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**New Year's**

Before the next issue of the Catholic Journal reaches its readers, 1919 will have wended its way into eternity and 1920 will be upon us. How time flies, to be sure. Twelve months come and go with astonishing rapidity. And how many of us are waiting for the tomorrow that never comes.

To many the twelvemonth just passed into history was a pleasurable period, to many more it was a season of trial and suffering. But in most cases, whatever the verdict, the past is forgotten and we face the future with fond hopes that if the year past were unsatisfactory that the record of the year to come would be reversed.

Probably, many of us wish that we could retrace our steps and live over again the year just past. Had we the knowledge then we have now, how different would be our record in the Recording Angel's great book!

But while we cannot bring back the year that is gone into history, we can resolve that at the end of 1920 the completed record would be more nearly as it should be. In all probability, we thought likewise a year ago and, in all likelihood, we will voice the same sentiment a year hence.

But there is one way in which we can help ourselves if only we will. We can resolve to be better fathers, kinder husbands, more practical as Catholics. If we live up to fifty per cent of what we promise ourselves we will be that much better off. There is none perfect. Not one of us but can stand improvement. So the tiniest fraction of a New Year's resolution put into practice is of much avail.

With war cessation, with one of the grandest countries this world has ever known, with religious liberty guaranteed, with equality of opportunity guaranteed, with the Stars and Stripes overshadowing us, why should the New Year not be full of promise and why should we not face it manfully and with courage?

May 1920 be a year fraught with happiness to all its readers is the New Year's greeting that the Catholic Journal extends to you.

**Practical Lesson**

There is a good old Catholic custom, which appears nowadays to be "more honored in the breach than the observance"—that of saying grace before and after meals. Of course, it is practised now in real Catholic families, as in religious communities; but all too often it is abridged to a perfunctory sign of the Cross, if it is not entirely forgotten or suppressed. Very many twentieth-century Catholics would be benefited by such a lesson as King Alfonso of Aragon, once gave his courtiers.

Observing that they did not ask a blessing before their meals or return thanks after them, he invited a beggar to the royal table, forbidding him most strictly either to make a bow upon entering the dining hall or to express his gratitude on departing. The courtiers were highly incensed at this lack of good breeding; but the King checked their complaints, saying: "Is not this exactly how you yourselves act toward your Heavenly King, you neither ask a blessing nor return thanks, and accordingly He has much more reason to be indignant with you than you have to abuse that poor mendicant."

**Crass Ignorance.**

"Crass ignorance—of Catholic doctrine—is not so rare as most persons might imagine," says the Ave Maria. "The self-confessed (world's greatest newspaper) for instance, informed its readers on the 9th inst. that 'Chicago Catholics celebrated yesterday the feast of the Immaculate Conception—the day the Christ-Child was conceived.'  
"As the man in the street is wont to say: 'This is a new one on us.' We have seen the Immaculate Conception confounded with the Virgin birth often enough; but, given the pretty universal knowledge that Christmas falls on the 25th of December, the conception of 'the Christ-Child' on December 8 is so ludicrous a blunder that it is inexcusable even in (the world's greatest newspaper.)"

**Kipling Rebuked.**

While the Hon. Rudyard Kipling has not broken out of late, nevertheless he is quite likely to "poison the wells" by some bigoted, ignorant allusion to Ireland or the cause of Irish freedom.

In anticipation of the Kipling outbreak we ask our readers to keep in front of them or handy for reference the following rebuke administered to the honorable Kipling by a fellow-author, Mr. George Russell "A. E.", the Irish poet and writer:

"I am a person whose whole being goes into a blaze at the thought of oppression of faith, and yet I think my Catholic countrymen infinitely more tolerant than those who hold the faith I was born in. I am a heretic, judged by their standards, a heretic who has written and made public his heresies, and I have never suffered in friendship or found my heresies an obstacle in life.  
"I set my knowledge, the knowledge of a lifetime, against your ignorance, to do Ireland and its people a wrong. You have intervened in a quarrel, of which you do not know the merits, like any brawling bully who passes and only takes sides to use his strength. If there was a high court of poetry, and those in power jealous of the noble name of poet, and that none should use it save those who were truly knights of the Holy Ghost, they would hack the golden spurs from your heels and turn you out of the court.  
"You had the ear of the world, and you poisoned it with prejudice and ignorance. You had the power of song, and you have always used it on behalf of the strong against the weak. You have smitten with all your might at creatures who are frail on earth but mighty in the heavens, at generosity, at truth, at justice, and heaven has withheld vision and power and beauty from you, for this, your verse, is only a shallow newspaper article made to rhyme."

Have you been diligent in attendance upon mass and holy days? If not, a good New Year resolution would be to mend your ways in that respect during 1920.

The American Legion can be a great force for order in the community but it must begin by upholding law, not overstepping it.

**How To Support.**

"Perhaps the critic of the Catholic papers will say that they would be up to date if they would spend some money and employ correspondents and meet the competition of the daily papers," writes Theodore A. Thoman in "Catholic Advance". "That is true, but the financial support must come first. Catholic weeklies as a rule are not well enough supported to have a staff of reporters and correspondents. The financial support must come before the diocesan weeklies can be brought really up-to-date. We have too many Catholics who feel that they have done their whole duty towards the Catholic press when they contribute \$1, \$1.50 or \$2 towards the diocesan weekly for a year's subscription. Anybody who is the least bit familiar with the cost of paper and the cost of printing and who knows how these costs have doubled and trebled since the war will realize what a puny contribution is \$1 or \$2 a year for a well-to-do Catholic for the spreading of Catholic literature.

If non-Irishmen are to be permitted to deprive Ireland of freedom why is it not permissible for Americans to take a hand in the problems that affect Ireland and England? If England is so anxious to have the United States help her meddle in world affairs, where is the wrong if the United States offers suggestions as to how Great Britain should conduct her own affairs!

Now that the C. M. B. A. is on a sound insurance footing and hence able to stand on its own record, there is no reason why it should not occupy a prominent place in the fraternal insurance world. It has always been honestly administered and its assets have been conserved in every way. The only reason it fell behind was that its rates were inadequate, a fault which has been remedied.

If it be true that the new ruler of Czechoslovakia have begun to oust the Catholics from their churches and convents and turning them into Salvation Army barracks and Y. W. C. A. caravanseries, we begin to understand more clearly why Geneva, rather than Brussels, was selected for the permanent seat of the League of Nations.

If you want an up-to-date Catholic paper, support it as you do your daily.

**New Location of Prominent Electrical Store.**

Brown and Pierce Co., one of the leading electrical stores in Rochester beg to announce to their many friends and patrons that after Jan. 1, 1920, they will locate at the corner of East Main and Franklin streets, opposite East avenue. They have been located at 178 South Clinton Ave., in the R. E. I. building where their business has grown to such proportions that these quarters are entirely inadequate to their requirements. This is the age of electricity and one may find at this up-to-date store a complete line of Electric Appliances for the home, including a full line of new and up-to-date fixtures at right prices.

This company have built up a very large business on its reputation of high quality, prompt service and careful consideration to customers individual requirements. A telephone call will bring one of their many salesmen who will be glad to demonstrate anything in their line.

The company will be pleased to see any of its many friends at their new location as well as the former location, as they shall continue to operate both stores.

We predict for them as much success in the future as they have had in the past, and join the company in wishing their patrons and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**A Happy New Year To All**

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**Did You Forget Someone?**

If so, you still have an opportunity of redeeming yourself. There's New Year's Day, for instance.

An expression of good will accompanied by a gift on New Year's Day is perfectly proper and the following list of useful gifts might prove helpful:

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Electric Sewing Machine Motor | Electric Iron              |
| Electric Coffee Percolator    | Automatic Water Heater     |
| Electric Toaster              | Gas Heated Electric Ironer |
| Electric Heating Pad          | Cabinet Gas Range          |
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