

# The Catholic Journal.

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## The Little Brown Madonnas

Continued from last week  
"Ah, a Madonna?" said the master, putting on those ominous eye-glasses which to his pupils were maddening symbols, outward signs of his relentless, critical faculty. And that tone of voice! Not often had Claire been subjected to it. But it had often frozen the hearts of the other students with its very refinement of skeptical criticism.

"Yes, a Madonna," Claire resolutely reaffirmed, "inspired by one of the Porto Rican women, on the steps of a church. It is to be in bronze, so I used the brown clay."

"Ah," responded Signor Bartello, in a tone which distinctly intimated that he had heard the statement without being irresistibly convinced by it. He looked more closely at the little figures—and with a little less of what his pupils called his "professional hauteur." In a more endurable tone he began:

"Why not just 'Motherhood'—or 'Mother and Child'?"

"Why not 'Madonna'?" asked Claire, facing him with that frankness and independence which, combined with her respect for the older artist's opinions, had always won both fondness and admiration. With the frankness and directness which, on the other hand, always characterized Signor Bartello's judgments, now came the answer:

"Because it is not a Madonna, dear young lady!"

"But that's what it's meant to be. I deliberately made a Madonna," Claire insisted, a frown, half-nettled, half-puzzled on her brow.

"Not quite a Madonna," mused the older artist, regarding the little clay models more amiably. "If not, why not? Can't any but Catholics make Madonnas?" Claire queried with as much seriousness as humor in the question.

"Not quite a Madonna," continued the Signor's soliloquy, ignoring for the time Claire's question. "Not quite a Madonna. A perfectly good dear little mother and a lovely child—yes! The child is better than the mother, though she is good—as a dear little human mother. But not Madonna!"

"Wasn't Mary that, just human?"

"That, of course—but somewhat more!" answered Signor Bartello, smiling.

"I thought that was what was considered the charm of the old masters—the human, the real, note of their great works."

"Ah, so they say, so they say! But it was not exactly so. Those old ones—they knew the secrets. A different motherhood, for instance, they knew was needed in their Madonnas than in their pictures of other lovely signoras—of your mother, or mine; different from what most modern artists realize—so it is we get few more great Madonnas."

"I don't see," began Claire—"No, that's just it. We don't see nowadays as the older ones saw. But the lack is less in seeing than in thinking. We cannot get beyond our own thoughts. We have to go further—into the thoughts of the masters or into thoughts and feelings as great as theirs if we would make great Madonnas, or for that matter great children like the Della Robbia, or great saints like those in bronze and marble in and outside the great churches of the old world."

Grievously disappointed, Claire stood a few moments in silence. Without realizing all the import of what her old teacher had said, she knew that the proofs were on his side—that there was indeed a different mood in the work of the earlier men and that of most of the moderns. Yet she did not see why, when given the subject of a Madonna or any other figure of religious associations; why, then, could not an artist with sufficient technique fashion the same with his clay or his pigments? She had certainly meant

to make a Madonna and had thought that she had fairly well accomplished her intention. And yet, as Signor Bartello talked she began to be skeptical. Just what was it that he found lacking?

"I'm sorry you don't like them," she remarked as the Signor took up his hat and gloves preparatory to departure.

"Like them? I love them," he cordially declared.

"But they are not Madonnas," murmured Claire disconsolately.

"No, not Madonnas, but very dear little mothers."

"But I wanted Madonnas. What can I do with them?"

Signor Bartello paused and looked at her, finally answering:

"For once I cannot tell you. Think, think!—that may help."

"It sounds like 'Watch and pray,'" said Claire, laughingly assuming equanimity—if she had it not.

"That is nearer my meaning. And in general, a good counsel of perfection for artists," the older sculptor added as he bowed across the threshold.

As Claire closed the door she felt more than ever how woefully far apart were their points of view, their intellectual and spiritual range—hers and her old teacher's. Oh, of course, that was to be expected as he was a noted artist and she but a tyro compared with him. Nevertheless because she was so aspiring and so earnest a young pilgrim on Art's long road, she now knew a moment of discouragement. She went over and looked again at the statuettes. Down, down, down went her conceit in them. And though by no means a person addicted to yielding to "temperament"—that melody so much less incident to the true artist than to dilettante—she was now genuinely discouraged. She turned briskly from her work and put on her hat and coat. An energetic walk was an absolutely reliable remedy for the megrims.

With her strong young lines as vigorous as those of some of her own sculptures, she swung around a few blocks, and so homeward through a city park whither she often went for a last glimpse of daylight through some handsome old trees.

As she emerged from the park her path led past the Jesuit church. She had occasionally visited this—its architecture was so good; its main altar was particularly beautiful; its Stations of the Cross were far more worthy of their august story than is sometimes the case. Though not a Catholic, Claire had considerable feeling for the symbols and ritual of the Church. Her native artistic sense approved of ceremonials as fitting forms for the expression of religious emotion. She could understand how the "Ages of Faith" had created the great cathedrals and other immortal works of sacred art. She rather liked stopping in for Vespers or, as this was afternoon, when no service was in progress. The quiet, the dimly lit spaces, the sanctuary lamp like an ever warm heart—all soothed her, inducing a mood of deep if not definitely formulated feeling. It was a sense of "home," intensified—an intimate peace-bringing influence for which Claire was always grateful.

This afternoon most particularly was she aware of the Church's spell upon her; its atmosphere enveloped her and put the last touches of readjustment to the tranquilizing influence of her walk. She entered, as was her custom, one of the lower seats in one of the side aisles. There she sat for several moments, resting from her rapid walk, letting the place work its singular charm upon her. Daylight was taking its final leave of the long aisles and the upper spaces. But Claire loved the way in which the sanctuary lamp and the smaller lights at the side altars made here and there soft masses of dim light and deep shadow. Her eyes and feeling at such time knew an impression nowhere else experienced, yet far indeed from any sentimental gloaming mood.

To be continued

The diocese of Pittsburgh has just held a triennial Synod.

## News From Ireland

The Dunville Art Scholarship has been awarded to W. C. Harvey, and the Sorolla Art local exhibition to William J. Coombs, pupils of the Belfast Technical Institute.

J. V. Brennan, Belfast, is the architect in connection with the work at the Catholic church at Slatta, Strokestown, which is to be reconstructed and extended.

The late Thomas F. Shillington, J. P., Dromart, Antrim road, Belfast, left all his personal estate, valued at £8,083, to his wife.

A beautiful Calvary, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Donnelly, York street, Belfast, has been unveiled in St. Peter's church, Lurgan, by the Very Rev. M. B. McConville, P. P.

Major Gray, who was killed at the front, was a son of Dr. J. Gray, J. P., Armagh.

In St. Peter's College, Wexford, the Most Rev. Dr. Browne ordained the Rev. Matthew Brady, Arva, County Cavan, for the diocese of Wichita, Kansas.

Cavan County Committee of Agriculture have appointed Jas. Meehan, Kingstown, as horticultural instructor for County Cavan.

Recently the final coping stone was placed on the spire of Queenstown Cathedral. Except for the fixing of the fifteen-foot cross the beautiful work is now complete.

Lieutenant Thornycroft, killed in East Africa, was a nephew of J. Penrose Fitzgerald, The Grange Midleton, where he was well known sportsman.

Rev. Theo. O'Hanlon, M. A., rector of Innishannon Cork, has been appointed a chaplain to the Lord Lieutenant.

On September 27, at Pollerton Big, the death took place of Catherine, wife of Thomas Whelan.

On October 7, at her residence, Regan street, Baginballytown, County Carlow, the death occurred of Ellen, relict of the late Michael Kinsella.

A. J. Adams, of the Bank of Ireland, Derry, has been transferred on promotion to the Kilbeggan branch, County Westmeath.

Rev. H. B. Dobbs, M. A., curate of St. Stephen's, has been appointed incumbent of the All Saints, Blackrock.

The late Hugh Woods, merchant, 10 Lower Prince Edward terrace, Blackrock, left personal estate valued at £18,630 18s.

James F. Morrissey has been appointed assistant keeper in the Irish Public Record office.

The Enniskillen Volunteers are making excellent progress in their drill, more especially since they have been supplied with rifles. Their instructor is B. Keenan.

William O'Malley, M. P., was at Clifden Petty Sessions sworn in a magistrate for County Galway.

Patrick Conneley, of Henry street, Galway, while working in the hold of a cargo steamer at the Commercial dock, died suddenly.

The death is announced October 7, at his residence, Woodstock Arms Hotel, Inistigo, of John Cody.

The death has occurred of Patrick Dunne, Moneroe.

On October 8, at Naas, the death took place of Mary Fahy.

Patrick Donovan was accidentally killed at the Ballinascreena creamery, Causeway.

Mrs. Casey, of Old Abbey, died while being removed to the Drogheda infirmary.

## Catholic News

Bishop Scannell, of Omaha, has dedicated the fine \$100,000 Gothic St. Michael Church at Spalding, Neb.

Churches for Italian and Polish congregations are being erected in many places in the central and eastern states of the United States.

At Los Angeles, Cal., a church costing \$250,000 is in course of erection. One-half of its cost will be paid, says the press, by Edward D. Dohney, of that State.

The motherhouses of many of our religious congregations are in Belgium; they are intimately connected with the United States.

Among the surviving nineteen Bishops preconized by Pope Pius IX are Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop Ireland and Archbishop Spalding.

At Mens, Ark., a new St. Joseph Academy of the Sisters of Mercy has been opened.

Mother Katharine Drexel was in Cincinnati recently, establishing her Sisters there as teachers in St. Ann's colored school.

Plans are completed for a two-story brick school building for St. Agnes' congregation, Elyria, O., to be built on Lake Avenue and Oak Street at a cost of \$40,000.

The magnificent new St. Michael's Church at Spalding, Neb., has been dedicated by Rt. Rev. Richard Scannell, Bishop of Omaha, cost of the building and site is over \$100,000.

The parish of St. Francis, North Adams, Mass., has just celebrated its golden jubilee, one feature of which was the re-occupation of the newly re-modeled church which was blessed by Rt. Rev. Thomas D. Beaven.

The new Bishop-Auxiliary of New York, Mgr. Hayes, was consecrated Bishop on October 28th by Cardinal Farley.

The cornerstones of the fine new St. John's Hospital at Cleveland, Ohio, has been laid by Rt. Rev. John P. Farrelly, D. D. The building will cost about \$125,000 when completed.

Shortly before his demise Pius X., gave Bishop Haid, O. S. B., of the Benedictine Abbey at Belmont, N. C., a pectoral cross.

The parish of St. Elizabeth, at Norwood, Ohio, is to have its fine new school dedicated on Thanksgiving Day.

"Womanhood" is the title of a new Catholic magazine which has just made its appearance in San Francisco.

A handsome monument to Major Gen. Philip Kearney was unveiled in the National Cemetery at Arlington, Va., on October 14.

A fine new St. Bonaventure's College is to be erected at Allegheny, New York.

Ground will soon be broken for a new convent for the Carmelite nuns at York road, Oak Lane, Philadelphia.

Spain's great Shrine to Mary "The Madonna of the Pillar," a glorious temple, dates back to the year 616.

Subscribers in arrears for this paper should pay up at once. Neglecting prompt attention to bills only makes final settlement more difficult. What you owe the Catholic paper is a debt of honor and should never be neglected.

## The Facts Stated

### Church Outrages

New York, October 17, 1914.  
Hon. William Jennings Bryan, Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

Honorable and Dear Sir: Some three weeks since you requested me to submit a statement outlining Mexican conditions, as attacked by reputable people of different creeds interested in the cause of religion and morality. I have delayed this work to give the various documents in my possession careful attention. After my consideration I have chosen the documents herewith submitted as the calmest and fairest removed from bias and passion of any kind.

Document A, makes plain the whole of the Catholic Church in this unfortunate affair. It is in regard I wish to impress upon you once again that the relentless war waged against Catholicism is not persecution of Catholicism, but a war on religion as such. This, you yourself gathered from Caballero's official statements, which you read in my presence. Were the Presbyterian or Methodist the dominant church of Mexico, neither would fare any better. An assault is made on God.

Document B, is the statement of a man who was a victim of the Guadalajara persecution. Bad as it is, it is not as harrowing as a dozen other accounts which are in my possession. These statements charge the revolutionists with the following crimes:

- I. Confiscation of property.
- II. Murder of Priests.
- III. Torture of Priests.
- IV. Violation of Sisters.
- V. Desecration of Churches.
- VI. The use of the altars and sacred vessels for unspeakably base purposes.
- VII. Conversion of a convent into a brothel.
- VIII. Attempts to discredit priests by dressing a soldier in Mass vestments and photographing him standing by the side of a nude woman.
- IX. The garbing of a prostitute in a Sister's attire. This prostitute was sent into the streets to speak against Catholicism.
- X. The injection of unworthy priests into ecclesiastical offices, and responsibilities.
- XI. The placing of a nude woman on the altar of the chapel attached to the Jesuit College at Saltillo.
- XII. Continual interference with liberty of worship, such as the forbidding of confession, sacraments of baptism, and of matrimony, the prohibiting of Masses except on Sunday, and only then by a priest appointed by the governor for that purpose. The extent to which religious liberty is denied varies in different places (vide the "Decree of Toluca" issued by Murguis the decree issued by Villareal and Aguilar respectively).
- XIII. The official denial of God's existence on the part of Caballero.

These and many other outrages are authentic.

What now do Catholics ask? First, a sincere attempt to rescue the Sisters and priests marooned at Vera Cruz. The number in distress can be furnished at intervals by the American Consul who is in constant touch with the situation. I cannot give accurate figures because the number fluctuates from time to time; some weeks there are more, some less. This results from the departure of groups of refugees and the arrival of others. Second, recognition of no government which does not grant real freedom of worship. Lastly, I may remark that Mexicans are in despair. A prominent gentleman of Mexico City writes me under date of October 7th:

"Since the sending of these documents things have gone from bad to worse. We are in the last throes of anarchy and ruin."

At the convention of the American Federation of Catholic Societies, held at Baltimore, September 29, the following resolution, among others, was adopted:

"We urge upon all Catholics the duty of generously supporting our Home and Foreign Missions, represented by the Catholic Church Extension Society, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and other societies of similar aims."

Pope Blessed Leo XIII, in his audience recently with the Wedel Jarosberg, who explained in detail the Red Cross organization in Germany and Austria. She told him of the good work being done by the organization. The Pope was deeply moved and blessed the charitable and humanitarian work which he said was the one praiseworthy side of war.

Weekly Church Calendar  
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost.

Gospel, St. Matthew ix, 18-22.

S. S. St. Severus and Comp., M. M. 9 St. Theodore Tyro, M. T. 10 St. Andrew Avellino, C. W. 11 St. Martin of Tours, C. Th. 12 St. Martin, P. M. F. 13 St. Stanislaus Kostka, C. S. 14 St. Laurence O'Toole.

The saintly Pope Pius IX saw the years of Peter's reign in years, 7 months and 22 days.

## Notes

### Mexican

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