

The Catholic Journal

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Advent.

Once more the ecclesiastical year has rolled round and again we are in the holy season of Advent—the prelude to the great feast of Christmas.

The wisdom of the Church is well demonstrated in her planning a season of penance and abstinence before a great feast.

Is it not true, if we view things in proper light, that we appreciate joy if it is preceded by a season of sorrow? We never appreciate the sunlight as much as after a period of gloom.

And so it is with the Church calendar. We will appreciate the Christmas joy much more if we prepare for it in Advent as the Church prescribes. A little self-denial; more fervent prayers; a few acts of kindness to our less fortunate fellowmen will enhance greatly our own Christmas joy.

Let us approach Christmas in this spirit.

Police Commissioner George F. Nier, seems to be a real live wire. The Catholic Church will continue to flourish and thrive despite the attacks of the organized bigots.

Too Much Coddling.

While no right-minded person would advocate return to the olden prison buildings and regime, no sane thinking person will deny we have swung the pendulum too far in the opposite direction.

We have made heroes and heroines out of murderers, kid-nappers, courtesans and murderous assaulters while we ignore and forget the victims of their atrocities and crimes—likewise the families of those affected by their crimes.

And now, Warden Lawes, of Sing Sing prison adds to the adulation of the criminals in a recent book. He openly defends those behind the bars as no worse than those outside.

If the Warden discriminated between criminals we might agree with his ideas, but he does not. No doubt there are those sentenced to prison who can be reformed. But there are many habitual criminals who never will be any different. These must be separated from society. They should not be maltreated, but they should not be turned loose.

If you purchase a dozen clams and inside one find a valuable pearl, is it yours or the oyster dealer from whom you purchased the clams?

Half a Billion.

What a growth there has been in the "Christmas Club Saving" is told in the following editorial in the Rochester "Times-Union":

It is reported that Christmas clubs will distribute approximately \$550,000,000 through more than 3,000,000 banks and financial institutions in this country within the next fortnight.

There is no doubt whatever that the starting of these clubs a number of years ago was a movement toward systematic saving. More people began to learn that the way to accumulate funds for special purposes or a desired object is to save with regularity a stated sum from their income. If it is a weekly payment, even of a small amount, it soon begins to count in quite impressive figures.

The same principle is embodied in the building and loan association plan, having in the "Christmas" clubs a wider appeal is made because the small sums to be put aside may be as small as 25 cents a week.

The Christmas club educates the individual to become a building and loan association member, a regular saver, a person who saves a regular sum of money each week, a person who saves a regular sum of money each week, a person who saves a regular sum of money each week.

Change Needed—How?

Just now, when everybody's interest is keen, there is a great outcry about needed reform in election methods. This is due in the main to the unprecedentedly large vote cast—which may not be repeated in a generation.

Curtailment of election districts, cutting up of wards in cities, appointment of election inspectors by competitive civil service selection, changes in the form and arrangement of ballots and voting machines, all have their vigorous advocates. May of these do not appear to know that every one of these changes mean general amendments to the state election laws—especially that to put election inspectors under civil service, because the election law provides that the inspectors must be divided equally between the dominant political parties and the chairmen of the party political committees select the inspectors of their respective parties. It is hardly conceivable that political leaders will consent to relinquish such advantage.

One needed reform is likely to encounter bitter political opposition and that is: every election district in the state should employ the same methods of voting. When sixty per cent of the electors vote by machine and forty per cent by the clumsy paper ballot, opportunity for fraud and chicanery is opened up.

Some politicians are so exercised over the tremendous vote of 1928 that they are urging the abolition of personal registration in cities. Instead, we think, statewide personal registration should be compulsory. The radio, telegraph, automobile have, to all intents and purposes, obliterated the rural lines in New York state. In some respects, personal registration is easier for the ruralite than for his urban cousin who works all day in office, shop or factory.

But personal registration should be retained and increased in scope.

More or Less.

We fancy there will be sharp discussion, pro and con, on the proposition that we set no limit to our expenditures for public education, as advanced in this editorial from the New York "World":

Professor Strayer of Teachers' College, Columbia University, points out that the outlay for public education in this country has now reached the immense sum of two billions per year. This represents an increase of 230 per cent. within the past eighteen years, and when allowance is made for the diminished purchasing power of the dollar and the growth of population the increase still amounts to 180 per cent. Professor Strayer does not share the opinion of some students of school finance that per-capita educational expenditures have about reached the maximum which can be attained without risking State and municipal bankruptcy. In spite of its rapid expansion, the outlay for education still consumes only about 2-3/4% of the national income, and since it tends directly to increase this income it should be regarded as a productive investment, whose returns will far exceed the cost.

While our school bills have grown rapidly in the last decade, our war bills are still much larger. The amount carried in the Federal budget for the current fiscal year to pay for past wars and to prepare for future wars exceeds the total expenditure for public education by 25 per cent. This military expenditure, moreover, is unproductive. And as to the disasters predicted if we continue to expand our school budgets, we have only to point to the huge expansion since 1910 and then ask ourselves if we are poorer on that account. The answer is obvious. We have by no means reached the limit of our capacity to provide still further educational facilities. These will be needed. Education has brought the masses of our people more leisure, and they now need still more education to enable them to use that leisure properly.

Some Problem.

The annual report of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, in this paragraph brings out an economic problem that is among the most important before the American public today:

Retracting the Federation's support of the five-day week movement, the report said that 165,023 union workers representing twenty industries are now enjoying the shorter week.

The council added that government reports indicated there were 8,076,550 wage earners in 1927, but that no governmental agency has been recording the results of displacements of workers by mechanical devices and power. The report gave instances where mechanical methods permitted seven men to do the same amount of work in cast-iron pig iron; that was formerly done by 60; two men doing what 128 per formed in loading pig iron; one man replacing 42 in operating open hearth furnaces; one man operating a machine making 40,000 bricks formerly required for one man 7 1/2 hours. Some of the displacement of labor has been a result of the new industries and other activities.

We will now see if Mr. William Vare, of Philadelphia will be seated as United States senator from Pennsylvania, despite the vociferations of the Hon. Clinton Howard, of Rochester, to the contrary.



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Crucial Test. Our Answer.

That Henry Ford's advent into England may mean much or little to Mr. Ford or to England is the reaction one has from perusal of the following editorial in a recent issue of the Rochester "Democrat and Chronicle":

American business as an apostle of international good feeling is exemplified in the newest project of Henry Ford, to build a great factory in England which will furnish employment to thousands of workmen. The construction work alone will make a sizable dent in the unemployment situation in England, for it will require three years; after that Mr. Ford plans to turn out 200,000 cars a year, providing the principal source of supply for Europe.

In view of Mr. Ford's record as a champion of peaceful relations, it is a fair assumption that his present project is actuated more by a desire to do something worth while for the English people than to extend the industrial development of the Ford Company. If Mr. Ford should introduce into England the American standard of wages and its consequent high standard of living, and if he should succeed in reducing the discontent of the English working man who is habitually out of work, it would be worth more than any amount of good will oratory. It is hard to drive prosperous and contented people into international quarrels.

Even this form of diplomacy, however, has its problems. Transplanting part of the Ford business into alien territory and expecting it to take root like the native plant is not quite so simple as it sounds. Already Mr. Ford's rubber project in Brazil is running into difficulties because the native workers, no doubt expecting Mr. Ford is bringing the millennium with him, think they should receive as high wages as the American sailors on the Ford ships.

With the highest motives in the world Mr. Ford may yet learn some hard facts about rivalries, jealousies and criticisms in the world business mart. If he survives them and achieves a solution that leaves everybody happy he will crown a career of illustrious service to the race.

We bespeak careful reading by our readers of the following despatch from Baltimore, Maryland, to the National Catholic News Service:

In an address in which he made reference to the vilification and abuse which had been heaped upon the Catholic Church in the last few months, Archbishop Curley, speaking at the conclusion of cornerstone laying ceremonies at the new St. Mary's Seminary, called upon his hearers not to answer them in kind.

"Let our answer be this glorious seminary," said the Archbishop. "Let this be our answer to those who spend their time vilifying us."

The seminary cornerstone was laid by Archbishop Curley in the presence of four bishops and a crowd of 6,000 persons. In his address he also took issue with those who spoke favorably of Maryland because of a belief that the State has been the center of religious liberty in this country.

"The story of religious liberty in Maryland," he said, "is one of the darkest pages in the story of our country. History shows that when preachers of religious liberty, of which we have heard so much in the last five months, became the beneficiaries of the system which existed in this State, they obtained control and began practicing their diabolical bigotry."

Answering also those who say that the Catholic Church seeks to gain control of the country, Archbishop Curley said:

"One of the priests of St. Mary's Seminary celebrated his golden anniversary Mass recently. I would like to tell you laboring men what his salary is. It has been raised recently, too. He gets exactly \$100 a year. So you see there is no danger of these fathers getting control of the country through their wealth."

After January 1, will the notoriety seekers let Al. Smith alone.

The United States Supreme Court has ruled that the Walker law compelling the Klan to publish its membership rolls is constitutional. Now watch the Klan dig up a new Mayor of New York city.

Herbert Hoover will not be President until March 4, 1929. Calvin Coolidge will be President until that day.

Governor-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt will have a considerable deal of patronage to distribute along about January 1, 1929.

Sunday's Liturgy

Dec. 2: First Sunday of Advent

By Dom Outhbert Goeb, O.S.B.

(Prepared for the N. C. W. C. News Service by the Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota.)

Advent is a time of prayer and also of penance. To move our hearts the Gospel of the first Sunday depicts the majestic coming of the Redeemer at the general judgment. On the Vigil of Christmas the Church prays: "... grant that we who now joyfully receive Thine only-begotten Son as our Redeemer, may also, without fear, behold Him coming as our judge."

Christ was to come not only once as the Redeemer for the world—but this coming the world before Christ had to prepare—but Christ seeks to establish His abode in every heart; therefore each one must personally prepare for the coming of Christ.

The Church has this in mind during the holy season of Advent, for in her ecclesiastical life she offers us an opportunity with her and like her to prepare a worthy dwelling for the coming Redeemer. For the effort we make to be a worthy abode of Christ all through life is our guarantee that we shall at the last judgment be in a position to "behold Him coming as our judge without fear." May the sinner depart from the way of his iniquity and again receive the Redeemer into a pure heart, that He may celebrate therein anew His Nativity. That is the purpose of Advent.

The first herald to announce the coming of Christ is St. Paul in today's epistle. Fear fills our heart. The "day" of Christ is approaching. "Now is the hour to rise from sleep" and rouse ourselves from lukewarmness and idleness. Discard the garments of sin and passion, and put on the white shield of justice and sanctity: "Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ."

Aroused by the cry of the Apostle, and comforted by the realistic vision of the Gospel, we set out courageously and confidently to walk the path of purification which leads us to the manger, eye, which makes our hearts a manger. Armed with the weapons of light we await the birth of Christ who truly comes: "And they shall see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with great power and majesty."

If our hearts are purified by a sincere confession strengthened by a firm purpose of amendment and contrition, the Christ Child will be born in our hearts, Jesus will enter and take up His abode therein, especially in Holy Communion. And the birth of Jesus in our hearts, His abiding in our soul, is the purpose of the church's prayers in advent, the object of all her divine services.

The great devotion of the Church for the Blessed Virgin during Advent is very striking. Without discussing the symbolic meaning of the Rosary Masses of Advent, a thought on the feast of the Immaculate Conception will fit in with the Church's scheme of Advent. Mary was the first child of the human race to put on Christ, and that already in her Conception. The merits of the redemption of Christ were applied to her before His birth.

Rightly the Church therefore greets her: Ave Maria, Hail Mary, full of grace! As Mary is the morning dawn announcing the birth of the Sun of Justice, Christ, so Advent is for us the morning dawn urging us to prepare our hearts for the rising of the Light in our own hearts.

Colonel Lindbergh manages to get into the news items about as often as John Coolidge, the President's son.

The "Fellowship Forum", organ of the Klan and the new anti-Catholic organization, "Patriotic Sons of America" all over and around a full front page out of Hoover and Curley's, "thanks God that the United States by overwhelming majority voted to remain a Protestant country."

Winter paid its first party call this week, to the delight of the kiddies and the retail merchants.

Probably, there will be no congressional inquiry now into the wisdom of three or four publishers controlling three-fifths of the leading dailies of the United States.

So football coaches must be content with college professors' salaries?

So Franklin D. Roosevelt is to be Governor of New York state after January 1, 1929?

James A. Beha has resigned as state superintendent of insurance. He is a leading New York Knight of Columbus.

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