

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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

BY THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

If paper is not received Saturday notify the office. Report without any delay change of address...

SUBSCRIPTION RATES For Year, In Advance, \$1.00 Entered at second class mail matter.

ROCHESTER TELEPHONE 2858 BELL TELEPHONE MAIN 1867

Friday, November 1, 1918

Why Go So Far?

Mr. William T. Ellis writes as "The Religious Rambler" syndicated articles for the secular press. In a recent one on a national meeting held in Washington, Mr. Ellis said: "One of the most impressive moments of this meeting came at high noon. A representative of the government, one of several heard during the sessions, was speaking when a sound new to most of the delegates, the shrill whistle of a great siren. At once the speaker was interrupted by the chairman, who announced that the siren is Washington's daily call to prayer for victory."

And again: "More than one of the persons present, familiar with the Orient, doubtless thought of this siren as the American substitute for the Mohammedan call to prayer, which sounds five times a day from the minarets of the mosques of the whole world of Islam."

As a Catholic writer well says: "But why turn to the Orient and Mohammedanism for a simile? Does not Mr. Ellis every day hear Catholic church bells ring three times—morning, noon and night? Is he not aware of the fact that this bell ringing is naught else but the Catholic call to prayer? In millions of homes, not alone in this country, but throughout the world, the inmates stand and recite the Angelus. In strict Catholic countries, wherever the faithful one may be, at the stroke of the bell the head is bowed and the Angelus is recited. Even religious ramblers, who are supposed to know everything and be competent to comment thereon, still have something to learn."

Perhaps

The editor of the Milwaukee Catholic Citizen is inclined to think the Knights of Columbus are temperamentally nearer akin to the Elks than the Y. M. C. A., because they incline more to festivity than to mental development.

In this we differ. Our characterization would be a middle line between the two. Because many of its members never attend any church, the Y. M. C. A. tries to provide services closely kin to those of what are called under its own charter "evangelical Protestant churches." The Elks is a purely fun-loving, mirth-provoking fraternal order. The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal order with membership confined exclusively to Catholic men. It is assumed that the religious instruction is imparted to the Knights by their pastors in the Churches. Hence it is desired that wholesome amusement, healthful recreation in clean surroundings and pleasant social converse be provided for the Knights. In short, a Knights of Columbus club constitutes a social gathering place for Catholic men.

But if the esteemed Citizen editor scanned the programmes of the K. of C. in the east at least he would find ample opportunity provided for the man and woman of intellectual or artistic bent to gratify their desires. Lectures, concerts and the like are presented every winter, as well as dances, bowling tournaments and amateur theatricals.

The Citizen editor complains because the K. of C. war commission has spent much on entertainment at the Army Camps. Well, is this not the activity which the War Department entrusted to the K. of C. ? Is not the soldier boy supposed to turn to the K. of C. hut for recreation after a hard days drill and study of military tactics? And if the K. of C. can keep him amused in a clean way and away from questionable amusement places, has it not done a great work, a work closely allied to, and supplementing and complementing the labors of the priest-chaplain?

The bronze honor medal of the Queen's University of Kingston, Ontario, Canada, for the last year was won by Sister Aloysia of Lindsay, Ont.

It is easy to sit on the outside and criticize, while it is difficult to be on the inside and doing the real work.

Getting Together

Not alone are "barriers breaking down" because of the war in racial and religious lines but also in other lines as witness John D. Rockefeller, jr., welcoming the W. H. Harrington, of Immaculate Conception church, at its profession to participation in the recent annual meeting, read the classic "The American's Creed." Probably, until quite recently Mr. That Father Harrington is a fine, Rockefeller entertained the idea of a thing unclean and actors, as a class, were tabooed in the Rockefeller social circle. Mr. Rockefeller expressed the prevailing idea that since our entrance into the war "men and women are getting to know each other as they never did before."

Let us hope that this feeling will wax stronger and grow even after the war is over and that barriers, once broken, never will be reared again.

Cardinal Honored.

It is a fitting recognition that the French Government has bestowed upon Cardinal Gibbons in conferring upon his Grace of Baltimore the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor. It is also an encouraging sign that the French Government is no longer raving against God and Religion as when Briand and Viviani were dominating factors.

The letter transmitted by the French Government through Ambassador Jusseraud, breathes sincere appreciation of the Cardinal as a churchman, as a publicist and a true friend of France. And it comes as a fitting tribute in the year when his Eminence is celebrating the golden jubilee of his priesthood.

The Catholic Journal adds its congratulations to the many felicitations received by the Cardinal and knows its readers join in wishing "Ad Multos Annos."

All Saints—All Souls.

November marks the end of the autumn season and the beginning of the winter months. It is also the month set aside by the Church for devotion in honor of the suffering souls in Purgatory. The month opens with the feast of All Souls followed by All Saints—in which the suffering souls are remembered and the Saints in Heaven are appealed to that their supplications may avail to aid those in Purgatory.

During the month devotions in honor of the Poor Souls are held daily and it is the custom for the surviving relatives to have masses said for their departed loved ones.

It is a holy and wholesome custom to pray for the dead that they may be released from their sufferings and let us not forget this during November.

It was a great sacrifice the Catholics of Rochester made in giving up Mass for a month in order to extinguish influenza.

If the war should end by Christmas, will Mr. Creel's Committee on Information let up on its useless waste of white paper?

K. W. Calderwood a year ago was teaching 40 young Indians in British Columbia. To-day nearly all his pupils are "fighting over there" and the teacher has been accepted for overseas service as a K. of C. secretary.

The Fourth Liberty Loan was a great success. Let us hope the fifth will be the last and a Victory Loan.

Let us offer our prayers that there may be no more epidemics in the United States this season.

There is a Knights of Columbus Council in Philadelphia composed entirely of Spaniards.

"The American's Creed"

Rev. W. H. Harrington of Ithaca Reads Creed at Red Cross Meeting.

Ithaca, N. Y. — The Ithaca chapter of the American Red Cross made no mistake, but it did meet with a surprise, in having Rector W. H. Harrington, of Immaculate Conception church, at its recent annual meeting, read the classic "The American's Creed." Probably, until quite recently Mr. That Father Harrington is a fine, Rockefeller entertained the idea of a thing unclean and actors, as a class, were tabooed in the Rockefeller social circle. Mr. Rockefeller expressed the prevailing idea that since our entrance into the war "men and women are getting to know each other as they never did before."

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