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**Solemn Warning To Our Nation**

By JAMES CARDINAL GIBBONS  
(Copyright by N. C. W. C. News Service)  
"In matters pertaining to moral-  
ity, legislation will not rise  
above the level established by the  
general tone and tenor of society.  
It is necessary, then, for the  
preservation of national life, that  
social morality, in its usage and  
sanction, be sound and steadfast  
and pure.

"This aim can be accomplished  
only by reaching the sources in  
which life has its origin, and from  
which the individual character  
receives its initial direction. As  
the family is the first social  
group, it is also the center whose  
influence permeates the entire  
social body. And since family life  
takes its rise from the union of  
husband and wife, the sanctity  
of marriage and of marital rela-  
tions is of prime importance for  
the purity of social relations."

I take these words from the  
Pastoral Letter of the Arch-  
bishops and Bishops recently  
issued to the Faithful, both to the  
Clergy and the Laity.

Let us turn now to consider, in  
the light of these words, the sub-  
stance of a report made public a  
few days ago in Washington by  
the Secretary of the International  
Divorce Reform Association, an  
organization which is supporting  
the Constitutional Amendment  
proposed by Senator Jones em-  
powering the Congress to make  
uniform divorce laws for all the  
States. According to this report  
the United States now exceeds  
Japan in the frequency of di-  
vorce. In pagan Japan there are  
109 divorces annually for every  
100,000 persons, while in our own  
Christian country divorces have  
increased to more than 112 among  
every 100,000 persons. One State  
in particular, Nevada, has ap-  
proximately 300 divorces each  
year among each 100,000 of its  
inhabitants.

Now, the esteem in which mar-  
riage is held, as the Pastoral Let-  
ter goes on to show, furnishes an  
index of a people's morality. For,  
if honor and respect be due an  
institution in proportion to its  
sacredness, its significance for  
human happiness, and the mea-  
sure of responsibility which it im-  
plies, marriage must necessarily  
claim the reverence of every mind  
that is capable of paying tribute  
to anything good. With the insti-  
tution of marriage our American  
life is so singularly allied, so in-  
timately bound up, that if its per-  
manency and honorable character  
be really declining among us we  
must, ask ourselves, in a most real  
alarm, whether actual moral de-  
generacy does not threaten to set  
in among the American people.

Without the bond of marriage  
—holding together and blessing  
the pioneers of our nation, and  
accompanying them everywhere  
as they penetrated and conquered  
the wilderness, and becoming the  
heart and certain cornerstone of  
community, and of every

sovereign state, as these arose—  
never would the world have wit-  
nessed the inspiring and almost  
incredibly rapid growth and the  
providential progress of our  
nation.

If that bond is not merely  
loosened, but is to be cast aside,  
and if the Laws of God and man  
are to be broken, and a spirit of  
anarchy is to prevail, destroying,  
if it be able, the spiritual and  
moral values of the institution of  
marriage, actual moral decline has  
come upon us, religion is at ebb  
tide instead of at flood, and the  
best interests of our country, mat-  
terial as well as spiritual, are  
doomed to meet with disaster.

Marriage is no mere legal con-  
tract, still less is it a casual union  
of two selfish individuals brought  
together by caprice or passion. It  
is a Sacrament. It is a holy estate.  
It is blessed and consecrated by  
God and maintained inviolate by  
God's Church. Therefore, the  
"sacredness of the home" has a  
meaning deeper than its natural  
privacy and its intimacy and in-  
violability. Assuredly, the home  
is sacred because it is established  
with God's benediction to carry  
out His purpose in regard to man-  
kind.

I repeat, then, with special em-  
phasis, the warning words of the  
Pastoral Letter and I appeal to  
our faithful Clergy and the Laity  
to heed its solemn admonition  
that there is need of greater and  
even greater vigilance in protect-  
ing the home, at this time, owing  
to conditions which tend to weak-  
en its influence. "The demands  
of industry, of business and of  
social intercourse," as the Pastor-  
al Letter truthfully declares,  
"subject the family tie to a strain  
that becomes more severe as civi-  
lization advances. Parents who  
are sensible of their obligations,  
will exert themselves to meet  
external pressure by making the  
home more attractive.

**Watch Them**

In view of the disclosures tend-  
ing to prove that there is a well  
conceived and fairly developed  
plot to poison the wells of Amer-  
ican history by falsifying facts  
so as to make it appear that the  
United States really had no  
ground for rebelling against Eng-  
land in 1776, it would be the part  
of wisdom for the Knights of Co-  
lumbus and others of the Catho-  
lic laity to enter upon research  
work to the extent of reading all  
new history text books intended  
for use in the public schools and  
colleges in order to be prepared  
to nip this conspiracy in the bud.  
We are interested because our  
Catholic school pupils must pass  
examinations in the same secular  
branches as do the pupils of the  
public schools. And if we are  
asleep the first thing we know the  
teachers in our Catholic schools  
will be called upon to boost the  
Anglo-American alliance by  
teaching their pupils from the  
poisoned text books prescribed  
for use in the schools of the State  
of New York and other States.

Especially should our Ameri-  
cans of Polish, French, Italian,  
Swedish, Danish, Grecian and  
other extractions see to it that  
they are not assimilated as Ameri-  
cans but as Anglo-Americans.  
Were it not so serious in its pos-  
sibilities, the proposition would  
partake of a farce-comedy ele-  
ment but then comedy is not a  
part of the Briton composition.  
John Bull is nothing if not seri-  
ous.

As we have said repeatedly:  
"Away with the hyphenates,  
Americans all, that's good  
enough!"

The Chicago Republican con-  
vention ignored Ireland along  
with the wet and dry plank.  
What will you wager that the  
San Francisco platform will at  
least touch upon both? With Wil-  
liam Jennings Bryan, Daniel F.  
Cohan, Alfred E. Smith and  
Frank P. Walsh on hand there'll  
be something doing.

Hiram Johnson also ran at Chi-  
cago.

**WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR**

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Gospel: The Miraculous Draught  
of Fishes. St. Luke. v. 1-11.  
S. 20 St. Silverius, P. M.  
M. 21 St. Aloysius Gonzaga, C.  
T. 22 St. Paulinus, B. C.  
W. 23 St. Audry, Q.  
Th. 24 Nativity of St. John the  
Bapt.  
F. 25 St. William, Ab.  
S. 26 SS. John and Paul, MM.  
Cathedral.

Miss Mary Josephine Norman,  
daughter of Mrs. Margaret Nor-  
man and niece of the late Right  
Rev. James Edward Quigley,  
archbishop of Chicago, and of  
Police Chief Joseph M. Quigley,  
was married to Raymond M.  
Toomey, of No. 897 Genesee St.,  
on Tuesday morning in Lady  
Chapel, St. Patrick's Cathedral.  
Right Rev. Thomas F. Hickey  
performed the ceremony and the  
nuptial mass which followed was  
celebrated by Rev. J. E. Masseth,  
of Stanley, with Rev. Raymond  
Quigley as deacon and Rev. Dan-  
iel Quigley, of Hammondsport, as  
subdeacon. Rev. James F. Mc-  
Gloin, of Buffalo, was master of  
ceremonies. A number of priests  
were in the sanctuary.

The bride was attended by her  
cousin, Mrs. F. Delehahty, of  
Buffalo, as matron of honor. The  
bridesmaids were Miss Monica B.  
Troy and Miss Frances J. McCar-  
thy. The flower girls were Miss  
Eileen McInerney and Miss  
Mary Jane McInerney cousins  
of the bride.

A wedding breakfast for the  
immediate families was served at  
the home of Mrs. Norman. A re-  
ception followed.  
Mr. and Mrs. Toomey left for  
an inland water trip. On their  
return they will live at No. 273  
Sherwood avenue.

**Mrs. Peter Riefer Dead**

Mrs. Peter Riefer, mother of  
Rev. Charles P. Riefer, died on  
Tuesday at No. 55 Crosby street,  
Hornell, N. Y. Father Riefer is  
a professor at St. Andrew's Sem-  
inary.

Mrs. Riefer was a life-long  
member of St. Ann's Church,  
Hornell, from which solemn fu-  
neral services were held Wednes-  
day morning at 10 o'clock. A de-  
legation of priests from the Cathed-  
ral, and the faculty of St. An-  
drew's Seminary, as well as rep-  
resentatives of St. Bernard's  
Seminary and the priests of the  
city attended the obsequies.

**June 16, 1890—Thirty Years Ago**

The corner-stone of the new  
chapel of the Convent of the  
Sacred Heart was laid by Bishop  
McQuaid assisted by Monseigneur  
De Regge and Fathers Kiernan  
and McGrath.

**C. R. & B. A. To Hold Meeting**

A meeting of importance of the  
C. R. & B. A., will be held on  
Sunday afternoon, June 20th, at  
4 o'clock at Mr. Hamm's resi-  
dence, 22 Mildred street.

**K. of C. Team Will Play Sunday**

The K. of C. ball team will play  
the Kodak Park team on Sunday  
afternoon at 3 o'clock on the Ko-  
dak Park diamond.

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