

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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Friday, Jan. 27, 1922

Pope Benedict XV

Like a lightning flash out of a clear sky came the news on Friday, January 20 that Pope Benedict XV was seriously ill, in fact not expected to live. The day previously there had been read in the news despatches, a brief item that the Holy Father was confined to his room with a bronchial cold but that it was nothing serious. This made Friday's news that the Pope's death was imminent incredible to many American Catholics, especially those of us familiar with the ways of the newspaper writers to whom slight illness of any notable personage furnishes a pretext for columns of descriptive writing.

But Saturday and Sunday brought sad confirmation and we know that one of the most remarkable figures in the history of the Papacy had passed to his eternal rest.

Called to wear the triple tiara of St. Peter at one of the crucial periods of the world's history, a few months after he had been made a Prince of the Church by the Pope he was called upon to succeed. His Holiness Pius X, James Della Chiesa, archbishop of Bologna, chose his reigning title as Benedict XV and a worthy successor of Benedict XIV he has proven himself.

With the Catholic countries of Europe, the oldest daughters of the Church at war with each other, Pope Benedict was faced with tremendously delicate tasks to uphold the Church's centuries old tradition as a preserver and conservator of peace, and yet to wear the Papacy through the troubled waters so not to discriminate between children and so be able to restore Church and Faith when the carnage of war had ceased.

We all know how well Pope Benedict performed his difficult task. The Vatican's finances were at low ebb because of the reduction in Peter's Pence occasioned by the war. To meet this condition the Vatican expenditures were reduced to the minimum. But it is a pleasure to note that much of the reduction in Peter's Pence from the war countries was made up, in great part, by the increased generosity of the Catholics in America.

Pope Benedict XV was as skilled in diplomatic statecraft as his predecessor was in churchly lore and equally as remarkable a theologian and churchman. Without loss of Papal dignity he re-established friendly relations with the King and Queen of Italy and by so doing enhanced the prestige of the Church and dealt a body blow to the infidel element that was fast assuming full control of the governmental machinery of Italy. Even during the war, the Vatican influence was exerted quietly but none the less forcefully and successfully, to erasing the barrier set up by the Combes and the other enemies of Christianity to the onward progress of the Church in France.

All during the war the Holy Father's influence was exerted to bring the carnage to a close and to restore peace to the world. The recent Washington disarmament conference had a sincere well-wisher in the occupant of St. Peter's Chair. Indeed, who knows how mighty an influence Benedict XV may have exerted in effecting the compromise that gave a great measure of freedom to Ireland and put a stop to bloodshed? Theodore Roosevelt and Lloyd George operate differently. The world knew of the efforts of William H. Taft with the Holy Father to settle up the Philippine differences with the Church. History may tell that Lloyd George did not hesitate to go to Canossa rather than end his political career in ignominious defeat.

A great Pope has gone to his last reward. It may be truly said that like his Master, he wore himself out in service to humanity. Peace to his ashes and eternal rest to his soul!

Drifting!

Several political writers have described the National Administration at Washington as "drifting".

This is often done by ship captains—either when they do not know what else to do or in a hope to save their ship from the rocks. Many shrewd observers affect to believe that President Harding knows just what he is doing; that he foresees mutiny among the National Ships Crew may lead to disastrous consequences, that he hopes by letting things drift along favorable winds may blow up which will permit the harbor to steer safe into the harbor of party delight.

Let us hope that the favorable wind blows up soon and that the harbor's safety may be afforded to the ship of state so that his plentiful cargo may be discharged for the benefit of the whole American people.

The Press

Those who heard Sir Philip Gibbs talk before the Rochester Press Club last week were impressed with the keen understanding and ability to discern the fine distinctions in American journalism possessed by the famous war correspondent and free lance writer. America journalism, said Sir Philip, is at once the best and worst in the world. It was patent Sir Philip was able to place our "yellow press" but he granted that even the despised "yellows" served splendidly as an object lesson and the better papers of America stood out boldly in sharp contrast.

We have experienced a sharp object lesson in the yellow press descriptions of the death and funeral of Pope Benedict. Before he had breathed his last, the penny-a-liners of the yellows were speculating on his successor. They all knew that there is no machine made successor to the miter of St. Peter—that the new Pope is chosen by the College of Cardinals in solemn conclave and that there is full and free choice and that he who receives a majority of the votes cast is proclaimed Pope.

These exhibitions may amuse the devotees of the yellow journals. They disgust all fair-minded and decent men and women.

Old Jack Frost kept away from Rochester until the New Year but he has made us quite a visit since then.

Cheer up! It will not be long before the lilacs are in bloom and next July you will be wishing for a whiff of zero breezes.

The whole world mourns Benedict XV even if his reign as Pope was not as long as that of Pius IX, Leo XIII or even Pius X.

Cardinal Vannutelli knows the United States well.

They're Winners

The Knights of Columbus are forging to the front as witness this editorial from the Rochester "Democrat & Chronicle" anent the recent membership drive:

It may be just local pride, but time after time in numerous undertakings for which a city-wide appeal was made, it has seemed that the bodies that represent various social, fraternal and religious beliefs have co-operated more whole-heartedly in Rochester than they have in many other cities. Co-operation has been in the minds of Rochesterians for so long that they just naturally seem to slip into it.

The leaders of the campaign for the Knights have been among the most effective leaders in these community enterprises, those of the war period and those that preceded and followed the war period. It is their personality, as much as the well known value of the work of the organization for which at present they are working, which inspires and maintains public confidence and makes their success in their present undertaking a matter of community concern.

It is coincident, but none the less significant, that the Knights and the Y. M. C. A. are conducting simultaneous campaigns. Each has its distinct field, but both have a similar work to perform, the turning of headstrong youth into good citizenship. The arguments that are made for one can be made for the other. Contributors that one does not reach can be reached by the other or if the interest of some supporter of the organization for young men of the city, the Jewish Young Men's Association, has been stirred by the joint appeals that organization may derive a reflected benefit.

William Randolph Hearst knows better than to expect he could be elected United States senator or Governor. But he would be willing to run to re-advertise the Hearst papers.

Let the politicians take warning: Nathan L. Miller will be a hard man to beat if he runs again. Just talk with the rural residents.

Thomas Carmody was a great lawyer, a splendid citizen and his death is a distinct loss to New York State.

Cardinals Dougherty and O'Connell, of the United States and Cardinal Begin, of Canada, will represent America in the conclave to elect a successor to Pope Benedict XV.

The whole world is interested in the spiritual head of 500,000 Catholics.

Farmers are determined to have legislation in their interests. Well, why not?

Benedict XV saw world peace begun and he saw the dawn of a new day for Ireland.

Robert Davey, the former counsel to the Anti-Saloon League is a callous fanatic. He is quoted as saying of the victims of bootleg liquor: "They are better off dead. Let them die." Truly, a pious declaration from one who pretends to be so much of a Christian that he could reform the centuries-old Catholic Church.

Salesmanship.

There is no training for certain success in business more important than this statement is recognized by wise business men and by experienced educators. Clarence Campbell's salesmanship course at the Rochester Business Institute gives the necessary training. The class will start Monday night, January 30th, at 8 o'clock. Telephone the R. B. I. for information, Main 8869.—Adv.

Abbe Patrick Flynn Now Heads Paris Parochial Schools

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Paris, Jan. 14.—The new director of the parochial school system in the diocese of Paris, who has just been appointed by Cardinal Dubois, is one of the French priests who is most familiar with American Catholic circles. He is M. l'Abbe Patrick Flynn, who for some time has been pastor of Suresnes, near Paris.

Of Irish descent, Abbe Patrick Flynn has been in America several times. He formed part of the mission which accompanied Msgr. Baudrillart to the United States to congratulate Cardinal Gibbons on the occasion of his jubilee in the name of the French Government. In Paris Abbe Flynn took an active part in all manifestations and meetings of the American Catholics. At Suresnes he was one of the most active organizers of the memorial services in the American military cemetery.

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