

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT 470 Main St. E. cor. Windsor St. 4th Floor, Rochester, N. Y.

BY THE JOURNAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

Subscription rates: One Year, In Advance \$1.00. Entered at second class mail matter. ROCHESTER TELEPHONE 2363. WALL TELEPHONE MAIN 1507. Friday, April 19, 1918.

The Real Weapon.

In a recent pastoral Bishop Corbett, of Crookston, Minn., points out the real weapon against the materialistic wave which is sweeping over the world. The Bishop says: "The Church, insisting on the constant moral instruction of the youth, has made religion an essential part of her curriculum, our because through absence of religious influence, the sensual tendencies of the child remain unchecked and germs of vice are implanted in the soul. While the mind of the child is duly trained in art, science, and literature, the Church abandons not the inculcation of the principles and practices of religion."

"Lies in Peace and War"

Under the above caption, the "Columbian" prints the following strong editorial: With plentiful reason, all true citizens have been angered by the crop of war lies scattered throughout the land. The scattering has been chiefly the work of fools, although there is every indication that knaves are the originators of the lies, for the object was to spread alarm and unrest, every germ of a calamity or scandal being artificially swollen until the very extent of its circulation from mouth to mouth caused even sensible persons to theologians, were fearful of the wisdom of the innovation rather of the return to the regulations of early days of the Church, against further performances by Rome had spoken and the command of the Church was ecclesiastical law.

Suffer Little Children.

In accordance with Papal regulations all priests last Sunday read the pastoral of Pope Pius X granting the privilege of Holy Communion to children of tender years. While many, who were not theologians, were fearful of the wisdom of the innovation rather of the return to the regulations of early days of the Church, against further performances by Rome had spoken and the command of the Church was ecclesiastical law. But as the days went on and the edifying spectacle was presented of hundreds and thousands of little children approaching the altar rail and there receiving our dear Lord in the Eucharist, everybody felt the wonderful effect of the spectacle and who can say how many careless ones were brought to a sense of the duty they owed their God and Holy Mother Church? And who can tell how far-reaching were the prayers offered by these innocent children? Or how much the intentions of their little innocent hearts availed? And how much more are the prayers of the innocents needed now when the whole world is at war and the hands of brothers are turned against brothers? In deed, prayers upon prayers must go up to Almighty God that soon the warring nations may see the awfulness of their work and turn back to God and worship Him as they should.

Root Them Out!

This is no time for fault-finding, no time to hold back. Either we are true and loyal Americans or we are against the Government. This is no time to find fault with our Allies. We have entered the war and the President says since we are in to stay until the world is free and liberty is assured. Those of our foreign born residents and those who are native born who sympathize with the cause of our enemies do not belong in the United States. Their place is on the other side where they enjoy a surfeit of monarchs and autocrats. They are here because they are here. While lynchings and mob law are to be deplored, our Government must take vigorous measures to stamp out indirect aid and comfort to our enemies by weak-kneed or worse residents within our borders.

The old sixty-ninth New York has had its baptism of fire. Company M, recruited from the gas house district of the New York east side, has been cut to pieces but few were killed. Before they fell out, they gave a good account of themselves. And most of them were Catholic boys!

Let us not put off any longer our belated Easter duty if we have not already balanced our spiritual accounts.

While we are purchasing Liberty bonds, let those of us who feel we cannot buy a bond, purchase thrift stamps. A few cigars less each week will soon fill up a thrift certificate which in 1923 will return us \$5.00. And Uncle Sam will have had the use of our money, too.

Which would you rather be: an aviator or an artilleryman? To which the slacker replied: Please sir, I'd rather be the ice man.

Says the non-Catholic "Tribune" of Bismarck, North Dakota:

"The Knights of Columbus war camps are conducted on a purely non-sectarian basis. The buildings and their benefits are as free to a Jew or Protestant as they are to a Catholic. The war is wiping out old lines of cleavage and is amalgamating Americans into one loyal people which knows no race or creed. And experiences such as that through which Bismarck has just passed are good for all concerned. Thanks are due to the teams and the men at the head of them and every man and woman and child who contributed his or her mite. Their enterprise has enabled Bismarck once again to 'do its bit.'"

Even the non-Catholics acknowledged the force and vigor of Abbe Flynn's appeal in behalf of the war loans.

The Catholic Journal extends sympathy to the family of the late John H. Lenahan who was suddenly called away last week. He was a kind father, a loving husband, a good citizen and a loyal son of the Church.

Nineteen Million Catholics in U. S.

According to the tables of the 1918 edition of "The Official Catholic Directory", published and copyrighted by P. J. Kennedy & Sons of Barclay street, New York, there are 17,416,303 Catholics in the United States, (not including our Island possessions.) The net increase in the number of Catholics for the year 1917 amounts to 393,424.

A Great Record.

That St. Louis University, one of the great Catholic educational institutions of the country has proach the Sacraments as soon as able to kneel at the altar rail.

According to Joseph H. Meier, who has compiled the Directory for more than a decade, the figure 17,416,303 is not at all exaggerated, in fact, the figure is low, as no records can be kept of the "floating" Catholic population and as nearly all of the thirty-eight Dioceses making no changes have surely increased in population during the past few years. If it were possible to show the increases for the thirty-eight Dioceses, among which are some of the important Archdioceses in the country, and if it were possible to gather data on the "floating" Catholic population of the United States Mr. Meier feels that he would be absolutely safe in saying that the actual Catholic population of this country would be shown to be over 19,000,000. Special care was taken so that the young men in the military service would not be counted twice, that is, once in the Diocese in which the camp or cantonment was located and again in their home Diocese. Arrangements were made to include only the Catholics of the States and Territory of the United States.

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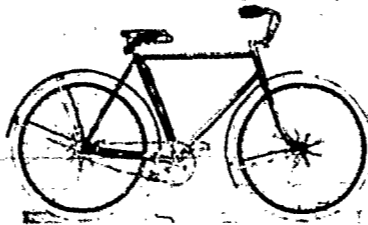
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