

# The Catholic Journal

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## Bone of Contention

One reason for the war of President Calles and Ortega and the rest against the Church in Mexico is greed and avarice. The Calles gang are greedy to confiscate and loot the Churches property.

This is made plain by these excerpts from a press despatch from Mexico City on August 7th:—

In closing the annexes of all Catholic churches and stationing guards to prevent the breaking of government seals placed upon church treasures, the Mexican government contends that the church buildings, the ground upon which they stand and all their jewels and treasures are federal property.

This claim is made by virtue of the constitution of 1857 and the reform laws of 1859. After three centuries of virtual domination by the church a war of religious reformation resulted in a declaration against church ownership of property in Mexico. The present constitution, adopted in 1917, repeats the declaration that all property within church buildings, as well as the real estate and the buildings themselves, belong to the federal government.

Catholic authorities do not admit the government's claim to title to church property. The church denies the government's contention that for more than sixty years it has been loaning to Mexican worshippers the Catholic altars and sanctuaries within its territories. The church denounces the constitution of 1917 as a document drafted and voted by a convention to which no one was eligible for election unless he had aided the cause of Carranza and never voted upon by the people of Mexico.

Regulations issued by President Calles on July 3 to become effective Aug. 1 created the present crisis in which the life of the present Mexican government and the power of the Roman Catholic church in Mexico hang in the balance.

But the Calles regulations have only precipitated the test of strength for which the pope, the archbishops and bishops of Mexico and the Calles administration have been preparing since the first of the year. In January the Mexican government announced its intention of enforcing the provisions of the constitution of 1917.

On Feb. 2, 1926, came the publication of the apostolic letter of the pope to the prelates of Mexico. The pontiff denounced as wicked the laws and regulations leveled upon the ministry of the Christian religion in Mexico. Exactly one week later the Calles government, through Attorney General Ortega, directed all law officers in Mexico to enforce the laws against religious teaching and preaching by aliens. At the same time church property was seized.

In a country where it is estimated 99 per cent. of the people are of the Catholic faith the Calles administration continued deporting foreign born priests, closing schools, and in many places churches. Knights of Columbus halls and residences of bishops. In many cases the actions of officials were protested by the people and rioting followed.

Then President Calles issued a new set of regulations under his emergency powers which made the laws against the church more drastic.

Motor busses seem more and more popular every day.

It is to be hoped that Rochester's subway will be in operation soon, despite pessimistic hints to the contrary from City Hall sources.

Congratulations to Harry B. Crowley upon his appointment as District Deputy of the Knights of Columbus.

It is to be hoped that the number of Catholic men making the annual retreat of 1926 at St. Bernard's Seminary will be the largest ever.

The blarney is blarney. It is reported that the Ku Klux Klan has organized a "Congress" at Uppahaw, the Georgia and Saloon Legislation. The one argument that appeals in favor of the restrictive immigration law is that it tends to prevent the economic evil of overpopulation.

## Mexico

Because of the strict censorship exercised by President Calles over the news despatches and the Mexican press, it is difficult to sense out just how the war of repression against the Church in Mexico is progressing.

But there is one encouraging feature. The honest, unbiased American press is sensing out the real significance of the struggle despite the poison propaganda of the paid agents of Calles and his associates. For instance, the Rochester Times-Union last Saturday said:—

Under Juarez, in 1857, an attack was made upon the privileges and property of the church and its control of education. The preamble to one of the laws of Juarez gives the keynote not only of that struggle but of the present one, stating that the war against his government was promoted and sustained by the clergy and that "to leave any longer in the hands of the sworn enemy the resources which it has misused so grievously would be to become its accomplice."

In other words, the measures of the government, then and in the present crisis, are not such as should calmly and peaceably settle the relations of church and state, but are such measures as a revolutionary government might adopt in fighting an open enemy.

How stringent these measures are can be seen by noting the principal religious provisions of the constitution of 1917, which the Calles administration is now seeking to enforce. Religious denominations are forbidden:

To own real estate or mortgages on same; to own church buildings or any other buildings; to possess invested funds or other productive property; to maintain convents or nunneries; to conduct primary schools; to direct or administer charitable institutions; to solicit funds for their support outside of church buildings; to hold religious ceremonies outside of church buildings; to clothe their ministers with a garb indicative of their calling; to have alien clergymen in active pastoral duties.

That such laws are directed at breaking down the authority of the church, rather than definitely fixing its position, is clear enough.

As the Mexicans are a religious people and predominantly Catholic in faith, it seems safe to say that the settlement finally attained must involve extensive modification of these laws. At least it is sincerely to be hoped that the settlement will be such as to give Mexican Catholics as complete freedom of worship as is enjoyed by their friends of all faiths in this country.

## Helen Lucas

It is a pleasure to reprint this tribute from the Rochester "Democrat & Chronicle" to one of the leaders in the educational system of Rochester:—

In many hundreds of Rochester homes today there is a feeling of personal loss at news that death has removed Helen E. Lucas from scenes where she so long had been an accustomed figure. Miss Lucas was not only a teacher of exceptional talent, she was a woman of rare spiritual force and of high ideals, yet not lacking in a wealth of human sympathy and understanding.

It is stated in the record of her busy life that she passed through the customary period of training, that she became a teacher, that she strove always to add to her fund of knowledge and improve her methods. It is related that she taught many years, more than a quarter of a century as director of art education in the city schools. This is indeed worthy of comment and well deserving of praise. But it is not the whole story.

To those who knew Miss Lucas the hosts of ambitious and struggling pupils, the scores of young teachers striving for better results in their work, the true story of her life is one of gentleness and kindly help, of a keen perception of the problem where others might have failed to see the will to do despite stumbling and halting effort. There is no doubt that Miss Lucas knew thoroughly what she sought to impart to others. But she had more than knowledge; she had a quality of wisdom that is rare indeed, a kindly patience that won her the love and admiration of all who knew her.

To a great host of those who had known and profited by her high ideals and understanding encouragement the fate that takes her from them may seem harsh. Yet even though she has departed, her work remains, a source of inspiration that will be reminiscent of her presence for many years. It may be truly said of her that she left the world in which she moved a little better than she found it. Those who have done more are few indeed.

The capacity registration at Aquinas Institute proves the popularity of and necessity for this institution.

Says the Rochester "Democrat & Chronicle":—"There is one consolation in the reports of political changes in Russia, and that is: it is hardly possible for any change to be for the worse."

The one argument that appeals in favor of the restrictive immigration law is that it tends to prevent the economic evil of overpopulation.

## Weak Point

Arguing guardedly against Philippine independence, a local secular contemporary says:—

One of the arguments often advanced against granting the desire of the Filipinos for virtual self-government is the necessity we are under of defending the islands.

As it so happens, this argument is no longer sound. The islands are defenseless today, and could hardly be more so.

What are the facts? The Washington arms treaty of 1922 bound the United States not to erect any further fortifications west of Hawaii in the Pacific, especially not to fortify Guam or the Philippines. As a consequence, this country has no naval base from which it could wage a war on the other side of the Pacific. This fact is generally recognized by naval experts. As the price of Japan's consent to a program of arms reduction, we were compelled to make the concession mentioned. The very essence of the treaty lay in making it nearly impossible for either Japan or the United States to launch a successful attack across the Pacific.

This left the Philippines defenseless from the point of view of armed force. But Mr. Hughes did what he could to rectify this by the drafting of another treaty. The so-called four-power treaty signed by the United States, Japan, France and Great Britain, provides that each power will respect the insular possessions and dominions of the other in the region of the Pacific. There is no force for the execution of this agreement, but it represents a solemn pledge of the nations concerned.

Thus today the safeguard of the Filipinos lies, not in the American army or navy, but in the plighted word of the great powers. If such an engagement can be made under present conditions, it could doubtless be made if a greater grant of self-government were conceded to the Filipino people.

The whole trend of colonial administration today is toward larger grants of powers. Where that tendency has been resisted, the difficulties have been numerous, as witness the plight of the French in Syria. Reaction is not to be thought of in the Philippines. The present system is government by deadlock. It is a fair question whether the way out of the present situation, in the interests of the Filipino people and American capital in the islands alike, is not a wide grant of self-government.

The weak point in the argument is that if the Philippine Islands cease to be "an insular possession of the United States" then Japan may not be bound to respect her rights and must continue as long as the islands are under the protection of the United States.

## Sensible

J. L. Garvin, well-informed London editor, "for Europe to stop screaming at America" and "for America to stop sermonizing Europe." He's right.

And a sane American secular daily sensibly comments:—  
It would be just as well if responsible British statesmanship and responsible American statesmanship stopped talking about the equities of the debt settlement and left such readjustments as may be desirable and necessary to the future, when the problem can be considered calmly and dispassionately, and with a clear understanding of all of the factors.

For Europe to call America "Shylock" and America to call Europe "sponger" settles nothing, contributes nothing to stability and confidence, only make more difficult the task of re-establishing security and sound economic conditions which are essential to peace and progress.

On both sides of the water there have been two kinds of talk about the debts, one designed for the folks at home, the other for foreign consumption. The British politicians have felt compelled to tell their people that the loans contracted in the United States were all war loans, and that, had they not felt compelled to carry their allies, their borrowings in this country would have been insignificant. Treasury officials in Washington say this is not all of the story.

On the other hand, the American government in one breath has been telling the country, especially that part of the country which follows the isolationist creed, that we are collecting in effect the last red cent, while to Europe it has said that we are making cancellations of from 40 to 80 per cent. of the debt.

It depends, of course, on how you construe the figures. The facts are that under the agreements all of our debtors are bound to pay much more than they borrowed. You can make out a cancellation claim by charging interest of five per cent., whereas it is possible that our government will soon get its money at three, and then the cancellation claim fades.

The futility of all this discussion comes from the fact that the average citizen, both here and abroad, is incapable of grasping the significance of the financial mathematics. And no amount of verbal controversy and heated talk will clear it up. Light and sanity will come later.

If Woodrow Wilson could revisit Paris today would he still hold his opinion as to the virility of the League of Nations as a peace promoter and preserver?

In New York state a man, charged with libel would have a chance to prove the truth of his charges. Evidently, the reverse is the procedure in Indiana.

There can be no compromise or surrender by the Catholics of Mexico.

So there's to be a Will Hays of the Races?!

Senator Albert B. Cummins' death removes a valuable American citizen.

Evidently, Henry D. Shedd is a clever coraller of uplifters for the organization roundup.

Monarchy in Europe is by no means extinct.

Automobile accidents hereabouts are all too common. Short shrift for careless and intoxicated drivers should be the rule.

## Weekly Calendar Of Feast Days

Sunday, August 15.—The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a traditional pious belief that the body of the Blessed Virgin was raised by God soon after death, and taken up to glory, by a singular privilege, before the general resurrection of the dead.

Monday, August 16.—St. Hyacinth the glorious apostle of Poland and Russia, was born of noble parents about the year 1185. He received the habit of the Friar Preachers from St. Dominic himself, who sent him to plant the Order in Poland. He had a tender devotion to the Blessed Virgin and worked many miracles.

Tuesday, August 17.—St. Liberatus, Abbot, and six monks, martyrs. When Huneric, the Arian Vandal King in Africa, published fresh edicts against Catholics, Liberatus, Boniface, Servus, Rusticus, Rogatus, Septimus and Maximus, monks, were subjected to torture and finally martyred after tempting promises had failed to swerve them in their faith.

Wednesday, August 18.—St. Helena, Empress, St. Agapetus, martyr. St. Helena was a British princess. She embraced Christianity late in life, but her incomparable faith and piety greatly influenced her son Constantine, the first Christian emperor. St. Agapetus, a youth, suffered a cruel martyrdom under Aurelian about the year 275.

Thursday, August 19.—St. Louis, Bishop, was a nephew of St. Louis, King of France, and nephew through his mother, to St. Elizabeth of Hungary. He was born at Brignoles, in Provence, in 1274. He resigned his right to the crown of Naples, that he might dedicate himself to God. He was virtually compelled to take the Archbishopric of Toulouse and died in 1297 when only 23 years and six months old.

Friday, August 20.—St. Bernard was of noble birth, but abandoning station and wealth, entered the monastic life drawing with him all his brothers, his sister, who at first loved the world, and his father, Pope Eugenius III, who charged him to preach a crusade, was his former subject. He died 1153.

Saturday, August 21.—St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Jane Frances de Fremoy, as the wife of Baron de Chantal, made her house a modern Christian abode. Her husband and two of her children died, she literally tore herself from her relatives and devoted herself to God. With St. Francis de Sales she founded a great Order, and at her death St. Vincent de Paul saw her soul ascend to heaven as a ball of fire.

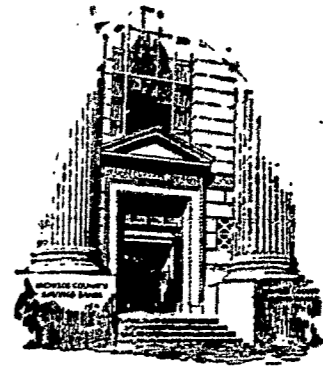
## Calles Government Seeks To Throttle Freedom Of Press

Mexico City, Aug 7.—The Government is keeping close watch over the press, not only in the Capital but throughout the various states as well. In Mexico City "El Pais", a daily paper the editors of which were Catholics, has been suspended as has also "El Faro", a weekly journal of purely religious character.

Great excitement prevails in Chihuahua over the arrest of Senor Silvestre Terrazas, editor of "El Correo de Chihuahua", an independent daily with a wide circulation in the northern province. Senor Terrazas was arrested by an agent of the Ministry of Interior, who declared that he was acting on special orders from the President of the Republic.

Reports from Tampico state that Senor Vicente Villasana, editor of "El Mundo" of that city, is also to be arrested for publishing an editorial on the religious question and the reform of the penal code. The editorial in question was written in most measured terms and could not be called seditious in any way.

The Government's censorship is extending even beyond the confines of Mexico. Orders have been issued prohibiting the circulation in Mexico of the Spanish-language paper "La Prensa", published in San Antonio, and of "El Diaria", a daily published in El Paso, Texas. Both of these papers had a circulation in Mexico as well as among the Mexicans across the border.



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## Fr. Schlang Heads Province Of Friars Minor Conventuals

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Louisville, Ky., Aug 2.—Father Seraphin Schlang, O. M. C., who has labored for 25 years as a priest in this city, has been elected first Provincial of the new Province of Our Lady of Consolation (Western Province) of the Friars Minor Conventuals, according to word reaching here from Carey, Ohio, where the provincial meeting of the Friars was held.

The Western Province, which was established only recently, includes Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Nebraska, and Wyoming. Father Seraphin has been pastor of St. Anthony's Church here since 1910, and for nine years previous to that time was assistant pastor. He celebrated his silver jubilee at St. Anthony's last December. He was born in Albany, N. Y. He studied at St. Francis College, Syracuse, where he entered the Friars Minor Order. Later he continued his studies at Trenton, N. J., and completed them at Rome, where he received the degree of Doctor of Theology. He is chaplain of the Knights of Columbus of Louisville.

Father Seraphin will take up his duties as Provincial at once, having been installed at the meeting at which he was elected.

## Priest Quits Club In Protest Against Birth-Control Talk

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Beacon, N. Y., August 6.—The Rev. Michael McGuire, assistant pastor of St. Joachim's Church, who tendered his resignation as chaplain and member of the Kiwanis Club here because it sanctioned a birth-control talk by Mrs. Margaret Sanger, has refused to reconsider his action. Some members had asked the priest to recall the resignation.

"I consider birth control immoral," Father McGuire explained. "I acted not alone on my belief but in the public interest. I don't believe in giving such propaganda as is used in birth control any encouragement at all."  
Mrs. Sanger said that she did not ask the club to take any position on birth control, but merely responded to an invitation to speak.

## Most Rev. Dr. Doorly Formerly Coadjutor, Is Bishop Of Elphin

Dublin, July 31.—The Most Rev. Dr. Doorly, who received a civic welcome at Strokestown, Roscommon County, on his return from the Eucharistic Congress, has been enthroned as Bishop of Elphin, to succeed the late Bishop Coyne, whose Coadjutor he had been for a number of years. Bishop Coyne died of heart disease a few days ago.

Bishop Doorly was born in the parish of Oran in Roscommon about sixty years ago. He had a most distinguished academic career, and acted as administrator of Sligo Cathedral before being consecrated Coadjutor. He is already familiar with the administration of his See, as for some years he has had to perform most of the Episcopal duties of Elphin, owing to the falling health of Bishop Coyne.

The Diocese of Elphin comprises parts of the Counties of Roscommon and Sligo. The Cathedral is in the city of Sligo.

## Pope Pius Personally To Consecrate Three Native Chinese Bishops

Rome, July 26.—His Holiness, Pope Pius XI, has let it be known that he personally will consecrate the three native Chinese priests who recently were elected to the Hierarchy. The consecration will take place at St. Peter's on October 24 next.

Cardinal VanRossum, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith, has been instructed to notify the priests to proceed to the Eternal City. The priests are Msgr. Philip Tsoho, who was elected Titular Bishop of Vaga and Apostolic Vicar of Suan-kwa-fu; Msgr. Melchior Souen, Apostolic Prefect of Ly-hsien, who was elected Titular Bishop of Eben, and Msgr. Odoric Tch'enk, Apostolic Prefect of Pu-chi, who was elected Titular Bishop of Cotenna.

In conferring this extraordinary honor upon the three new bishops and the people of China, the Holy Father is signaling a new era in the Church's history in China. It will be the first time in that country that native bishops have directed the destinies of the ever-growing Christian communities in that immense land.