

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

Martin H. Glynn

Published Every Friday At No. 113 North Water Street

If paper is not received promptly notify the office. Report without delay change of address

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Monday, December 26, 1924

TELEPHONE MAIN 1567

Entered as second class mail matter.

New Year

Another year is nearly ended. In a few days another twelvemonth will have passed into eternity and 1924 will give place to 1925.

It is well to take stock of ourselves; a spiritual inventory as it were.

Have we been less selfish this year? Have we striven to do some good thing for some one each day?

Have we tried to live nearer God and to do as He would have us do—that when the summons to go, hence we will be ready to face our Maker?

Has the world been just a little bit better because we have lived in it?

These are pertinent questions as the Old Year is passing out.

If we have failed now is the time for us to resolve, God helping us, to do better in the year to come.

With His help we may keep our New Year resolutions. Without His help we will do little.

The Catholic Journal wishes to each and every one of its readers a Happy New Year!

Year Of Jubilee

The Democrat & Chronicle has preached the sincerity of its concern, but this understandable editorial on Jubilee Year.

While a few small groups of Bible explicable doctrines that fright the liberals and confident date-fixers other. Its doctrine may atound and are tremendously worked up by their disillusion many sincere but gullible belief that the year now opening is antagonists whose hatred arose from going to wind up terrestrial activity inherited prejudice, malicious slanders, the Roman Catholic Church or of periodicals or the pteayuno has no such apprehension and its narrowness of provincial churches. year of jubilee, or Holy Year, begins. But the careless Catholic will deca Christmas day. The first of these rise little solace from the broadcast special years was celebrated in 1300, sermon. He knows that the burning and the original idea was to holdzeal of an eloquent saint cannot them a century apart. This timeleave him smugly complacent, ab was cut to fifty and later to twenty-solved and saved. His faith must be five years, the last one being in reduced to action. He must observe 1900. That was the first in seventy-the commandments of God and of five years, for in 1875 and in 1950 His Church. He must go to confes feverish international conditions pre- sion. He must attend Mass every vated a jubilee year.

Great pilgrimages to Rome are looked for in 1925, and various an- least at Easter time. The loud speak and impressive ceremonies or may be the electro magnet of his will be renewed. But for all the soul, but it cannot save it. He must devout, there or at home, the Pope do that himself. And if he be bed recommending prayer for the peace of ridden, he wants his pastor physical the world, "not merely the peace of ly present to administer the sacra- treaties, but peace in the hearts of ments, to advise and console, for his men. And he also urges special con- religion is such that it cannot be tern and striving not for the things broken into characteristic electric of sense, but for those that will pro- mote eternal welfare.

Beyond much question the world needs most just now a truer valua- tion of the objects of pursuit which matter most or matter least. It may or not be that this age is less mindful than former epochs of the things that are accounted righteousness; for every three motorists and the but the statement that this is so a commonplace of discussion on the subject. It may be that there is more genuine unselfish goodness in the world to-day than ever before. Many things indicate that the human average in rectitude, well doing, es- sential goodness, increases year by year. Nevertheless, the room for im- provement is obvious and a feeling everywhere encountered is that the error of this epoch is the undue store it sets upon the things of the world and the lessened value attach- ed to the lives that are simple, duti- ful, pure and faithful to high ideals.

President Coolidge may be expect- ed to insist upon a sane enforcement of the Volstead law—one that will eliminate the poison hood yet not strike contempt for the law.

Have you read over the splendid address of the Massachusetts General Court's Catholic Welfare Council's man, a good citizen, a star- gress? We now have a real friend, and full of sympathy for his less fortunate fellow man Rochester. In his death, has lost a valued citi- zen and one whose influence will no die with him.

Should Be Law

The Rochester Times-Union is on the right line in this editorial:— "The House has voted to exclude from the jails pistols, revolvers and other firearms that may be concealed on the person.

It is doubtless true that a large proportion of our armed bandits, or those who fit themselves to be band- its, provide themselves with fire- arms through the medium of mail order houses. Anyone, possessing a few dollars, with a mail order cata- logue, can secure a gun within a few days, and thousands do so. With the gun in possession, they are not particular about permission to carry it, for they take chances and go on their way of holdup, robbery, boot- legging, smuggling, manufacturing and selling almost any kind of pol- ion, so long as it is labeled drink in defiance of authorities.

There is no valid reason why any man in this country should find it necessary to tote a gun. There is no danger from attack by wild beasts or savages. The bearing of concealed weapons should be forbidden.

Governor Alfred E. Smith enters upon his third term with the best wishes of a host of friends of all political shades.

State Comptroller Murphy's first and second deputies are both prop- riant in the Knights of Columbus: James Hamilton in the Bronx and James O'Kane in Rochester.

For the first time in the history of New York state a Governor re- ceived oath of office from a woman Secretary of State.

If the anti-Americans would sub- side there would be no differences between the Japanese and the Americans.

If each person is himself careful, the accident total cannot help but decrease.

Just who is more important to the baseball world, Ban Johnson or Ken- esaw Mountain Landis?

King Winter came in with a rush!

Masaryk's Libel Again Refuted By Czech Catholics

By V. Myatvec (Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service)

Prague, Dec. 12.—A short time ago the secretary of President Masaryk dragged from oblivion the long forgotten law-suit brought by 308 Catholic priests and teachers of religion, against Professor T. G. Masaryk in 1906, and declared that Professor T. G. Masaryk gave evi- dence that the teachers of religion in Austria were informers paid by the State.

The allegation is entirely false since Professor Masaryk never offered such evidence in 1906, when the 308 teachers of religion brought an action against him because of his public statement at a meeting of Czech students at Prague, implying that all teachers of religion were informers paid by the State, the defendant denied the statement attributed to him, pleading he had meant several certain particular teachers of religion and had not intended to hurt the feelings of the whole profes- sion.

The result was that the Judge, in- fluenced by the false accounts of the speech given by sworn witnesses for the defendant, dismissed the plain- tiffs' claim, the judgment being that Professor Masaryk's words pronoun- ced at the meeting of Czech students at Prague on January 24, 1906, did not convey the meaning ascribed to them by the plaintiffs.

It would have been very easy for the Judge to charge the defendant's witnesses with perjury, because Professor Masaryk, although he knew the substance of the claim, did not deny the offensive statement when it was printed in a "progressive" paper "Cas," and during the three months from the meeting to the trial, wrote and boasted that he would come to the court and prove his statement.

But it is asserted that the Aus- trian Minister, Dr. Klein, a Jew, sent word to Dr. Yessely, President of the High Court of Justice at Prague, that Professor Masaryk should not be condemned.

Professor Masaryk's evasion of the issue he had raised caused much surprise and criticism throughout the country, even among the Pro- gressives.

The Catholic priests and teachers of religion are not now disposed to stir this affair as it belongs to the past and the Professor T. G. Masaryk has long since been forgotten of the Czechoslovak Republic, which is dear to all of them, but the pub- lication of the old story by the President's secretary made it neces- sary to publish the truth.

Girl Catechists Do Notable Work In Porto Rico

By Rev. J. A. McGowan

(Written for N. C. W. C. News Service) Rio Piedras, Porto Rico, Dec. 10.—Students in the University of Porto Rico have organized to teach catechism in Rio Piedras, the univer- sity town, and in the surround- ing country. Fifty university girls are alternating in the teaching of catechism in six districts to an aver- age of three hundred children a week.

These students are residents of Trinity Academy, a home for univer- sity girls under the direction of the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity, whose mother house is in Holy Trinity, Arkansas. The academy was built by Rt. Rev. George Caruana, D. D., Bishop of Porto Rico, and was opened in Sep- tember, 1923. It is a large three- storied building, housing besides private rooms for the students, a chapel, a study hall, an assembly hall and a swimming pool.

These girls are in charge, and there are seventy-three university students living in the academy.

The catechetical work is the first undertaken by the Cenacle Lay Apostolate to which all the girls belong. They teach catechism where- ever they can gather the children together. One of the centers is a roadside chapel between Rio Piedras, the university town, and San Juan, the capital of Porto Rico. Another is a base ball ground in the outskirts of Rio Piedras. Still another class is held on the roadway of a sugar cane plantation to the south of the town, where the teacher and children seek the taller patches of sugar cane so as to be sheltered from the heat of the tropical sun.

As time goes on, it is expected that other work will be undertaken by the students in the Cenacle Lay Apostolate. A sewing class has al- ready been started in a rented cot- tage that stands next door to the academy.

As the girls graduate and return to their homes, or start teaching school or doing other work, they will continue their lay apostolate and establish new centers. This has al- ready been done by last year's grad- uates of the university and by other girls during their summer vacations and holidays.

The work this school year has been extended to Barrio Obrero, a real- estate suburb of modest homes that were built by the Porto Rican Gov- ernment and are being bought by the occupants on long-time install- ments to relieve the congestion and wretched housing in the low-lands near San Juan. Further work is now being started by the Missionary Servants, who have charge of Trinity Academy, in the intensely poverty- stricken section of Puerto di Tierra in San Juan itself.

Twelve Converts At The Illinois U. Make Professions

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

Champaign, Ill., Dec. 19.—Twelve converts, mostly students in the University of Illinois, made their public profession of Faith and were receiv- ed into the Church by the Rt. Rt. Rev. Bishop Joseph Schrembs, at the Mass in the University chapel Sun- day.

Among the converts were a post- graduate student, working for his Ph. D. degree, and a student from the Philippine Islands. The converts had received their instruction from the Rev. John A. O'Brien, Ph. D., in charge of the work for Catholic students at the University of Illinois.

The impressive ceremony was wit- nessed by 800 Catholic students who were deeply moved by the spectacle and by the stirring eloquence of Bishop Schrembs who preached the sermon and gave the converts their first Holy Communion.

"This," said Bishop Schrembs, "is one of the most impressive sights that could be witnessed. A group of University trained men and women, investigating the subject with painstaking carefulness, and following rigorously the logic of evidence, have found their way into the Catholic Church. It is a striking demonstra- tion of the irresistible logic of the facts, proving the divine origin of the Catholic Church and the Divine character of her teachings.

"In spite of family ties and life- long associations which would hold back, you have followed with that white light of reason and of con- science has led you. Hold fast to that Apostolic Faith, even in the face of persecution and social ostracism, for it will guide you safely into the Harbor of Eternal Truth."

The addition of this class of twelve brings the number of converts re- ceived into the Church during the last three years at the University of Illinois, up to the total of 54. The conversions are traceable largely to the work of the Catholic Foundation at the University and to the efforts of the students cooperating with their chaplain. In interesting stu- dents unaffiliated with any Church, in the study of the Catholic Faith.

Bishop Schrembs made a forceful appeal to his large audience for the speedy materialization of the plans for the erection of the Catholic Foundation building at the University. He characterized it as "a progressive movement in the right direction, that will bring rich returns to that Church which is able, not only to withstand, but to profit from the closest scrutiny and examination."

Priest Poet Wins The Lasserre Prize Of 10,000 Francs

By M. Massiani

(Paris Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service)

Paris, Dec. 15.—The committee of sixteen writers called upon to make the award, each year, at a meeting held in the Ministry of Public In- struction, of the Lasserre prize of 10,000 francs, gave it this year to the poet Louis le Cardonnell. Many people learned for the first time from the articles published the day after this decision, that Louis le Cardonnell is a priest.

Abbe Louis le Cardonnell is now 62 years of age. He wrote his first poems in 1882. At that time he was part of the advance guard of the literary movement headed by Mal- larme, and he had become the friend of Huysmans. Later, he was to go with the latter to live in the Bene- dictine monastery of Lige, where he developed a passion for the study of religious things. He went to Rome, entered the French seminary there, and completed his philoso- phical and theological training. He was ordained at the age of 34 and went to his native diocese of Valence. But the Benedictine life at- tracted him. A novice in the Mon- astery of Lige, under the name of Brother Anselm, he found Huys- mans, who had retired, there as an oblate. Unfortunately, however, health did not enable him to follow the Benedictine rule, so he resumed his life as a secular priest and went to live in Italy, at Florence, Rome, and Assisi. He is now living in the latter city, in company with some Franciscans, with Johannes Joergen- son.

Louis le Cardonnell has published three volumes of verse. In the first, "Poemes," which appeared in 1904, he collected the verse written during a period of twenty-four years. For years later only five hundred copies had been sold. In 1912 he published "The Carmus Sacra." He has now published "De l'une a l'autre Aurore" (From One Dawn to Another). But glory has come, and in a few days three editions have been brought out.

Shipwreck A Factor In Determining His Call To Priesthood

Paris, Dec. 11.—Abbe Francisque Revel, who has just died in the Bel- ley diocese, was led to enter the priesthood by circumstances which sound as though they might be drawn from a tale of adventure.

Uncertain about his vocation, he had taken part in an expedition to Madagascar. He was returning to France when a frightful storm caused the ship to be wrecked and he was cast on a desert island with his companions. The majority of the shipwrecked passengers perished of starvation or lost their reason as a result of privations and anxiety.

The young soldier, in face of the greatness of the peril, made a vow to enter the religious life if he escaped death. Shortly after, a pass- ing vessel rescued him with three other survivors.

After trying the apostolic life in the Foreign Missions, Father Revel was forced to give up this work, on account of his health, and he spent a long period of humble labor in the Belley diocese.

Noted Missionary Given New Post

Ossining, Dec. 19.—After five years in China, the Rev. William P. O'Shea has been recalled by his Superiors to assist in the Council of the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America. Father O'Shea is a native of the Newark diocese and entered the Maryknoll Seminary with the first group in 1912. He left for China in 1919 and, after two years in the interior of the Province of Kwangtung, where he acted on sev- eral occasions as peace maker be- tween warring factions, he was assigned to the post of procurator for the Society in 1922.

Father O'Shea entered on his new duties as Treasurer General of the Catholic Foreign Mission Society immediately after his return last week.

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