

CATHOLIC LAY ACTIVITIES

The Help Of The Laity Is Needed.

Written by the Rev. Albert Muntz, S. J., for the Press Bulletin Service of the Central Bureau of the C. V.

New times, new duties! We are forcibly reminded of the truth of the saying when we look over the vast field of what is now commonly called "social work" and consider the important part that falls to the Catholic laity in carrying out the program of Christian social reform. And if this duty was large and responsible a generation ago, then today, in the era of the "social consciousness", and more recently, in the period of social reconstruction, it is even more urgent, since every phase of contemporary life is appraised almost exclusively from the standpoint of its contribution to social progress.

Verily, there is much truth in Father Frederick Faber's sayings, that "we must not make light of the difference of ages" and that "God's work must be done anew in every age." The three great Pontiffs of these days—Leo XIII, the lucid expounder of burning social problems, Pius X, who realized so fully the "democratic tendencies" of the time, and Benedict XV, who is blessing everywhere the work of our social apostles, and urging priest and people to apply the wisdom of Christ's Gospel to the solution of our task of social reconstruction—all of them recognized the necessity of gaining the support of our Catholic laymen in discharging their new duties in a new era, if the work of the Church Militant is to be continued with success among all the nations.

How Catholic Europe Answered The Call.

In the Catholic countries of Europe, where the need of Catholic lay action was, more keenly felt because of the ever growing hostility of the enemies of the Church, which was shown especially in anti-Catholic legislation, the Bishops were not slow to issue the call for united action on the part of their flocks. In England the Catholic hierarchy found a splendid auxiliary in the Catholic Truth Society, and Catholic lay activity in that land is almost entirely in the hands of that organization. The work it has done by its "Penny Pamphlets on the Social Question," its "Catholic Social Yearbook", its "Social Guild Pamphlets", can never be too highly extolled. It is this admirably organized society that has aroused the "social sense" in thousands of English Catholics and it would be sad to speculate on what might have been the condition of Catholics in England had not the members of that body promoted, encouraged and strengthened every kind of social undertaking which could redound to the spiritual and material good of the nation. In that body were—as is proper and as should be the case in every country where Catholic social reform work is undertaken—both clerical and lay workers. Such union makes for real success, and to quote the ringing words from an article in the August-September number of "Bulletin of Catholic Federation": "When the bishops and the clergy and the laity are united in any measure affecting the interests of God and of Humanity there is no such word as 'fail'!"

In France there arose just when they were most needed great Catholic lay apostles. Among them was Count de Mun who declared publicly that "without Christianity there will never be any real social peace." Georges Goyau wrote splendid tracts on the social value of Catholicism, and the much tried Catholics of that country could look up to men like de la Tour du Pin, Lamy, Henri Lorin, Le Play, Duthoit, Maurice Eble and Max Turmann. Nor were these men given merely to theoretical speculations in social science, but they took part in the many "oeuvres sociales" initiated by French Catholics. There was also the well-known "Action populaire" of Rheims, which is to the Catholics of France what the Catholic Truth Society is to England—a source of inspiration and a centre of highly organized social activity.

In Germany, where labored the great "socially minded" Bishop Emmanuel von Ketteler, whom Pope Leo has called his great predecessor, the laity were very early aroused to the need of social activity. What the Catholics of that country achieved in the line of social reform is too well known to need mention here.

The Need Of Catholic Lay Activity In The United States.

And what about our own country? Here the field of activity and the opportunity for spiritual and moral leadership in the great social movements in which we are all so deeply concerned, is wider than in Europe. For America boasts of being the land of democracy, and wants to bring that blessing to other countries. Our public social welfare agencies, our magazines for civic and municipal reform, our schools of civics and philanthropy, are conducted by laymen. The numerous questions of civic and social and political significance, that are now being discussed in journals of sociology and economics, give our laymen an opportunity to present the Catholic viewpoint on these subjects. The lecture platform is ever occupied by the speaker (or the political quack) who comes to announce a theory of political reform or to outline a new doctrine of social progress.

Why then in the midst of all this activity—much of it well-directed, and much ill-directed—why should the Catholic layman stand aloof? The times cry for him. For now, if ever, the day of Catholic lay-activity has come. The problems that confront us in the political, social, educational, and even religious world are numerous and perplexing. If the layman were not needed the Bishops would not be looking for him. But they are looking for him. In most of our conventions—those, for instance, of the Catholic Education Association, the Federation of Catholic Societies, and the Central Society, resolutions have been passed these many years in favor of what has come to be known as "Catholic lay activity". The

phrase is large and covers a wide, vast range of activities that must no longer be neglected. Some of them will be outlined in the third part of this paper. But for the present suffice it to say that you are needed.

For, says Father John Norris in his fine brochure, "The Help of the Laity" (Catholic Truth Society), "Our modern life, with its great, unwieldy cities and towns, with its free expression of opinion and discussion, with its higher education spread over a wider area, with its all-embracing journalism and its wider public life, has created difficulties which the clergy alone can not meet; is full of dangers which they are too few to contend with; has given rise to situations, serious and dangerous, which the clergy cannot fully deal with; and further, has taught large numbers of men to be critical and suspicious of everything a cleric does or says. In other words, modern life has made work, abundant work, which the laity, and perhaps they alone, can do: and my contention is, that, while they can be of immense service to the Church, and do much for God, they will at the same time save themselves from the unrest and weariness of those who are swayed and ruled by the Time-spirit, and will be free from the contamination of materialistic views and mere materialistic aims and purposes."

(To be continued.)

75th Anniversary of St. Mary's Church

Canandaigua, Oct. 16.—The diamond jubilee of St. Mary's church is being held today and tomorrow, closing with the pontifical mass and vespers services on Sunday. Thursday evening an old folks' reception was held at which John Colmey, of this city, presided as toastmaster and addresses were made by members of the parish and former residents.

Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock an entertainment was presented by the children of the parochial school for their parents and teachers. Friday evening the soldier boys were welcomed home with addresses by Walter Stewart, John Cowan, Martin King, Jr., of Dansville, and Rev. Frank Mason, of Geneva.

On Sunday morning at 10:45 o'clock pontifical mass will be celebrated by Bishop Thomas F. Hickey. The bishop will also preach the anniversary sermon and in evening at 7:30 o'clock, solemn vespers will be sung and Rev. William Payne, of St. Mary's Church at Auburn, will preach a sermon.

Rev. James T. Dougherty is the present rector, when he was appointed this marked the beginning of a prosperous era for the church. In 1903 the last indebtedness on the church' property was paid and the foundations laid for the erection of the large and handsome edifice now used. This cost upwards of \$90,000. In 1908 a rectory was built to the north of the church building and extensive additions made to the school buildings, completing a plant which has cost more than \$160,000, all but \$26,000 of which has been paid.

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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.

Let us do your Job Printing.

Cardinal Mercier Greeted With Honor.

The reception accorded Cardinal Mercier, Primate of Belgium, in this city last Monday was one that will be remembered as the most enthusiastic reception ever given to a guest of the city. It was an occasion, the like of which was never before witnessed and men, women and children of all denominations strove to greet the heroic figure of the war.

A committee of prominent citizens went to Syracuse in the morning and, at the close of the ceremonies held in his honor in that city, extended to him the greetings of Rochester and came back with him on his special train. A great crowd had assembled at the New York Central station to see him enter into the city. A military guard of honor, together with representatives of Catholic and Flemish societies, formed part of the procession in which he passed smilingly between cheering rows of admiring people.

A platoon of mounted police led the procession that accompanied the Cardinal from the station. The Park Band followed. Major Frederick S. Couchman was marshal of the parade. The military escort was composed of Troop H, First New York Cavalry, under Captain G. C. Townsend and infantry companies A, G and H, under Captain A. T. Smith, Captain E. Russell Bingham and Captain A. J. Herman. Just preceding the automobile carrying the visiting party and the welcoming committee were members of the Fourth Degree Assembly, Knights of Columbus, in formal dress and wearing uniform, baldric and swords, and several hundred members of the Belgium-Holland Club of Rochester, bearing Belgian and American flags.

The procession first went to the Church of Our Lady of Victory, in Pleasant street, where the Cardinal addressed a congregation that completely filled the church.

At the noon luncheon in the Chamber of Commerce, where Cardinal Mercier was officially welcomed to the city, the distinguished prelate referred to the closing days of the war, when the eyes of Belgium were turned to America.

In the afternoon the Cardinal visited St. Patrick's Cathedral where he spoke briefly and gave his blessing. From there he was escorted to Exposition Park where he spoke to 3,000 school children.

The Cardinal next visited Nazareth Academy, where he also spoke briefly. At St. Bernard's Seminary he addressed the student body. Two stops, not on the schedule, were made, one at Kodak Park where he was greeted by George Eastman, and the other at St. Ann's Home. He was the guest of Bishop Hickey at a dinner and prior to the Convention Hall meeting he visited the Sacred Heart Academy on Prince street.

Convention Hall was not large enough to hold the crowd that flocked to hear Cardinal Mercier in the evening. Within five minutes after the door was thrown open, auditorium and balcony were filled and hundreds were unable to gain entrance to the hall. The cardinal entered the hall in company with Mayor Edgerton, Bishop Hickey, George Eastman and others on the city's welcoming committee. As he ascended the platform the Park Band play-

ed the Belgian national anthem and the crowd cheered. George Eastman opened the meeting and greetings were extended to Cardinal Mercier by Bishop Hickey, former Justice Arthur E. Sutherland, who appeared as the representative of Mayor Edgerton, and Rush Rhees, president of the University of Rochester, who presented the city's gift of \$25,000 to the distinguished visitor.

CATHOLICS KEPT POSTED ABOUT WORTHY PHOTOPLAYS

Inauguration of Service in this Paper Marks a Big Step in Right Direction.

By Charles J. Keegan

Readers of the Catholic Journal may be congratulated on the enterprise of this publication in establishing this feature, the object of which is to keep them informed regarding clean, worthy photoplays. Pictures listed here will have passed close scrutiny and Catholic families are assured by the Catholic Photoplay Pre-Review Service of New York City that there is nothing objectionable in them—on the contrary, they merit the patronage of those desiring to see only clean, meritorious films.

Approved Films

Catholic Pre-Review Service Passes These Motion Pictures As Clean and Entertaining

"Evangelist"—Miriam Cooper star. (William Fox—5 reels) Longfellow's master poem graphically portrayed in film. Accuracy in scenery, costumes, with superb acting of Miss Cooper, supported by strong cast, make an exceptional picture. "Evangelist" ranks as a masterpiece.

"The Egg Crate Wallop"—Charles Ray, star (Paramount—5 Reels)

Comedy drama, carrying strong, clean and appealing story. Best scene of sparring exhibition ever filmed. Suitable for adults and juveniles.

"The Winning Stroke"—George Walsh, star (William Fox—5 Reels)

Entertaining story of best side of college and athletic life. Worthy underlying moral. Sentiment and humor. World-famed boat race shown. Exceptional setting. For adults and juveniles over twelve—boys especially.

"The Ace of the Saddle"—Harry Carey, star. (Universal—5 Reels)

Far West romance—cowboys, exciting feats horsemanship, gun plays, mystery raiders, humor, crime punished. Suitable for adults, juveniles over twelve.

"Merry-Go-Round"—Peggy Hyland, star. (William Fox—5 reels)

Delightful, light vein story. Sentiment and humor as vehicle for lively and unusual scenes. Peggy Hyland's best picture.

"Jinx"—Mabel Normand, star (Goldwyn—5 Reels)

In point of entertainment of a light vein it will be hard to equal this picture. Abundance of humor, circus scenes, unusual situations. Take the children to see this.

"The Speed Maniac"—Tom Mix star (William Fox—5 Reels)

Unusual story, providing Tom Mix with vehicle to display his skill as a horseback rider and as a fighter with his fists. Sentiment, humor and exciting situations.

The above list was compiled after viewing more than forty pictures. This is an evidence of the care we exercise—our approval of a picture means something worth while—there is no guess work.

When the unclean picture play is the exception, Catholics will deserve the credit for having wiped out an evil of the first magnitude. Let an unclean picture be a thing to be abhorred—give your patronage to theaters showing only clean pictures—this Service will keep you posted in this paper.

Read the notice to Exhibitors. Cut it out and hand it in or mail it to any motion picture theater box office. Help prove that seventeen million Catholics demand CLEAN pictures.

NOTICE TO MR. EXHIBITOR

We know you are trying to give us only CLEAN, entertaining pictures—that's why we patronize your theatre.

We are especially interested in photoplays endorsed by the Catholic Photoplay Pre-Review Service, New York City.

Urge producers to advertise in Catholic publications—they keep us posted on clean, worthy films—17,000,000 Catholics read them. The Catholic Journal is a leader in this movement.

Please mail these requests to some Producer or Distributor—you will profit by our appreciation and patronage.

Late News of Ireland.

Cork

The Great Northern Amalgamated of Liverpool has been invited to the Queenstown U.I.C. that they have decided to establish an aerial base near Queenstown, at which passengers from the U. S. would be landed from airships, carrying 150 persons in addition to the crew. A smaller airship, to carry 50 persons, would take passengers to Dublin, Liverpool, Manchester, York, Hull, Norway and Denmark. Dublin

Some 1,200 more troops arrived at the North Wall from England, and were despatched to Ulster. R. Mitchell, J. P., of Dublin, left \$25,107.

Kilkenny

Miss K. Barton (Madame Marie Bernadette), daughter of Mrs. Barton and the late P. M. Barton, of Dublin and Gorebridge, has been received at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Ferrybank, Limerick.

Limerick

Limerick Guardians recorded deep regret at the death of Mrs. O'Riordan; and passed a vote of sympathy with Mr. Hogan, G. C. a member of the board, on the death of his brother, L. Hogan, Cratloe.

Mayo

Deep and widespread regret was occasioned throughout the whole parish of Mayo on the departure to Ballinrobe of the Rev. John Noone, Adm. The Rev. Father Owens, late of Westport, replaces Father Noone in Mayo. Wexford

The Ven. Father John J. Roche, O. F. M., Wexford, celebrated his 94th birthday. He was born on Aug. 30, 1825, and was ordained priest in Dec. 1848. The Ven. Father has been confined to bed for some weeks past, but otherwise is in perfect health.

Why Not Prepare

for excellent positions in offices in the City of Rochester? You can prepare thoroughly for such positions in the Rochester Business Institute and can register for any course in the day school Monday, October 20, or in the evening school Tuesday, October 21. Registration may be made before that time if desired. Rochester Business Institute, 172 Clinton Avenue South.—Adv.