

The New Canon Law As It Affects the Laity

The Rev. Joseph J. Murray, J. C. D., of St. Charles' Seminary, Overbrook, Pa., summarizes some provisions of the new Code of Canon Law that are of especial interest to the laity:

There are several items of interest in the legislation on the sacrament of marriage. No engagement is valid in any way, not even in conscience, unless made in writing, signed by the parties, together with the pastor or bishop, or at least two witnesses is required when one or both of the parties is unable to write. The baptismal certificate is required and the parties should have received the sacrament of confirmation. Moreover, as a general rule, three days should elapse after the last publication of the bans before the marriage takes place.

The minimum age for marriage is sixteen years complete for males and fourteen complete for females. Blood relationship is a bar to marriage in the collateral line as far as second cousins, inclusive. Formerly the prohibition extended to third cousins. The impediment of affinity, that is, y. z., between a widow and her deceased husband's blood relations, prevents marriage in the collateral line only to the second degree, inclusive, namely, to the first cousins of the deceased husband.

The closed or forbidden times for the solemnity of marriage have been somewhat curtailed. Marriages may be solemnly celebrated from December 26 instead of January 7, and on Easter Monday in place of the Monday after Low Sunday. This change went into effect on August 19 of this year.

As regards the new holy days established by this code, it is expressly stated that if any of the said days have been legitimately abolished, as in this country, nothing is to be changed without consultation of the Holy See. Hence for the present, at least, there will be no change or addition to our present list of holy days.

The prohibition against eating fish and flesh at the same meal on fast days has been abrogated. The following are the only days when both fasting and abstinence are prescribed: Ash Wednesday, all Fridays and Saturdays of Lent, ember days, the vigils of Christmas, Pentecost, Assumption and All Saints. Should any of these vigils or other days of fasting or abstinence fall on a Sunday or holy day, there is no obligation of keeping the fast or abstinence. Moreover, the vigils are not to be anticipated, that is, kept on the previous day as heretofore. The Lenten fast and abstinence comes to a close at noon on Holy Saturday.

These regulations on fasting and abstinence went into effect August 19, 1917. In view of the fact that the code provides that adults already granted are to remain in force unless expressly recalled, it is unlikely that the people of this country will have to observe the Saturdays of Lent as days of abstinence, for the indulgence of August 3, 1887, allows the use of meat once a day on all Saturdays of the year except Ember Saturday and Holy Saturday. As has been remarked, neither fast nor abstinence need be observed after noon on Holy Saturday. Fasting is obligatory on all who have completed their twenty-first year and have not begun their sixtieth year. Abstinence must be observed by all who have completed their seventh year.

WHERE ARE THE IRISH?

The above question was answered by Major Harry Breckenridge of Camp Lewis before an assemblage of school teachers in Tacoma last week. Of the twenty million of the Irish element in our country's population, Major Breckenridge would vouch that only a few could be found who could be classed as disloyal to the United States. "If you want to know where the Irish are," said Major Breckenridge, "come to the camps or go to the trenches; there, as in all other wars you will find the Irish."

CLEVELAND'S CATHOLIC HALL

The new Catholic young women's hall gymnasium in Cleveland is completed, and classes are being organized for the fall term. The hall, Superior avenue and E. Eighteenth street, is an exclusive hotel for young women, particularly those engaged in local commercial or professional pursuits who are in need of a fixed place of residence, or whose home is out of the city.

The hall is under Catholic auspices but it accepts young women of any creed, either as resident guests or as members of the various educational or gymnasium classes. Good character, attended by trustworthy references, is indispensable requisite for registration. The rates are reasonable and consistent with the first-class service that is there in vogue.

EXEMPT FROM WAR TAX.

According to a decision rendered on October 25th, by the Commissioner General of Internal Revenue, admissions to entertainments, the proceeds of which are devoted to religious or charitable purposes, are exempt from taxation under the War Revenue act. The text of the decision follows:

"The word 'proceeds' as used in Section 700 means gross receipts, less payments of proper expenses, or, in other words, 'net proceeds. If the net proceeds are used exclusively for the benefit of religious, educational, or charitable institutions, societies, or organizations, no tax is collectible on the admissions."

CHILDREN GIVE UP CANDY.

The pupils of St. Xavier's school, of Dyeraville, Ia., have originated a novel idea. In their enthusiasm to help their brothers who have gone to the war, they pledged themselves to sacrifice their candy money and purchase Liberty Bonds. Each child brought a penny a day and passed by the candy shop, as if it were the ice-house in his desire to do his bit. A friendly rivalry arose among the different rooms to be the first to procure a Liberty Bond. The precious documents will be framed and hung in the respective rooms as heirlooms of patriotism for the future pupils of St. Xavier's. The interest will be devoted to the Red Cross or other charitable purpose.

SUNDAY AND CONFESSION.

Declaring that he was not opposed to the Catholic Church, Billy Sunday recently said: "I am not here to try to make a poor Protestant out of a good Catholic, or a poor Catholic out of a good Protestant. So if you belong to the Catholic Church and have not been living up to your vows go to the priest, go to Mass, go to confession. Tell him you are a four flusher. Some of you fellows have not been to confession for so long that you have forgotten how the priest's voice sounds."

PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION.

Pointing out that in the opportunity "to serve mankind as we once served ourselves in the great day of our Declaration of Independence," the nation has just cause to be grateful, President Wilson has issued his Thanksgiving day proclamation. He calls on the people to cease their ordinary occupations on Thursday, Nov. 29, and devote themselves to worship.

"There is so much good in the worst of us And so much bad in the best of us That it hardly behooves any of us To talk about the rest of us."

Flowers for Thanksgiving.

Chrysanthemums the most popular. We grow them extensively. Moderate prices. Get our Dollar basket. Send a Dollar box. Rochester Floral Co., 255 Main Street East, opposite Sibley's store.—Adv.

Foreign Mission News

The Propagation of the Faith Society, 348 Lexington Ave., New York City

LOSS IN THE TIENSIN FLOOD.

We have read in the newspapers of the flood that wrought such destruction in Tientsin some months ago. Naturally the missions were affected, and we can see in what manner by this letter from Bishop Dumond, C. M.

"With the torrential rains of July and August the Imperial canal became so swollen by the neighboring streams that it burst its dykes near Tientsin and in a short time had covered the city with water. In two days after the breaking, our quarter and the greater part of the European Concessions were deluged to the height of two feet, while in the Chinese dwellings lower down the water rose to the windows.

"The flood caused much destruction and loss to the mission, and I have been obliged to inform the school priests that the school budget must be reduced. We have about 4,000 children in our schools whom we have carefully educated for some years, that they may later become heads of Christian families. To abandon them now means that they must go to the schools of the Protestants or relapse into paganism.

"Such is one result of the disastrous flood. The injury to our crops is another calamity which cannot be estimated. I recommend our Christians in this time of need to prayers of the faithful.

SAVED BY A DREAM.

Sometimes it occurs to the missionaries to ask the reason why pagans turn toward the Light. Many odd tales are told and not infrequently the convert ascribes his change of heart to a dream.

An aged native of Madagascar, who had been semi-pagan and semi-Protestant for a number of years, told this experience to Rev. Fr. Pougnet, one of the Jesuit priests of that mission:

"One night I dreamed I was standing on the bank of the Mangoro River. Looking into the water, I perceived it was swarming with huge crocodiles. Suddenly one of the monsters came toward me and, grasping me in its jaws, was about to drag me into the stream. I screamed in terror and called for help, but no one came to my aid. The crocodile already had me under water, when I thought me to say some Protestant prayers I knew. They had no effect, however, and my end seemed near. Then I had the inspiration to make the sign of the cross, the only Catholic practice which I knew, and which I had often mocked. At once the monster, who was no other than Satan, loosened his hold, and I had no time in leaping to the river bank.

"I understood that the sign of the Catholic religion had saved me. I felt I had found the true Faith, and hastened to embrace it."

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE FOR THE LEPERS.

Not only have the missionaries been able to ease the physical pains of the lepers, but they have taken away some of the horrors of death.

One instance of the changed tone of the lazzaretto, during the latter years of Father Damien's ministry, was the increased reverence shown to the dead. It marked the renewal of hope. For while, in former times, the body of the leper was accounted a vile thing, now it was treated as the habitation of an immortal spirit, the dwelling-place of a human soul whose redemption had been bought at a great price.

Thousands of soldiers have enlisted for the apostolic battles. If God does not ask you to follow them, He is at least entitled to expect you to assist them with your aims and prayers.

Send us your Job Printing.

MAKING THE HOLIDAYS SAFE FOR OUR SOLDIER BOYS.

Practical Hints For Personal Service.

In an interesting account of the work of the National Service Commission in New York city as given in the Magazine section of the New York Times, for November 11, we find among other things how this new organization, whose chief aim is to look after the soldiers on furlough in the large cities, is preparing for the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Club houses have been established in New York city with every facility for comfort and recreation. Nor are these allowed to stand passively inviting. The soldiers are rounded up by so-called scouts on their arrival at the depots. They are invited and urged to avail themselves of the hospitality of the club houses and tickets for good shows and concerts are provided.

For Thanksgiving large dinners are being prepared for the men on leave. From one camp alone, near the city, provision is being made for 1,500 men. Nor are the relatives of the men who may come to the city, as to a rendezvous where they can meet their boys, forgotten. Lists of good lodging-houses are provided and sent ahead to the men so that they can inform their relatives where they may stay amid decent and comfortable surroundings.

Here are some features of soldier welfare work we may well seek to duplicate. For it stands to reason that among so many men there will be a good number of our faith. It is also evident from what we already know of the dangers of soldier and sailor life that just in the holiday tide there will be a great increase in the menace to the morals and morale of our men. To safeguard our boys then will be doubly necessary at these times.

It would not be a matter of too great trouble or detail to arrange lists of respectable boarding houses or of homes which would be willing to harbor either our boys or their relatives over the holidays. Whatever inconvenience would arise could and should be borne as a sacrifice in these times of universal self denial. These lists could be sent from the several parishes or from a common Catholic center to the chaplains who could in turn give them to the boys he knows are to go out on leave.

Another act of genuine kindness and real charity would be for as many of our Catholic families in cities where soldiers are stationed or where they come on furlough, to invite some of the boys in to Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner. These days will be certain to accentuate homesickness and the blues among those particularly who will have no relatives to visit or who are so far from home that they cannot get away on leave. To extend to them the joys of a happy and generous Christian hospitality will be no little prophylactic against temptation and dangerous company. Anything that will help to minimize the danger of our boys seeking company or recreation amid undesirable and dangerous surroundings and companions is an added safeguard for the morals of our men.

In this matter of soldier welfare work it is quite as important as in all forms of charity work that we do not content ourselves with mere vicarious giving or subscribing to funds. Personal service, sympathy and interest have far greater value because they have the human appeal that strikes kindred cords in our fellows.

C. B. of C. V.

Notice to Correspondents

Kindly mail your copy on Tuesday evening to insure publication in next week's issue.

St. Joseph's Church, Carroll Iowa, is in receipt of a splendid gift from a member of the parish who wishes his name withheld.

An Aviator Who Cared For His Soul.

A young officer, delicate, elegant and discreet, used to come often to the church. At first no one noticed him, then the vicar, the employes, and little by little the parishioners began to remark among all the other many officers who frequented the church, this young man with the strange eyes, who at each appearance had one or two more decorations on his aviator's dolman.

The wife of a general was the first to recognize him and the whisper went round, "It is Guynemer." But, anxious not to disturb him at his prayers, no one appeared to notice him, and he did not know he was observed. He came simply and regularly to confession, as an old pupil of St. Stanislaus and a good Christian, for he wished always to be ready for his Master's call. He would arrive sometimes in a gale of wind, hurried, with his watch in his hand, and if his spiritual father was not there he would seek another and would say apologetically, "Excuse me, Father, can you hear me please, I must be at Rheims in half an hour." Often he would slip a note into the priest's hand and say, "It is for your refugees," or "your wounded soldiers, ask them to pray for me." One day he gave thus two hundred francs.

He returned to the church the day after his famous exploit—two enemy aviators brought down in a minute. This time the clergy could not resist, they wished to press his hand and tell him of their enthusiastic admiration. But Guynemer was modest in the extreme, and praises he did not wish to hear, so he soon took leave. He had more than a premonition, he had a certainty of approaching death and he accepted it. "Hodie mihi eras tibi," he said with gentle melancholy on Aug. 23th, his young heroic face full of manly sweetness. And it was on Sept. 11 that he disappeared. A British tank laden with roses—what a vision!—has been seeking the grave of Guynemer in the cemetery of Poelcapelle, which is now within the Allied lines.

But though the cemetery has scarcely suffered from the bombardment and the graves are all intact, they could not find the aviator's tomb. It is supposed he must have been interred in the German military cemetery established beyond the village and which is still in enemy hands. It is said even the enemy were so moved with admiration that they gave Guynemer a military funeral with full honors.

—Milwaukee Citizen.

N. Y. CHURCH HOISTS SERVICE FLAG.

The first Catholic church in New York City to raise a service flag was the Church of the Annunciation at One Hundred and Thirty-first street and Convent avenue, of which the Right Rev. Monsignor William L. Penny is pastor. The raising of the flag on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 4, was attended with elaborate patriotic exercises that were participated in and witnessed by practically the entire congregation of the parish. The flag contains 250 stars, each one representing a member of the parish who has joined some branch of the nation's military or naval service. Since the flag was ordered many more names have been added to the list of the heroic sons of the parish and it will be necessary to add some sixty more stars to the flag. The flag now hangs proudly in the front of the church, almost entirely covering the massive rose window.

The ceremonies attending the flag raising began at 2:15 o'clock when the parish societies and representatives of the neighboring parishes formed in line in front of the church and marched through the principal streets of the parish. About 1,000 men were in line, led by the Catholic Protective Band.

This is a good time to subscribe to the Catholic Journal.

Late News of Ireland

A letter of sympathy was read from Rev. T. Burbage, C. C., at a Carlow meeting in honor of Thomas Ashe. Prof. O'Sullivan delivered an address.

Died—At her parents' residence, Ballinasraw, Tullow, Julia Doyle, youngest daughter of Laurence and Mrs. Doyle.—At Market street, Tipperary, Thomas J., eldest son of late Richard Williams, Carlow.—Patrick Heenan, Bagenalstown, a native of Mayo.

P. V. Twomey, Queenstown, by 11 votes to 6 for M. T. Glavin, was chosen by Cork Technical committee as assistant lecturer in mechanical engineering.

Married—Cornelius Barrett, Ballydaheen, Mallow, to Mary Roche, Mallow.—Mary Josephine Spillane, Kildorrery, to Dr. Maurice A. O'Callaghan, Castlemaheon, Newcastle West.—John O'Neill, Fermoy and Dunmanway, to Nora Lyons, Cork Hill, Fermoy.—John O'Sullivan, Banteer, to Maggie Buckley, Banteer.—Daniel Sheridan, Ballyedmond, to Mary E. Donovan, Dromada, Lady'sbridge.

Died—John Callanan, Ballisodreen, Timoleague.—At Skibbereen, M. B. Collins, J. P., Clonsilla.—John Cronin, Islanduff.—Michael Donovan, Killard, Blaney.—Jane Hales, Rosny, Ballyhooley.

Rev. Fintan Carroll, C. C., Eastmaine, has been appointed parish priest, Avoca, and Rev. Peter J. Monahan, C. C., St. Nicholas, Francis street, to be parish priest, Ballymore-Eustace.

Very Rev. Canon Mooney, Bishop, Dublin, who bequeathed \$12,104. for one hundred Masses for the repose of his soul, to be celebrated in public in Ireland, has left his estate, valued at \$25,184, to Maynooth College, for the education of young priests.

Married—At the Church of the Star of the Sea, Sandymount, by the Rev. Father McDonnell, C. C., Owen, eldest son of Eugene O'Sullivan, Bears House, Sandymount; to Margaret (Peggy), eldest daughter of the late Patrick O'Mahony, New street, Killarney.—At St. Brannan's Church, East Molesey, by the Rev. Father McElroy, Richard Joseph, eldest son of Maurice O'Connell, The Spa, Tralee, to Grace, eldest daughter of George Bolton, Oakley, Kent road, East Molesey.

Died—At the Good Shepherd Convent, Belfast, in religion Sister Mary Aloysius Slattery, eldest daughter of Thomas Slattery, Carshenny, Kildimo, Limerick.—At Upper Mallow street, Limerick, Mary Johnson, relict of the late John Johnson, Killahee.—E. Parker, pawnbroker, Limerick.

T. Hodget, Postmaster, Clonmorris, has been promoted to the charge of the Navan Postoffice.

The death took place at his residence, Moyville, Ballymore, Ballina, of John Boyd, B. O. Mr. Clarke, at a meeting of the Ballinrobe Guardians appealed to the public for a defence fund to fight the I. G. B., which has surcharged three Guardians for signing a payment of \$11 to Dr. Coghlan, who, being of military age, was not sanctioned for Cappaduff dispensary district.

While Cornelius Hogan, a farmer, residing at Newton, Nenagh was forking straw he accidentally struck himself near one of his eyes with the prongs and was rendered unconscious. He was taken to Nenagh Union Hospital.

W. Daly, clerk, Nenagh branch Munster Bank, has been promoted to the managership of the Cahir branch. At Tramore, by the Rev. T. O'Brien, C. C., Passage West, William J. Magner, eldest son of John Magner, Clonmel, was married to Catherine (Kitty) Smyth, daughter of Edmond Smyth, Castle Dealer, Clonmel. Died—Thomas Cross, Thomastown, Tipperary.—Mrs. D. Flanagan, Queen street, Nenagh.