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Twenty-Six Years
 Last week marked the completion of twenty-five years of newspaper existence by the Catholic Journal. With this issue we begin the twenty-sixth.

This paper has seen the first bishop of Rochester pass to his reward and his successor take up the work. It started about the time Bishop McQuaid was ready to launch St. Bernard's Seminary and what a success it has proven!

The Catholic Journal has seen the Catholic Church in America grow to such proportions that we now have three members of the college of Cardinals where we formerly had but one. We have seen Rochester's parochial school system grow apace. We have seen Rochester's population doubled.

The Catholic Journal was started in the Pontificate of Leo XIII. We chronicled his death and the crowning of his successor. Within a few weeks we chronicled the passing away of Pope Pius X and the election of Benedict XV.

So the paper goes on day after day. We have tried our best to give the Catholics of Rochester an up-to-date, reliable Catholic newspaper. Our successful existence proves that our readers appreciate our efforts. To them and to the business men of Rochester who have aided us by their advertising patronage we return grateful appreciation and promise to continue to serve them in the future even better than in the past.

Real Offenders
 "Keep religion out of politics" is the cry of the Guardians of Liberty, the Knights of Luther, the Orangemen and the other anti-American organizations which are rampant these days.

That fine sounding slogan in the opinion of those eminent gentlemen, means just this: that Catholics, should not be permitted to hold office, no matter how well qualified they may be or how irreproachable their private character may be.

Very pertinent is the comment of the St. Louis Church Progress:—

Do these people figure that Catholics are irrevocably committed to the practice of keeping religion out of politics? Do they imagine that we will and must submit to being assaulted in our civil and religious rights without resenting it? Do they think that neither question nor occasion can arise when the Catholic ballot is affected by religious considerations? If so, they are sadly mistaken.

Political questions and the social and economic policies of political parties sometimes involve grave moral issues wherein the parties are at variance with Catholic doctrine. In such cases Catholics must be at variance with the opposing party and withhold their support.

Then in the matter of assaulting Catholics in their civil and religious rights: Isn't it a species of insanity to expect the political support of Catholics under such

conditions? And if they should combine their political strength to right the wrong, who can blame them? Are they not merely availing themselves of the only legitimate and recognized remedy permitted them under our form of government? What other remedy has any citizen or class of citizens under the law but resort to the ballot?

Officeholders and office-seekers here in Missouri and elsewhere in the country should get this view of the matter firmly fixed in their convictions. Catholics always have persistently kept religion out of politics. But if officeholders and office-seekers, by flagrant acts of political proscription and more despicable assaults upon the civil and political rights of Catholics, compel the latter to vote as they pray, officeholders and office-seekers must abide the political consequences without complaining.

The Right Line.
 Paul Bakewell, an attorney of St. Louis, has begun a line of attack upon the Menace in consonance with what we have advocated—calling upon the United States Post office Department to forbid the publishers of obscene publications to circulate the same through the medium of the mails.

There is absolutely no doubt that the Menace in the eyes of many citizens is an obscene publication. This must be proven in the eyes of the law; that is, it must be demonstrated to be "legally obscene" under the provisions of the Federal statutes. This may seem like splitting hairs but technicalities often constitute the refuge of the weak-hearted and the scoundrel.

Mr. Bakewell proceeds along legal lines entirely and proves, to the satisfaction of every sane-minded man, that the Menace is an obscene publication not only in the eyes of the man on the street but in the eyes of the law. He cites decision after decision, ruling after ruling, where not only the Federal courts but the Post Office department itself has forbidden the use of the mails to publications not nearly as filthy in tone as the Menace. Mr. Bakewell also points out that the Menace publishes obscene advertisements and hence should be forbidden the use of the mails. Rulings and statutes are cited to uphold this contention.

Here is the only sentence in Mr. Bakewell's letter or brief, which is not legal in tone and phrase and we think it contains a most commendable sentiment which we hope may prevail here and so we republish it here.

I am writing this letter to you in my capacity as a citizen of the United States, who is a Catholic, and I propose to have this letter published as an open letter to you, and shall do all in my power to see to it that this letter of mine receives very general circulation, with a view of arousing not only Catholic sentiment in this country against these infamous publications above referred to, but also to arouse a public feeling among those of our fellow citizens who are not of the Catholic faith but who respect the law, abhor scurrilous, indecent and defamatory publications, and who love decency, justice and fair play.

Direct Primary
 Now that the first statewide direct primary is over we venture the opinion that not many, outside the regular practical politicians has any great regard for the new direct primary law.

It was claimed that a direct primary would "return power to the people," and eliminate political bosses.

The way it works out in real operation indicates very plainly that the bosses have little or nothing to fear from direct primaries. Unless the bosses fall out they can win just as easily under the new law as under the old.

Moreover, the law plainly permits, indeed it does shift responsibility for results from the bosses to the people themselves.

Prayers For Peace

Parochial Letter from
Bishop Hickey.

A parochial letter to the priests of the diocese as a message of paternal regard on his return from his pilgrimage to Rome, has been addressed by Bishop Hickey. The letter directs that Sunday, October 4, will be set aside as a day to express gratitude for the selection of a new Pope, and that on this day a solemn Te Deum shall be chanted in all the churches of the diocese.

The letter also directs that beginning, October 1, and until further notice, prayers of peace will be said at all masses where the rubrics permit, and that wherever possible solemn exposition of the Blessed Sacrament be had on each Friday in October, and that the people be exhorted to pray for peace. The letter follows:

"Dear Reverend Father:
 Within the past few weeks there have been recorded events of such serious importance to the world at large and to the Catholic Church in particular that we feel called upon to address to our clergy and laity a message of paternal regard on our return from the prescribed visit to the Tombs of the Apostles Peter and Paul at Rome, the center of the authority of Christ's Church on earth.

"It was with feelings of filial devotion and reverent affection that we knelt at the feet of the great Pontiff, Pius X, and placed before him the records of our diocese, together with the offering of the homage of the Bishop, priests and people.

"With mingled feelings of joy and sorrow we recall, and ever will cherish, the loving message which He sent to those confided to our care and with what tenderness of soul He charged us to bear to all his fatherly and apostolic blessing.

"In a space of time so brief that it is difficult to realize it, that illustrious and fruitful life came to an almost sudden close, and Pius X is now held in loving and grateful memory. Amid the strife and storms of war which even now hold the destinies of Europe in the balance and shake the foundations of the progress of the world, Cardinal Della Chiesa, Archbishop of Bologna, was elected Pope in the Conclave of Cardinals and took the name of Benedict XV.

"Already the world has been informed about the new Pontiff, and has realized that in the successor to Pius X the church has for its chief ruler and shepherd a profound scholar, an experienced statesman, a zealous and devout churchman and a valiant champion of the rights of God's kingdom on earth.

"In the spirit of loyal attachment and affection toward the Holy See, we took an early opportunity, on the return to our Diocese, to cable to the Holy Father the expression of filial reverence and devotion of the Bishop, clergy and laity of the Diocese of Rochester together with the assurance of our prayers that God would bless the reign of the new Pontiff for many years.

"We are happy and grateful to announce that in response to our message the Holy Father sends to us, to our clergy and laity through His Eminence, the illustrious Secretary of State, Cardinal Ferrata, a most gracious acknowledgment, and from his heart bestows upon us the Apostolic Benediction.

"In order, therefore, that we may suitably unite throughout the Diocese in gratitude to God for the happy selection of our Most Holy Father, Benedict XV, we direct that on Sunday, October 4, a solemn Te Deum be chanted in all the churches and public oratories of the Diocese at the close of the parochial mass and that the priest and people recite the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Litany of Loretto for the intention that God may grant to our newly elected Pontiff many years of fruitful reign over the flock committed to His care. Let our prayers also ascend to heaven that God may grant to Christ's Vicar on earth wisdom and strength to meet and still the storms that are now filling with horror the souls of men.

"To this end we order that, beginning with the first day of October till further notice, the prayer 'Pro Pace' be said at all

the masses in which the present Rubrics permit, and that wherever possible in the churches of the Diocese, solemn exposition of the Blessed Sacrament be had on each Friday of October, from the close of the parochial mass to the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the evening, and that the faithful be exhorted to attend during the hours of exposition as generously as possible to pray the God of nations that He may quickly bring peace and tranquility to the world.

"Begging God to bless abundantly you and your congregation."
 "Very sincerely in Christ,
 "THOMAS,
 "Bishop of Rochester."

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