

Warning By Bishop In Pastoral Letter

Moral dangers of frequenting improper places of amusement and reading improper literature were emphasized in the warning issued by the Rt. Rev. Thomas F. Hickey, bishop of the Rochester diocese, in a pastoral letter read Sunday in all the Catholic churches of the diocese.

Dancing into the early hours of the morning and neglecting of parents by the younger generation were scored in the letter. The bishop's letter follows:

To the Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Rochester:

The passing of the old year and the coming of the new year is easily suggestive of serious thoughts touching the past and turning toward the future. The one is irrevocably gone, the other is beyond the penetration of the human mind.

In the light of our own experiences and of the events that are constantly passing into the records of time it would seem but the part of sound reason formed on the teachings of Holy Mother Church, to examine our mode of living, that we may discover with the help of God whether it will bear the scrutiny of honest inquiry, and whether even in our own imperfect judgment we may think that it is pleasing to Almighty God.

With these thoughts in mind it seems to us not only appropriate but imperative that a word of direction and warning should go out from this Shepherd of souls to those under his care that with God's help the practice of virtue may be strengthened and the danger of evil may be avoided.

It is a matter of constant teaching that prayer, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Sacraments are powerful helps for the upbuilding of the spiritual man; hence we should be most faithful in using these means towards the better life and for the practice of the supernatural virtues. Our concept of virtue should be founded not on what gives us good standing before men, but on faith, and with the intention of doing that which will make us pleasing to God.

But we are to recognize also the necessity of avoiding the occasions that would impair or even displace virtue, and to this end we are sending to the members of the flock a word of guidance and warning at the opening of a new year. Our concern is especially about the protection that should be given to the growing generation, to the young people of today who will be the men and women of tomorrow. There is no intention to institute comparisons with other days or with other generations, but rather to look honestly at the conditions as they exist today and with no desire to enlarge or exaggerate in any form whatever.

We would stress the place of the family life and endeavor to set before the individual in the family their respective obligations and responsibilities.

In the first place the Will of God and the intention of pleasing God, should be the guide and rule of the home; and in that plan of life there should be found mutual love and fidelity between husband and wife and love and obedience between children and parents. After God's sanctuary the home should be the spot that would hold our deepest respect and affection—qualities that serve to control selfishness and promote a love that is so real in the home.

Parents hold a place of authority and have in consequence grave responsibilities; children should be taught their duties towards parents, who in turn are to exemplify sound teaching in a way that will be an incentive to a faithful performance of duty.

The time that may be given to the reading of this message is somewhat restricted, and therefore we would stress briefly some points to the faithful and particularly to the youth of the flock. Moral dangers are presented sometimes in their villainy, and again by suggestion, which latter method may be even quite as harmful. They may be presented under the guise of the aesthetic, and youth may be drawn towards them by the apparently harmless lead of self-expression.

They may be found today in the theater, in the dance, protracted even into the late hours of the morning, and in various forms of publication. If the ones responsible for giving to the public these forces of danger were brought to book for their action, it is not unlikely that their answer would be: "We are giving to the public what appeals to them." This answer is no excuse for presenting the occasions of evil and while we protest vehemently and openly against it, we herewith warn our people about their duty in the matter. Should the above statement about the public be true, it would be a sad and unfortunate condition in our day, and the matter now goes home directly to every man and woman, young and old, to realize their responsibility in an affair of so great importance. No one to argue the day or by the conduct of others, but public is made up of individuals, and to every time that you frequent a place of amusement that is questionable, or purchase a publication that is even suggestively bad, you are helping the cause of harm and immorality. Few people care to enter the houses which has in a conspicuous place the sign, "Contagious Disease."

That sign in a moral sense is not posted, but might be properly placed at the door of many a place of

Propagation Of The Faith Society

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183 Main St., East
Rochester, N. Y.

Fides Service Inquiry Reveals 1927 As Worst Year for China Missions

Conditions More Unsettled Than At Any Time Since The Boxer Rebellion

Fides Service, Rome "Official
Propagation of the Faith
World News Agency"

Rome, Italy.—The new machinery for press service recently instituted in the Eternal City at the world headquarters of the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith has brought together a mass of information which establishes the fact that in no year since 1900, when the Boxers wreaked their hatred on foreigners and Christianity, has there been such destruction as in 1927.

Deaths have been relatively few, but burning, pillage and wholesale banditry are recorded for all the eighteen provinces. In the coast provinces of Chihli and Chekiang, and in parts of a few others, the losses have been of minor importance.

Survey Undertaken for Public
The survey establishes the enormous value of Fides Service in securing knowledge of contemporary conditions in non-Christian countries throughout the world. The Service was able to gather data on 66 of the 69 ecclesiastical territories in China. This was done through local correspondents who are appointed by the missionary bishops. No previous Catholic investigation has reported so thoroughly to the public on the situation in the vast Chinese nation.

From seven of the eighteen provinces it is reported that large scale occupation, pillage, and sometimes confiscation of Church property have taken place. Every province reports brigandage. Economically, nine provinces and Manchuria admit a severe decline in trade. Nine others, as Mongolia are stated to be little short of general bankruptcy. The ensemble view makes a black picture.

Politically, the two northern provinces of Shansi and Chihli say they have peace. Manchuria is similarly fortunate. Eight report governments very poorly organized or with areas suffering in a minor degree from war. Eight, and the territory of Mongolia, describe a desperate political situation. Examining the thought and temper of the people, practically every province reports Communism, or the most virulent type spreading within its precincts. They have the leadership of able and intelligent organizers. Few persons accept the doctrine in whole, but it is creating fearful havoc in the undermining of

society. It results in hatred of foreigners, contempt of all religion but particularly Christianity, and general decline in morals. Diabolically clever propaganda has stimulated religious chaos. Anti-foreign and atheistic thought emanates from the schools.

The resume given emphasizes the unfavorable conditions, but mission progress has not been at a standstill. In Chihli, the Catholic Church's best province, several of the eight bishops report a completely normal advance. Peking had during the year 15,844 converts, while the vicariate of Siensien is credited with 3,214. A total of sixteen vicariates, practically twenty-five per cent, each record over 1000 converts. In 1926, twenty-four vicariates touched the thousand mark.

In the provinces of the Yangtze river valley the Church has suffered most, here was an invasion by the Nationalists from the south during the year. Extremists, having their headquarters at Hankow, which is 600 miles inland, have contributed to the acute conditions. In the provinces of Hupeh and Hunan devastating damage was sustained.

Perhaps the most suffering was experienced in the vicariate of Puchi, Hupeh, in charge of the native Bishop Odoric Tchong, O. F. M. Here nearly everything was lost, and the priests serve their people from places of hiding. The bishop has quartered his seminarians at Hankow.

In Hupeh and Hunan provinces ten bishops head a missionary force of almost three hundred priests. Six of the vicariates are in care of the Franciscans, while the other four are in charge of American Passionists, Spanish Augustinians, Missionaries of St. Columban, and Chinese native clergy.

The provinces of Kiangsi, Anhwei and Kiangsu lie in the Yangtze Valley nearer Shanghai. Parts of all three have encountered severe treatment. Kiangsi has four bishops with 15 Vicarates. On April 20, 1927, Father Joseph Hou, was killed. One of the bishops has been forced to flee several times. In one vicariate fourteen mission stations were destroyed, and in another 12,000 people on the outer areas of the mission were cut off.

Persecution Brings Losses
Anhwei, in care of Jesuit priests, is in a condition tantamount to persecution. Almost all churches were occupied by troops. One priest regally, describe a desperate political situation. Examining the thought and temper of the people, practically every province reports Communism, or the most virulent type spreading within its precincts. They have the leadership of able and intelligent organizers. Few persons accept the doctrine in whole, but it is creating fearful havoc in the undermining of

Two Jesuits were killed at their posts, a Father Dugout and a Father Vanars, in the province of Kiangsi. This crime was perpetrated during the looting of Nanking.

Lincoln Day Dinner First Formal Event For New K. C. Home

The first formal function to take place in the new council chamber of the Knights of Columbus home, Chestnut and Lawn streets, will be the annual Lincoln Day dinner of Rochester Assembly, Fourth Degree, on Monday evening, February 13th. Arrangements are being made to have present many prominent citizens of Rochester, according to Faithful Navigator, Cyril J. Stett, who has named Elmer W. Loavenbruck as general chairman of the dinner. Fourth Degree members and their friends have been invited.

Pearse Council To Elect Officers

Election of officers of Padric Pearse Council, A. A. R. I. R., will take place at a meeting at Hibernian Hall, No. 138 Main street west, at 8 o'clock Saturday evening. A dance will follow the meeting.

amusement, and on a multitude of publications that are sold on bookstands today. In the name of God, we call upon our people to heed this word of warning, and to take the stand of right against the existing dangers to the youth of our day.

We love to think of the mothers of families as true leaders for the truly noble and virtuous in life; but we fear that in the social order of our day, she whom we call by the sweet name of mother, may depart at times from the high standard which she should follow in fulfillment of her duties to God and to her children.

Parents and children, but especially mothers, who can have so great an influence on the family life, should be guided not by the practices of the day or by the conduct of others, but by a true sense of duty to God, to themselves and to the souls entrusted to their care. We recommend to parents and children the Holy Family as their model for imitation, and we most earnestly ask their co-operation and good will in seeking to know and perform faithfully the will of God.

Yours sincerely in Christ,
THOMAS F. HICKEY,
BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

SS. Peter and Paul's

The Aquinas Institute collection will be taken up at all the masses on Sunday.

The diagram of Pew rents will be distributed on Sunday. All the young ladies of the parish are invited to attend a meeting on Monday evening, January 16th in the basement of the school. Rev. Edward Schied will be the speaker.

A joint installation of Commandery No. 28, and Ladies' Auxiliary No. 44, Knights of St. John will take place on Monday evening January 16, in the basement of the school. The committee is preparing plans for a very joyous evening and a tasty lunch. All members are invited to attend. So come and enjoy yourselves and get acquainted with your officers. The installation of officers of Branch 82, L. C. B. A., took place on last Thursday evening. The president installed the officers and past president, Hattie Bietry installed the president. Prizes for cards were won by Lillian Miller, Catharine Schwarz, Barbara Zuern, Stella Drexler, Louise Bilger and Margaret Carlin. Lunch was served after the meeting and all enjoyed a very pleasant evening.

Albert H. Lawrence, aged 47 years, died Sunday morning at his home, 334 Genesee street. He is survived by his wife, Louise Haugis Lawrence, one daughter Mrs. Edward Tector, one sister Mrs. Mary Strasser, four brothers, Charles, William, Frank and George Lawrence. The funeral took place on Wednesday morning at 8:40 o'clock from the residence, and at 9 o'clock from this church. Interment was made in the family lot in Holy Sepulchre cemetery.

St. Andrews Players Draw Crowd

"What Happened to Jones", a comedy in three acts, was presented to large audiences in St. Andrew's Hall in Portland avenue, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday by the St. Andrews Players' Club.

George McGrath, Edward Schnarr, John H. Donoghue, Dolores McCarthy and Lulu Schwager took the leading parts.

Local continued on last page.

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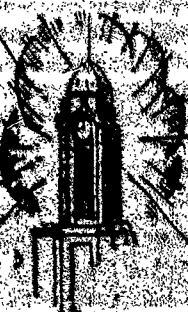
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spread like gulls over
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I see nothing in this
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of minutes. Like a
through all this
of Irish songs, the symbols
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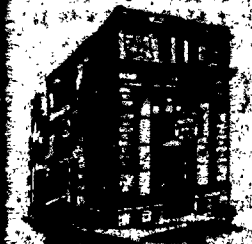
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