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Friday March 7, 1924

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Lent

We have now entered upon the holy season of Lent. For many years we were the only ones who made a pretense of observing Lent. To the other sects barely mentioned it. To them there appeared to be more reverence to Washington's or Lincoln's Birthday than to Easter.

We are glad to note this year that other sects are planning Lenten observance as that indicates a return to olden days when self-denial and sacrifice were applauded, at least not laughed at as old fashioned.

Bishop Hickey sounds a clarion note even to us Catholics as regards Lenten observance. Lenten fast and self-denial is not encompassed by abstinence from dancing and more feverish devotion to the joys of bridge and five hundred. Neither is encompassed in absence from the theater and renewed activity in the scandal circle or gossip club.

Moreover, it is good for us in a physical sense, to comply as nearly as possible with ecclesiastical regulations regarding the Lenten observance. It is good to reduce our eating. Most of us are too generous to our stomachs. Most of us set too stiff a pace to maintain it for 365 days a year. The forty days of Lent afford opportunity to repair these ravages of health. And if we go further and let up on the inexorable grind of social exactions, take inventory of our spiritual surplus as it were, we shall profit.

Viewed from a physical or mental standpoint the Lenten lull is a splendid relief. And if we only profit spiritually then indeed, we shall realize the wisdom of Holy Mother Church in insisting that her children pause and reflect for their souls' good, for forty days each year!

Blazing Way

The death of Bishop Theophile Meerschaert, of Oklahoma, removes from active service one of the Church's pioneers in America. He was 76 years old and two years ago celebrated his golden jubilee as a priest. Born in Flanders and educated at Louvain. Father Meerschaert, was accepted for mission work in the South in the United States when priests were few and parishes embraced almost whole States or territories.

Stationed first at Natchez, Mississippi. Father Meerschaert labored in the fever-infested and malaria-stricken sections. In Ocean Springs he served through an epidemic of yellow fever and fell ill with the disease, after Bishop Janssens was elevated to the archiepiscopal see of New Orleans. Father Meerschaert was administrator of the Diocese of Natchez until a Bishop was named by Rome. He was then transferred to the wilds of Oklahoma and made Vicar-Apostolic with headquarters at Guthrie. In 1905 the Vicariate was made the Diocese of Oklahoma with Oklahoma as Bishop Meerschaert's cathedral city. In 1905 there were 12 Catholic Churches in Oklahoma.

When Bishop Meerschaert died the number had increased to 150 with appropriate increase in Church property, institutions and other religious facilities. Veteran missionaries, like Bishop Meerschaert, have made our own religious privileges possible. May his soul rest in peace.

Approved

The United States Department of Labor's bureau of naturalization has approved the Americanization school of the National Catholic Welfare Conference conducted in the National Catholic Community Club of San Antonio, Texas.

In extending co-operation of the Federal Bureau the commissioner of immigration wrote as follows:—"I am pleased to offer such help as the bureau is able to give in connection with the education for citizenship of applicants for naturalization. This offer of the bureau's assistance is not confined to the work of your organization in San Antonio alone."

He stated that the assistance of the federal authorities would be given if the same work were carried on in other Texas communities. The community house has become a center for recreational and educational activities in San Antonio. According to the records of the director of activities, Miss Martina A. Pleace, the number of individuals using the house has increased from 1,189 during the last week of November to more than 2,000 at the present time. The activities include games for the boys and girls under play supervisors, kindergarten classes, civics class, English class and catechism class. The scope of the work will be increased as facilities become available. Welfare work in homes also is carried on.

The community house boys have been gaining enviable records in athletics. The National Catholic Community House basketball team recruited among Mexican boys, leads the city league of eight teams.

Keep On Hand!

The National Catholic Welfare Council's press service has done a signal service for Catholics and decent non-Catholics alike in compiling in handy reference form the names and records of lecture platform defamers of the Church who are now touring various sections of the United States.

Here is the list! Cut it out for ready reference in case one of them is billed in your home town or city. Fake ex-priests: O. P. Bellanger, Rev. L. A. Benner, Harry S. Bernaby, alias Barnaby, alias Bernebey; Rev. Louis O. F. Cotey; Roy Crane, alias "ex-Priest Hilderbrand"; F. R. DeLong, Louis F. Desaro, Samuel Freuder, A. C. Graham, "ex-Romanist" L. J. King, "Dr." W. J. Mahoney, Rev. C. H. Reeb and Joseph Donnelly.

Of the above mentioned, Bellanger and Crane have proven criminal records.

Fake ex-nuns: Helen Jackson and "Sister Angel." Helen Jackson was once an inmate of a House of the Good Shepherd, and is the author of a booklet called "Convent Cruelties."

Other traveling patriots: Rev. C. Crawford, Eugene Farnsworth, Rev. Harter, Rev. E. A. Jordan, Rev. Charles D. McGehee, Rev. Polovina, alias "Methodist Sam", Rev. George Rutledge, Otis L. Spurgeon, Dorothy Nicholas.

Publishers of anti-Catholic literature: Milt Elrod, alias "John Hamilton"; Col. William N. (Billie) Mayfield; Gilbert O. Nations; Billy Parker, "Bishop" Alma White of the "Pillar of Fire."

A great many klan papers have sprung up; but the names of all these are not given, since a list was published not long ago. The above are the most notorious persons who make a business of publishing anti-Catholic literature.

Heads of anti-Catholic organizations: Edward Young Clarke, "Imperial Wizard" Hiram W. Evans, Rev. Caleb A. Ridley, William J. Simmons, Sidney Catts, ex-governor of Florida, and J. W. Forrest, Real ex-priest: Jeremiah J. Crowley.

Perhaps, to comply with the strict letter of the law there are proper titles on the exempt from tax list that should be on the tax rolls; but it is questionable if that would be sound public policy. And the courts find "public policy" a splendid text upon which to interpret statute laws, as well as "the evident intent" of the Legislature enacting the statute—if, indeed, any tribunal can fathom "the intent" of the legislators of 1924.

The new laws of Rochester Council No. 11, Knights of Columbus takes on more activity day by day.

The Times-Union sees the evil of the cheap and nasty popular price magazines and agrees with us that censorship in that direction is needed as fully as over the movies, perhaps more.

If Jim Whitley is nominated for lieutenant-governor Rochester's "Old Guard" will not wear craps.

Unfair!

It would appear that careful scanning of the proposed restrictive immigration bill is necessary, to complete realization of all its purposes to restrict.

Very possibly, the bill is drawn in the interests of the Belfast manufacturers who are responsible for the divided Ireland—not only because of creedal differences but because the English Barons of Belfast cannot abide any dreamers. They cannot abide sculptors, poets, barons or any one who is not obsessed of subject reverence for dollars and cents.

Circumstantial evidence is not wanting that the Johnson immigration bill is in line with the avowed determination of the promoters of the merger of all Anglo-Saxon and Confederation of British States.

The New York State representatives in Congress have issued a statement in opposition to the Johnson bill as follows:—"The Johnson Bill," they say in their statement, "is particularly objectionable because it discriminates against certain nationalities already going to make up a great part of our population and fans the flames of racial, religious and national hatreds and brands forever elements already here as of inferior stock."

"It discriminates against Italy, who gave us the great Columbus. It discriminates against Poland, who gave us our revolutionary heroes, Kosciusko and Pulaski. It discriminates against Russia of the great Tolstoy, against Hungary who gave us our patriot Kosuth, against Greece, the land of Venizelos, against Czechoslovakia, whose halls the distinguished Masaryk, against Jugoslavia, who sent us the great inventor Michael Pupin and finally against France, whence came the immortal Lafayette and Rochambeau."

The charge that the bill is so cast as to stir religious and racial hatreds is partially borne out by the circumstances of the controversy to which it has already given rise. Those who are supporting the measure have taken up the cry that it is being fought by racial "blocks."

Chairman Johnson has used this phrase or the equivalent. So have others who see no inconsistency in advancing the claim of superiority on behalf of the so-called Nordic race.

Of this aspect of the bill the statement of the New York members says: "This proposed law would adopt as a basis of entrance two per cent of the foreign population of 1890 in its determined effort to be as unfair as possible, the committee, in addition to reducing the percentage from three per cent to two per cent, as a basis, to men figures of years old, instead of taking the census of 1920 now available, or even the census of 1910, the basis of the present law. This basis was deliberately selected to favor the so-called Nordic races and discriminate against races from southern and eastern Europe, which discrimination is, indeed, a new but perilous doctrine for democratic America, founded upon the declaration that all men are created equal."

The Lenten season affords time for good reading. One of the best pieces of reading matter for Lent—her slaves. This was done as she and any other season in a Catholic home—is the Catholic Journal. Your subscription can be entered any time.

No wonder the Vatican views with alarm the growth in popular favor of certain so-called "popular dances."

Roy McCann's stand on the Rochester Telephone Corporation control did not cost him the presidency of the Stronberg-Carlson corporation, it would seem.

Lent is a season of social relaxation and spiritual activity.

Thank fortune, up to date, the slime of the oily serpent does not appear to have attached itself to any of our people.

One thing is certain: The bright and character assassins have unearthed any discreditable act to "Al." Smith.

Like the late George W. Aldridge, William H. Craig seems to think there is a future in building material to judge of recent floor operations.

Bishop Of Portland Received By Pope (By N. C. W. C. News Service) Rome, Feb. 25.—The Rt. Rev. Louis S. Walsh, Bishop of Portland, was received in audience by the Pope today. The audience lasted one hour and a quarter.

It is understood that the Pope questioned Bishop Walsh regarding the Diocese of Portland and the ecclesiastical affairs in the United States. After the audience Bishop Walsh expressed his gratification at the cordial welcome he had been accorded.

Cardinal Bourne Consults With Pope Before Pilgrimage

London, February 22.—Cardinal Bourne, who will lead the English Catholic pilgrimage to Palestine, has left Rome, where he will have an audience with the Holy Father before joining the pilgrimage at Marselles.

The visit to Rome of Cardinal Bourne, in advance of the Palestine pilgrimage, is believed to be investigations into a new and stronger the Palestine difficulties come up for discussion at Geneva shortly.

Cardinal Bourne, as is well known, is strongly opposed to any one nation having a dominant influence in Palestine, so far as control over the Holy Places is concerned. The Cardinal has stated publicly his conviction that the Holy Places are the possession of all Catholics alike, and that to utilize them in the political interests of any one nation would be offensive not only to deep religious sentiment, but to proper rights in the Holy Places irrespective of nationality.

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF FEAST DAYS Sunday, March 9.—St. Frances of Rome, at the age of twelve was married to Lorenzo Pontiano, a Roman noble, notwithstanding her own desire to become a nun. During their married life of forty years they never had a disagreement. She used to say: "A married woman must leave God at the altar to find Him in her domestic cares." She died on the day she had foretold in the year 1440.

Monday, March 10.—The Forty Martyrs of Sebaste, were soldiers quartered in Armenia about the year 320. When their legion was ordered to sacrifice to the heathen gods they refused. They were put to death by being compelled to lie naked on the icy surface of a pond until they were frozen to death.

Tuesday, March 11.—St. Eulogius, was the son of a senatorial family of Cordova, at that time the capital of the Moors in Spain. He embraced the religious life and became head of the chief ecclesiastical school in that city. He was executed by order of the Moorish authorities in 859.

Wednesday, March 12.—St. Gregory, a Roman of noble birth was elected Pope to succeed Pelagius II. For fourteen years his pontificate was a perfect model of ecclesiastical rule. He died A. D. 604 worn out by austerities and toils. The Church reckons him one of her four great Doctors and reveres him as St. Gregory the Great.

Thursday, March 13.—St. Euphrasia, virgin, when seven years old begged that she might be permitted to serve God. Her mother permitted her to enter a monastery. Refusing an offer of an illustrious marriage she requested the Emperor Theodosius to see her estates and divide the proceeds among the poor and to free her slaves. This was done as she and any other season in a Catholic home—is the Catholic Journal. Your subscription can be entered any time.

Friday, March 14.—St. Maud, Queen, was the daughter of Theodorick, a powerful Saxon Count. She was married to Henry, son of Otho, Duke of Saxony, who was afterwards chosen King of Germany. It was her delight to visit, comfort and exhort the sick and to serve and instruct the poor. In her last illness she made her confession to her grandson William, Archbishop of Mentz.

Saturday, March 15.—St. Zachary, Pope, succeeded Gregory III in 741. He ruled with great benevolence and prudence and during this pontificate Rome was adorned with many sacred buildings. He died in 752.

DARROW EVENING SCHOOL Continues throughout the summer. There is therefore no disadvantage in beginning at this season of the year. Next enrollment date for both Day and Evening Schools is Monday, March 10. We assist Evening School Students, as well as Day School Students, to secure positions, 218 East Avenue. Stone 1974.

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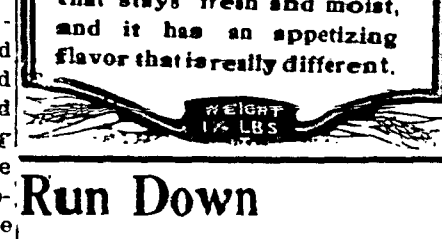
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