her profession of faith.

Percy's whole heart was now set on the conversion of his father. But this seemed an impossibility. Mr. Brown had not interfered nor made objections when the rest of the family followed Percy, but no example nor precept seemed to effect him. He was a good man, as far as honesty and morals go, but he had no use for special piety or religion. Percy grew more fervent, more prayerful. We know not the thoughts that filled his innocent heart, but we know that his health began to decline. He was not nineteen, yet it was evident he had not long to live. Work was performed given up and he had remained at home. Patient, gentle, uncomplaining, he prayed and read and became the object of the tenderest love and care.

One day he came on his father sitting on the back porch with his own little Catechism in his hand. The boy said nothing, but his heart gave a great bound of joy.

"Bring him to the faith, Lord, and take my poor life," he murmured.

It was not long before the propitious moment came. His father knew what was passing in the boy's mind and had set to work to learn something of the religion which surrounded him with such peace and content. He felt that his cherished son was praying for him—may, might be offering up his pure life for him. He resisted grace no longer. He spoke to a priest, was instructed and baptized and he became a member of the Holy Catholic Church.

Percy's soul was filled to the brim with holy joy. He lay on his couch, white and wan, but overflowing with happiness. He felt he was dying, but oh! it was easy now to die, when those he loved—mother, father, two brothers—were bound close to him by a common faith and would be with him in the spirit world by the consoling doctrine of the communion of saints. And one day when they gathered round his bed and watched the death damp gather on his forehead he smiled an angel's smile on their bleeding hearts and fled away to receive the crown of an apostle.

Oh! can we doubt that his spirit still hovers over them and helps them to bear life's trials and its pains? "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, for their works live after them."—The Rev. Richard W. Alexander in The Helper.

Send us your printing.

## News From Ireland Catholic News Notes

Joseph Kelly, principal of Cree National school, County Clare, has been promoted to the first division of first grade.

Dr. Harry Counihan has been elected medical officer of the Ennis State reformatory, in succession to his late brother, Dr. Randall Counihan. He is a son of Dr. J. F. Counihan, J. P., Killrush.

Joseph J. Healy, Queenstown, has been appointed a magistrate. P. Hennessy, of Castlemary, has recently been appointed to the magistracy of County Cork.

After a term of postal service extending over many years, P. Joyce, postmaster, Bagnalstown, has just retired.

The County Derry Committee of Agriculture has unanimously appointed Miss Agnes Breslin as instructor in buttermaking for the County.

The people of Milford, County Donegal, sincerely regret the loss their community has sustained by the death, which took place on March 28, of J. A. Diamond, a popular J. P. of that district.

Rev. Canon Arthur McQuade, M. A., rector of the parish of Kiltavock, Stranorlar, in the diocese of Raphoe, has been unanimously selected as rector of the parish of Drumragh, Omagh, to succeed Rev. Canon Babington, new Dean of Cork.

The death has taken place of Edward Parkinson, solicitor, Downpatrick. The deceased was devoted to antiquarian research, and was a recognized authority on local history.

The great tide of emigration has again started in County Galway, and daily the numerous railway stations present the now familiar picture of the life blood of the nation going to enrich that greater Ireland beyond the Atlantic.

The death is announced at the Athy Convent of Mercy, in the fifty-third year of her religious profession, of Sister Mary Joseph Maguire, whose devoted and successful labors on behalf of religion and education won for her general esteem.

The death has taken place of Mrs. Mary Geraghty, Ballymore, at the advanced age of 102 years.

The body of William Dorman, a deck hand on the SS. Shannon near the quays at Limerick on March 28. At an inquest subsequently held a verdict of death from drowning was returned.

The funeral of the late Right Rev. Mgr. O'Neill, P. P., Clones, took place amid general manifestations of regret, and a large number of clergy and sympathizers were present at the obsequies in the Sacred Heart church, Clones.

Nurse A. O'Farrell has been unanimously elected night nurse in the infirmary of Ballinasloe Union.

There was no criminal business for disposal at the Boyle Quarter Sessions and Judge Wakely, who was presented with white gloves expressed pleasure at the crimeless condition in which he found the Boyle Division of Roscommon.

In the Convent of St. Camillus-Kilkenny, Miss Kitty O'Neill, second daughter of Captain Mathew O'Neill, Maudlinton, Wexford, was received into the Order of St. John of God. Miss O'Neill's name in religion is Sister Bernadette. The ceremony, which was private, was performed by the Most Rev. Dr. Brownrigg, Lord Bishop of Ossory.

Died.—Hardy, on March 25, at his residence, O'Connell St., Geo. son of William Hardy.

## St. Mary's, H. N. S. Hold Banquet

The annual dinner of St. Mary's Holy Name Society was held Tuesday evening in the Marine Hotel, Boston. President Thomas A. Marakis acted as toastmaster, and in his address said that the Holy Name societies in Boston have been looted and a convent burned.

Rev. C. A. McKenna, C. S. C., New York City, held the 25th anniversary of the society more than 25 years ago. Bishop Thomas J. Gibbons was guest of honor and gave a short address. The other guests were Robert J. Power, chairman, secretary, and vice president.

St. Thomas College, at St. Paul, Minn., will have an armory and clubhouse costing \$70,000.

The beginning of a new Church of the Ascension, 160 feet deep, 85 feet wide at the center, and 120 in width at the front, in Philadelphia, was made on April 1st.

At the Chicago railway stations, day and night, Catholic women of the Protectorate are stationed to meet homeless and penniless women and girls arriving in that city.

The Good Shepherd Sisters will establish a house in Galveston, Texas.

The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Philadelphia have secured the fine residence, No. 2018 Green street, for a convent for the sisters who are teaching in the Catholic Girls High School.

In the Archdiocese of Milwaukee there are 43,121 Catholic families.

In two years the Church in Kentucky will commemorate and celebrate the centenary of the cornerstone laying of its historical first Cathedral, at Bardonia, and in five years, the centenary of its Solemn Consecration.

In the College of the Christian Brothers at Memphis, a wireless station has been installed by Brother Berchmans.

While the fine new Cathedral at St. Paul, Minn., will not be completed this year, its opening or dedication will take place this year—probably towards its end.

The Archbishop of Dubuque will spend \$400,000 on St. Joseph College in that city.

A parish for Mexican Catholics has been formed at Sherman, Texas.

The Indian population of Nueva Segovia in the Philippine Islands number 400,000, of which 12,000 are Catholic.

At Drumcondra, Ireland, the Carmelite Fathers have St. Joseph's Asylum for blind men.

A Chinese Sister recently made her religious profession in Rome.

The municipal elections in Vienna resulted in an overwhelming victory for the Christian Socialists.

Dr. Marchiafavo, physician to the Sovereign Pontiff, Pius X, in an address on alcohol, warns mothers that they poison the unborn child and the nursing baby by intoxication.

The Trappist Fathers are rebuilding a new church at their monastery, Woodleigh, near Kingsbridge, England.

This year's German Catholic Congress will be held in Muenster, Westphalia, next year's, most probably in Munich.

The Church in Hungary has lost a great lay leader in the death of the Marquis Eduard Palavicini. He was an all-sided man in

## 16,067,985 Catholics in This Country

New York, April 22.—There are 16,067,985 Catholics in the United States, according to the advance sheets of the 1914 edition of "The Official Catholic Directory," published by the National Council of the Bishops of the United States. An increase of 312,837 Catholics has been reported since 1913 is indicated.

This increase is, according to Joseph H. Meyer, the editor-in-chief of the directory, the result of the complete reports of the National Council of the Bishops for the time all of the Bishops' statistics are included in the annual "The Official Catholic Directory" for 1914 is registered with the Census Bureau. Its summary there are 16,067,985 Catholics in the United States, an increase of 312,837 over the year. Among these 16,067,985 Catholics there are 4,364 priests of religious orders.

The directory further reports that 839 churches were established in 1913, the total number of Catholic churches in this country being 14,651. Of these 9,740 have resident pastors, and 4,911 churches attended from neighboring parishes.

The directory also shows that there are 24,254,000 Catholics in the United States and its possessions.

This figure is derived by adding the Catholics in Alaska, the Canal Zone, Guam, the Hawaiian Islands, Porto Rico and the Philippines to the total number of Catholics in the United States proper.

Weekly Church Calendar  
Third Sunday after Easter  
Gospel, St. John xvi, 16-22

\$3 Patronage of St. Joseph  
M 4 St. Monica, W.  
T 5 St. Pius V., P. C.  
W 6 St. John before the Latin Gate

Th 7 St. Stanislaus, B. M.  
F 8 Apparition of St. Michael  
S 9 St. Gregory Nazianzen.

A Good Time to Study  
There is no better time to pursue a course of study in the commercial branches and shorter than during the summer months. The attendance at the L. L. Williams Commercial School is usually smaller than during the winter months, but the advantages are equal and in some respects better than at other seasons. Next Monday will bring quite a number of new pupils which will be a good time to be in.

27 Church St., Rochester