

The Catholic Journal

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Tactful Lesson

We learn that a non-Catholic teacher remarked not so long ago that children educated in the Catholic schools are not so well educated as children attending the public schools. Possibly, that teacher was sincere in her belief. If so, she demonstrated her ignorance and incapacity for teaching.

Of course, Catholic school pupils may not be educated in the principles of race suicide. They may not be taught disrespect for their own government. They may not be taught any one of the scores of facts so popular in certain circles.

But the graduates of our Catholic schools are able to take leading parts in the great drama of life. In addition, they are grounded in their faith and they are trained as American citizens.

There is still another phase of the subject. If the teacher referred to had informed herself on the history and teachings of the Catholic Church she would not be so ignorant as her tactless remark proved herself to be. We cannot illustrate our point better than to quote a summary of a talk given by Canon Ring, a well-known Catholic pastor, of London, to a congregation of non-Catholic teachers who attended special services in his Church not so long ago in which he conveyed to them with infinite tact, their ignorance of the Catholic Church.

"A few weeks back," he said, "I had the privilege of knowing fairly well a prominent board of education inspector. His friendship and confidence enabled me to speak to him freely. In the course of our conversations I found he knew comparatively little of the Church of which I am a member, and I said to him: 'How is it that your knowledge of the Catholic Church and of its teachings is so deficient and elementary?' Whether you like it or not, the Catholic Church is a great, functioning, world-wide conspicuous institution.

"You may dislike all its works and its pomp, but like the great mountains of the country, or the rivers or lakes, the Catholic Church is there, and you ought to know as much about it as an educated man is supposed to know of any conspicuous fact.

"Now it ought to influence and impress you that if you go into a Catholic elementary school and speak on the Catholic Church, you would find before you talked 10 minutes that you would be contradicted or corrected by poor, bare-footed children, from the fourth standard and upwards. You see how your education on a vital matter of public life has been neglected. I think he agreed with me.

"Another fact I pointed out to him was this: that if he did make up his mind to study something about Catholicity, he took the ways and means of doing so which were contrary to those taken with regard to any other subject.

"If you want to study medicine or astronomy, engineering or chemistry, you will ask and provide yourself with the best authorities on the subject; but in your study of Catholicity and the Catholic Church, what source do you approach? Usually the sacred nun and apostate monk, or the recognized hostile critic whom these concerned do not admit or accept as an honest witness.

"In the teaching profession results of that kind are perhaps in the elementary schools not quite so conspicuous, but in other departments of educational life it is regrettable that we should have teaching which is either untrue or deficient."

Worcester's climate this year has made it a real summer resort. No better place for a vacation is advertised.

Miss Hickey's dream of a real Catholic school in Rochester is expected to appear in the form of a Dove when the Saviour was baptized.

Mr. Bryan

William Jennings Bryan was a many-sided person. His character was a complex one. He had the artistic temperament, plus the tenacity of a bull dog on an opinion or line of action that he had decided.

Sometimes, we have classed him as a bigot but mature judgment inclined against such a classification. Intense in his convictions, he had the mind and the disposition of a crusader but his bent was more defense of or attack upon a cause rather than against the person or persons involved therein.

Bryan could attack Tammany Hall as a political entity or institution and be personal friends with Charles F. Murphy. He could wax eloquent against use of alcohol and yet was most intemperate in eating hearty foods and in drinking large quantities of coffee and tea.

Bryan was a powerful advocate and an eloquent prosecutor. This was and is conceded by all who knew or followed him. But he was not the one to represent Christians and Christianity as a theological expert. He realized that himself after he went on the witness stand in Dayton and tried to offset the bad impression he had made by carefully prepared statements and interpretations. He realized too late that he was not as convincing a pleader as he had anticipated. Bryan was growing old. He lacked the punch of youth and the moral courage to admit age and try to grow old gracefully.

But Bryan had a mission. He represented a minority force strong enough to constitute a very salutary check upon arrogant and dominant majority. And such a force is ever needed in American public life.

We trust all is now well with William Jennings Bryan.

Well Put

That it is as unwise and out of place to ask a blacksmith to do a jeweler's task; to ask a lawyer to pull a tooth; to ask a woodsman to shave a man as to expect a layman to take the place of a trained logician and theologian was amply demonstrated in the Swopes trial in Tennessee. It is also out of place for a layman to attempt to define, outline, explain and defend Catholic dogma. That task is for the priest and ordained preacher and teacher. Beyond representing and speaking for his fellow laymen and upon purely personal questions, no Catholic layman has a right to go. He has not the right, cannot have the right to speak for the Church or the American Hierarchy. The "Union and Times" well says:—

"Our attention is called from time to time to the misguided zeal of prominent Catholic laymen speaking as though duly appointed, in the name of the Catholics of the United States. We have, unfortunately, a minor number among the laity who feel it their bounden duty to speak up when silence is the better part of wisdom. This happened recently when a close friend of publicity-seeking politicians promised the support of Catholics in a movement in which the Church could take no part.

It is to be borne in mind that when the Church speaks, she voices her opinions or promulgates her commands through the agency of her Sovereign Pontiff or through one appointed by him. So far in our national history we are unaware of an instance where the Church has chosen a layman or a lay organization to represent her American subjects. In ecclesiastical matters we naturally look to the hierarchy for guidance and direction since the hierarchy is best suited to pass judgment upon the merits or demerits of a current issue.

We would not have our readers take this to mean that a Catholic is not to form an opinion on issues that are purely optional but we do mean that Catholic laymen presume too much when they speak as ones having authority. This has occurred in the case of prohibition when zealots in the prohibition cause have voiced opinions regarding the change in Catholic ritual or practice where they felt that a change was possible to sanction a proposed law. It occurred recently when a southern Catholic whose name is well known attempted to speak for the Catholic Church in reference to the teaching of evolution. This is presumption which reflects the boldness of these gentlemen and it is evidence also that they are speaking out of their turn. When the Church needs their counsel or leadership she will, in all probability, call upon them; but in the meantime it is the first law of politeness not to speak ex officio until an invitation to do so has been issued.

The Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus met this week in Duluth, Minn.

The custom of depicting the Holy Ghost in the form of a Dove is known to have been in existence as early as the sixth century and is probably of much earlier origin. In 518 the clergy of Antioch protested against the intended appointment of Servius as Bishop on the ground that he had removed the gold and silver doves from above the altars and had appropriated them asserting that such symbolism was not appropriate. The custom is based on the Holy Ghost's appearance in the form of a Dove when the Saviour was baptized.

Mr. Conners' Gift

Our old friend, William J. Conners, has decided to repay Buffalo, in part, for what it did for him in early days of life by instituting a "Foundation" to aid the unfortunate who cannot help themselves for one reason or another.

This is the way it strikes Mr. Hearst's Rochester Journal and Post Express:—

An able man who wins success and wealth after hard grips with life rarely finds that money alone satisfies.

He may use it to give work and business opportunity to others. That is Henry Ford's plan. He may place much of it into forms of education, as Mr. Eastman has done. Or, as William J. Conners is doing in Buffalo, he may put it at the service of the less fortunate in a great foundation for charitable work. In some manner a big man always tries to help others.

Mr. Conners began his plucky career in Buffalo, earned most of his fortune there and shows anew his loyal spirit by giving his home city the benefit.

He also sets a fine example in tolerance by selecting as aids two Catholics, two Protestants and two Jews.

If ours is the age of capitalism it is also the age of peculiarly intelligent benevolence.

Commended

Sacred Heart parish's new church edifice comes in for commendation by the "Democrat and Chronicle" that says:—

Add to the notable examples of ecclesiastical architecture that grace the city the edifice that is to be expected by the Catholic parish of the Sacred Heart in Flower City park. Reference was made in these columns a year or two ago to the fine edifice erected by St. Matthew's Lutheran congregation in St. Paul street, on the East Side. The Church of the Sacred Heart will stand on the West Side in a somewhat corresponding position. The two perhaps may be said to be among the most satisfactory ecclesiastical buildings to be put up in the city in recent years.

The Church of the Sacred Heart will be added to the city's rich, but not numerous, group of English Gothic structures, among the most notable of which at present are St. Paul's and Christ Episcopal churches, in East avenue. The size of the new church has given the architect an opportunity to plan the two towers at the entrance of the nave that is so characteristic a feature of the west fronts of most English cathedrals.

Fine architecture is an inspiration to respect and devotion in itself, and no type of architecture so quickly and deeply seems to impress the beholder as medieval Gothic when used in church edifices. The new building of the Sacred Heart parish will be an inspiration to high and noble thought to all who see it.

Reason Why

By James Benninger, Methodist of Wilkesbarre, Pa. is one Protestant clergyman, who sees why the Catholic Church retains its membership and increases year by year. Here is what he wrote to a local paper:—

"Another man will tell you that the Catholic Church scares people into her fold. How often have you heard that? But that explanation is no better than the first. You can readily see how one generation might be frightened into doing something, but who is willing to believe that 20 generations can be worked upon in the same way? The scarecrow method is bound to play out with the growing years. No, such explanations as we usually hear explain nothing. Her secret lies deeper.

The reason the Catholic Church succeeds, in spite of our misgivings, is because she is true to the central fact of revelation. She makes the death of Jesus the center of her devotion, and around that point she organizes all of her activities. When you see a company of Catholic people Sunday morning on the way to Church, you can be assured of this: they are not going for the sake of fine music, they are not going to hear an eloquent dissertation on 'Dr. Jekel and Mr. Hyde.' They are going to that place of worship to hear Mass.

What is the celebration of the Mass? It is what we call the celebration of the Lord's Supper. That fact is kept prominently before the mind of every Catholic. What is the first thing you see as you approach a Catholic Church? A cross. What is the first thing you see as you enter that Church? A cross. What is the first thing you see a Catholic do as he seats himself in that Church? Make the sign of the cross. What is the last thing held before the eyes of a dying Catholic? A cross. He comes into the Church in childhood imbued with the death of Jesus; he goes out of this world thinking of the death of Jesus.

The Church of St. John the Baptist at Clontarf, Dublin, has been enriched with an exact replica of the famous Crucifix at Limpsias near Barcelona. The Crucifix represents most vividly the appalling agonies of Christ on the Cross. A parishioner who will not allow his name to be made known gave the Crucifix to the Church at Clontarf.

The Summer Sale of Furs



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Weekly Calendar Of Feast Days

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

Sunday, August 9.—St. Romanus, martyr, was a Roman soldier at the time St. Laurence was martyred. The latter's example so inspired him that he was converted and baptized by St. Laurence in prison. When Romanus made public admission of his conversion he was beheaded just one day before the date of the execution of St. Laurence.

Monday, August 10.—St. Laurence, martyr, was the leader of the seven deacons of the Roman church. When he was arrested, an effort was made to induce him to give up the treasures of the church. He refused and was condemned to be roasted over a slow fire. He made sport of his pains, however, until at length Christ granted him the martyr's crown and received him into eternal happiness.

Tuesday, August 11.—Sts. Tiburtius and Susanna, martyrs. Tiburtius, a sub-deacon, was betrayed to the pagan persecutors and suffered many torments before he was beheaded on the Latician Road three miles out of Rome. A church was afterward built on the site of his martyrdom. Susanna, a noble virgin, is reputed to have been a niece of Pope Callixtus. She had made a vow of perpetual virginity, and on this account refused to marry. Her refusal earned her the enmity of her associates, and she was denounced as a Christian. After cruel torture she was martyred.

Wednesday, August 12.—St. Clare, abbess, founded an order in an humble house near Assisi. She was inspired to this by St. Francis. Her sister, and later her mother, together with many other noble ladies, joined her convent was miraculous. She saved from harm when the Saracen army of Frederick II ravaged the Valley of Spoleto. The army desisted from its destructive work when St. Clare caused the Blessed Sacrament to be exposed in a monstrance above the gate facing the enemy.

Thursday, August 13.—St. Rade-gundes was a member of the royal family of Thuringia. Greatly against her desires, she was married to Clotaire, King of Soissons. At his court she continued the practice of the most austere virtues. Finally the King gave her permission to retire to a monastery. She died in 587.

Friday, August 14.—St. Eusebius opposed the Arians at Rome with great zeal and was imprisoned in his room by order of the Emperor Constantine. He sanctified his captivity by constant prayer.

Saturday, August 15.—The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This feast, a holy day of obligation in the United States, is celebrated to commemorate the departure of the Blessed Virgin from her earthly existence and her translation into Heaven.

When the Moors were invading Spain many Catholic Bishops were forced to flee for their lives. It so happened that a great many of these prelates sought refuge in the city of Oviedo which the Moors had not conquered. So numerous were these distinguished refugees that Oviedo became known as the "City of Bishops."

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA'S GRAYMOOR SHRINE

It is estimated from the records kept by the Friars of the Atonement that approximately seventy-five thousand testimonials have been received by them from Clients of St. Anthony in thanksgiving for favors received through the Perpetual Novena to the Wonder-worker of Padua conducted at Graymoor. Test this Novena for yourself.

A Few Among Thousands

J. C. T., N. Y. C.: "I ask your acceptance of the enclosed offering in thanksgiving to St. Anthony. Some weeks ago I sent a petition requesting the help of St. Anthony through the kind prayers of the Friars, to enable me to obtain work, and I am happy to say it has come to me in generous measure." Mrs. J. D. Manchester, N. H.: "I enclose money order which I promised to St. Anthony for the cure of my baby of eczema. He is coming along fine." Prayers and Directions for Making The Novena Will Be Sent Upon Request. Address Your Petitions To ST. ANTHONY'S GRAYMOOR SHRINE Friars of the Atonement Box 316, Peekskill, N. Y.

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