

Papal Infallibility; What Does It Mean?

Not only does Papal infallibility have no reference whatever to the political action of Catholics, but it has a very limited application to their religious beliefs. Papal infallibility is a doctrine which was declared in 1870. Its meaning is best exhibited by the following paragraphs of Cardinal Gibbons' "Faith of Our Fathers" (pp. 118-20):

As the doctrine of Papal infallibility is strangely misapprehended by our separated brethren, because it is grievously misrepresented by those who profess to be enlightened ministers of the Gospel, I shall begin by stating what infallibility does not mean, and shall then explain what it really is.

First—The infallibility of the Pope does not signify that they are inspired. The Apostles were endowed with the gift of inspiration, and we accept their writings as the revered Word of God.

No Catholic, on the contrary, claims that the Pope is inspired or endowed with Divine revelation properly so called.

Second—Infallibility does not mean that the Pope is impeccable or specially exempt from liability to sin. The Popes have been, indeed, with few exceptions, men of virtuous lives. Many of them are honored martyrs. Seventy-nine out of two hundred and fifty-nine that sat on the chair of St. Peter are invoked upon our altars as saints eminent for their holiness.

Third—Bear in mind, also, that this Divine assistance is guaranteed to the Pope not in his capacity as private teacher, but only in his official capacity, when he judges faith and morals as head of the Church. If a Pope, for instance, like Benedict XIV., were to write a treatise on Canon Law, his book would be as much open to criticism as that of any doctor of the Church.

Fourth—Finally, the infallibility of the Popes, being restricted to questions of faith and morals, does not extend to the natural sciences, such as astronomy or geology, unless where error is presented under the false name of science, and arrays itself against revealed truth. It does not, therefore, concern itself about the nature and motions of the planets. Nor does it regard purely political questions, such as the form of government a nation ought to adopt, or for what candidates we ought to vote.

What, then, is the real doctrine of infallibility? It simply means that the Pope, as successor of St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles, by virtue of the promises of Jesus Christ, is preserved from the error of judgment when he promulgates to the Church's decision on faith or morals.

The Pope, therefore, be it known, is not the maker of the Divine Law; he is only its expounder. He is not the author of revelation, but only its interpreter. All revelation came from God alone through His inspired ministers, and it was complete in the beginning of the Church. The Holy Father has no more authority than you or I to break one iota of the Scriptures, and he is equally with us the servant of the Divine law.

In a word, the Sovereign Pontiff is to the Church, though in a more eminent degree, what the Chief Justice is to the United States. We have an instrument called the Constitution of the United States, which is the character of our civil rights and liberties. If a controversy arise between two states regarding a constitutional clause, the question is referred, in the last resort, to the Supreme Court at Washington. The Chief Justice, with his associate judges, examines into the case, and then pronounces judgment upon it; and this decision is final, irrevocable and practically infallible.

The church of the Franciscans at Nancy, France, is the property of the Emperor of Austria.

Foreign Mission News

There are many very simple ways of helping the missions, especially so "where two or three are gathered together." An example of the good result of concerted effort is given by a contemporary missionary publication, and might easily be followed by a countless number of young business men and women.

"Twenty employes of a well-known house of this city began recently to contribute five cents a week and as much more as they cared to in aid of the missions. Through their treasurer we have already received five dollars, which will be forwarded, in accordance with her request, to some needy missionary as Mass stipends for the Suffering Souls. These good friends (some of whom are non-Catholics, by the way) are thus performing two great acts of charity, helping both the Poor Souls in Purgatory and the sorely-trying missionaries on earth."

The English edition of Catholic Missions recently offered a prize for the best definition of "The Qualifications of an Ideal Missionary." The winner was a lady, whose text is following:

"The ideal missionary must have a strong vocation for the work, a zealous love of souls, and a burning desire to extend Christ's Kingdom on earth. He should have the power of physical endurance to support him in days of privation and hardship; a facility in learning and speaking native languages, and the gift of humor, which will reveal the silver lining in many a dark cloud. He must be imbued with the spirit of prayer and self-sacrifice, and through all disappointments and apparent failures continue strong in faith and hope, doing all for the glory of God."

PERPETUAL HELP RECEPTION

Members Entertain at St. Mary's Hospital—Presentation.

About a hundred persons attended a reception given Wednesday afternoon by the Perpetual Help Society of St. Mary's Hospital. Pink roses and hydrangeas adorned the west reception room, while in the east room a fountain played around a center piece of pink Killarney roses in the center of a buffet table.

The following musicians presented an enjoyable program: Misses Bertha Klem and Irene Mura, who sang a duet; Mildred May, soprano; Daisy Streb, contralto; Angelo Newman, tenor; Blanche Drury, contralto; Mrs. Frank Strowger, mezzo soprano; Misses Corine and Estelle Kavanaugh, who played duets on violin and piano; Mrs. James Doran and Miss Gertrude Keenan, accompanists.

Those who received were: Mrs. John M. Murphy, Mrs. James O'Hare Love, Mrs. John Callaghan, Mrs. A. Costello, Mrs. Frank Davenport, Mrs. Edward Goggin, Mrs. Chas. Murray, Mrs. T. F. Brennan, Mrs. Edward Rosenhagen, Mrs. M. J. Cahill, Mrs. A. J. Klem, Mrs. H. Hermance, Mrs. Wm. Dwyer, Mrs. D. C. Colbert, Mrs. Daniel Donahue, Mrs. J. A. Kreag, Mrs. Eliot T. Brayer and the Misses Anna S. Wall, Ann Bryne and Miss Bulliger.

After the musical entertainment, Mr. Newman, on behalf of the Perpetual Help Society presented a bouquet of pink Killarney roses to Mrs. Frank A. Jaynes, president of the society. Mrs. J. A. Kreag and Mrs. C. J. Paisley were at the coffee urns. Sherbert was served by Mrs. M. Cobb, Mrs. Geo. Klem, Mrs. Nicholas Devereaux and Mrs. Edward Goggin.

The recent gift of Mrs. Russell Sage, of New York, of \$10,000 was to the Hospital of the Good Shepherd, in Syracuse, N. Y., and not to the House of the Good Shepherd. The hospital stated in the property of the Syracuse University.

How Missionaries Navigate the Desert.

Space in the desert is sometimes indicated by stones bearing numbers, which show the distance from a certain point. Those in the prefecture apostolic of Ghardai have been placed there by the geodetic commission in charge of reclaiming that region. This striking bit of description regarding the apostle's experiences in camel riding in the sandy wastelands is given by Fr. Joseph Brun, A. F. M.:

"At 11 o'clock we stop. The hour and the landscape are such that we have no temptation to prolong our repast. Burning sun, heavy heat. The ground is so bare that our guide can scarcely find enough twigs to make the coffee."

"Hardly are we on the ground than we hurry to the spring. What, you will say, there are springs in the desert? It is a portable spring—a goat's skin full of water, which is suspended from the side of one of our beasts. This water may not be agreeable to sight or smell, but the swiftness with which it has undergone during the seven hours travel has given it a freshness which, in the desert, makes it the sweetest of nectars. By closing the eyes and the nose, one can drink a full glass. The slight odor of tar and skin which it leaves in the mouth soon disappears."

"At half-past five we reach the Boudj of El Obrat. Although this part of the journey is as long as that of the preceding day, we are less tired. While I go to the wells, my companion watches our baggage, for with his experience of men and things in the Sahara, he knows it should not be too accessible to vagrants. The water is good, but is at least 300 feet below ground. It is drawn up by means of a leathern bucket attached to a long rope which passes over a pulley. This is fastened to the end of the saddle of a donkey or camel, which draws up the bucket by following a sloping path, the length of which equals the depth of the well. Donkeys or camels are not animals of great speed and the Arabs are never pressed for time, so it is necessary to have patience."

He Gives Twice, Who Gives Quickly

Fr. Joseph Mollat, P. F. M., sees so much that ought to be done in the Kochow mission, Kwang Tong, China, that his head is fairly reeling. In the first place, an inundation ruined the homes of more than twenty Christian families not long ago, and they are looking to him for help. Then there are two little chapels in his district that are falling to pieces after the manner of mission chapels, and besides he needs more catechists to visit the Christians in their homes and compete in a small way with the small army of Protestant catechists.

A neighboring missionary, Fr. Baldit, was attacked by pirates last year, and as a result of serious sickness returned to France. The care of his converts has fallen to Fr. Mollat, and this means much traveling and a consequent extra expense. It is not to be wondered at that the poor apostle feels overwhelmed with responsibility, the more so as he can do nothing without money. A few American dollars go a long way in the coin of China, and in this case the person who gives quickly will give twice.

HONOR FOR CHIEF QUIGLEY

Made President of International Bureau of Identification.

Cincinnati, May 24.—Joseph Quigley, chief of police of Rochester, was elected president of the International Bureau of Identification, at a meeting of the Board of Governors of that body last Monday evening. The regular sessions of the organization began Tuesday simultaneously with the meeting of the International Association of Police Chiefs.

Fete Bishop On His Anniversary

Many tributes were paid to Rev. Thomas F. Hickey, bishop of Rochester, Monday night at Cathedral Hall, where the Young Ladies' Sodality of the Cathedral parish gave a reception in his honor, in celebration of the tenth anniversary of his consecration to the episcopacy. A dinner followed the reception.

Monsignor Hartley, president of St. Bernard's Seminary, occupied a seat at the Bishop's right and Mrs. Margaret Hickey, mother of the Bishop, sat at his left. At the same table were clergy of the parish and priests of various churches.

At the close of dinner, Rev. J. Francis O'Hern, rector of the parish, paid a tribute to the Bishop and welcomed the guests.

Three young women, Miss Margaret Quigley, Miss Ella O'Neill and Miss Lucy Sheridan, presented in costume an allegory in which they took the impersonations of "Dawn," "Radiance" and "After-Glow." The allegory was written by Rev. Wm. Ryan, of Clifton Springs, formerly of St. Andrew's Seminary, Rochester, who was invited but was unable to be present.

The stage of the hall, which is equipped for dramatic entertainments, was set with a landscape scene, and the background was an elaborate painting by Edwin Sorvos, executed for the occasion. White and yellow, the papal colors, and American flags, adorned the walls; ferns and roses the dining tables. Music was furnished during dinner by the Cathedral High School Orchestra.

Bishop Hickey, last to speak, expressed deep gratitude for the celebration of his anniversary. As he looked back over the last ten years, he was particularly grateful for the "prayers and affection" those present had accorded to him, he said. He emphasized the value of friendships as a brightening and uplifting influence in life.

Several selections were sung by an octette of young women, Miss Minnie E. O'Laughlin accompanying.

Officers of the sodality are: Honorary spiritual advisor, Bishop Hickey; spiritual director, Rev. J. Francis O'Hern; president, Miss Helen O'Hern; vice-president, Miss Ella G. O'Neill; secretary, Miss Beattie Fen; and treasurer, Miss Margaret Farron.

Coming Events.

Among the notable Catholic conventions and meetings scheduled for the coming months of this year are:

Catholic Educational Association convention at St. Paul, June 28—July 1.

Catholic Prohibitions Convention, Atlantic City, N. J., July 6-9.

Indian Congress in South Dakota, July 20.

National convention of the Knights of Columbus at Seattle, Wash., August 3-7.

The Central Verein convention at St. Paul, August 8-12.

Forty-fifth annual convention of the Catholic Total Abstinence Union of America at Pittsburgh, August 8-11.

Federation of Catholic Societies annual convention at Toledo, August 15-18.

International convention of the Catholic Order of Foresters at Providence, R. I., Aug. 17-21.

Pope's Official Rings.

The Pope has three official rings. The first is called the Papal Ring. It is usually very plain, with a cameo ornament. The second, the Pontifical Ring, is used when the Pope officiates at grand ceremonies. And there is the Fisherman's Ring, which gets its name from a figure of St. Peter, who is represented as throwing his net into the sea. Around and above the figure of the apostle there is engraved the name of the reigning Pope. The Fisherman's Ring weighs about an ounce and a half and is the Pontiff's official seal.



The Old Vets. Their march down the dusty street. A little crowd of old men, some with canes, some with sticks, and some with no support at all. They are the old veterans of the Civil War, and they are marching down the street of the City of the Angels.

The boys who wore the Union blue were only sixteen and seventeen years old. They were the heroes of the Civil War, and they are marching down the street of the City of the Angels.

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News From Ireland

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Catholic Educational Association of Ireland was held in Dublin, Ireland, on Monday, May 20, 1913.

The death has taken place of Ballinakill, Carlow, of the Fenian, one of the most distinguished residents of the county. The deceased gentleman was father of Very Rev. Father Joseph, O. S. F. C., Holy Trinity, Cork.

The Caran County Council has unanimously granted Mr. O'Connell, assistant surveyor, an allowance of £200 per annum. Monaghan and Caran County Boards have granted an allowance of £50 yearly to Dr. F. J. senior assistant medical officer.

The County Clare Gaol, situated at Ballyvaughan, about two miles from Ennis, has been completely destroyed by fire.

W. Ellis was officially elected elected for the South ward, County Duane and other relatives on the death of the late Alderman Duane, Dublin, was passed by the Cork City Handball club on the motion of Mr. O'Herty, seconded by J. Sheehan.

The Ballyvaughan Urban Council have expressed their sympathy with the widow and family of the late Robert Lynch, who died at the County Gaol, Dublin, on the 17th inst.

The death has occurred of Dr. F. J. O'Rourke, who for many years acted as medical superintendent of the Donegal Hospital, Londonderry.

James G. Gordon, an extensive provision merchant, has been elected to the office of Mayor of Monaghan, Co. Louth, for the year 1913-14. He was elected by a large majority.

Dr. T. A. Smith, Town Clerk, Ennis, has been appointed certifying surgeon for the Factory and Workshops Inspector in succession to Dr. M. J. O'Rourke, who has been appointed for the Ennis district.

Followers of athletics and sporting sports will regret to learn that E. J. Rowe, the well known Thomastown cyclist, has been lying rather seriously ill at the residence for the past two months.

Rev. Father Sault, C. G. W. Leigh, has been elected president of the Gaelic Athletic Club, North Oran in recognition of past services to the games of the Gael.

A county convention of the Leitrim A. O. H., at Drumahaire, was re-elected the county officers: viz. Messrs. M. Carter, Co. C. (Co. president) James Connelley (county treasurer), and Francis T. Keenan, E. D. C. (county secretary).

Miss Maggie Mulrooney, in relation Sister Mary Teresa and Miss Isabella McDonnell, in relation Sister Mary Louis Barriall, who were recently received into the Convent of Mercy, Westport. The Most Rev. Dr. Higgins performed the profession ceremony.

The death of Miss Bloodwin Scott, Carrabaris Cottage, Clonsilla, occurred Sunday morning, the 11th inst., at the age of 77 years.

The death of William Tuohy, Oldcastle, took place recently after a few days' illness.

The appointment of J. S. Ryan, B. E., as county surveyor for Queens county has been sanctioned by the Local Government Board.

The death of Matthew Ryan occurred at his residence, Queen's street, Clonsilla, recently.