

The Catholic Journal

Published Every Friday At No. 113 North Water Street By The Catholic Journal Pub. Co. Rochester, New York

If the paper is not received promptly notify the office.

Report without delay change of address giving both old and new.

Communications solicited from all Catholics accompanied in every instance by the name of the author.

Name of contributor withheld if desired.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1928

TELEPHONE: MAIN 1507

Entered as second-class mail matter

New Year

Whether it be the old or the simplified calendar, the 365 days all round just the same, an old year is finished and a new one is begun.

Within a few hours after this issue of the Journal reaches our readers, the midnight bells will be ringing 1928 out and ushering 1929 in, and a New Year will start on its endless chain procession.

Whatever of good, whatever of evil; whatever of joy, whatever of sorrow; whatever of justice, whatever of injustice; whatever of love, whatever of hate; the record of 1928 is written, the books made up and accounts balanced.

Let us hope the balance is on the right side of the ledger. If not, let us start a new one and try during 1929 to better the record of 1928, especially in a spiritual sense as that is the real essential.

The Catholic Journal wishes for all its readers and friends a very Happy New Year!

Says the Northwest Courier: "If the dregs who voted for Hoover would quit drinking may be we could give prohibition a trial."

Papal Blessing

The Holy Father has conferred the Papal blessing on the National Catholic News Service and the periodicals it serves of which the Catholic Journal is one.

The cablegram, sent by His Eminence Cardinal Gasparri, Papal Secretary of State, to the Rt. Rev. Philip R. McDevitt, Bishop of Harrisburg and Episcopal Chairman of the Press Department of the N. C. W. C., is as follows:

The Rt. Rev. Philip R. McDevitt, Bishop of Harrisburg: Knowing the work of the Press Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, in accurately and promptly reporting news events of interest to Catholic readers; realizing the importance of the service which it renders to the cause of truth, in stating facts and in correcting errors, the Holy Father, on the occasion of the Feast of Christmas, bestows His blessing on this organization and on the Catholic periodicals which it serves.

PIETRO, CARD. GASPARRI. Thomas Fortune Ryan, with all his millions, did not leave anything to philanthropy or charity in his will. But, perhaps, he did what he wanted in this respect, while alive.

No Royal Road

Catholics, at least, will appreciate this little editorial quip in the Milwaukee "Catholic Citizen":—"Brethren, you must repent, as it were, and be converted in a measure, or you will be damned to some extent."

That is the sort of preaching an Episcopalian Bishop found addressed to rich sinners in some aristocratic churches. If you repent only, as it were, and are converted only in a measure, you are getting off very easily. If you are damned only to some extent, say ten thousand years in Purgatory.

No. Let us be definite and clear about it. Salvation is too important a matter to consider in, as it were, a measure. The transaction is too important to select the best and the safest method. Let us dot our i's and cross our t's and observe the formalities.

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New Governor

Next week the most colorful personage in New York state politics in years will retire from the Executive Chamber in Albany and another colorful political personage will succeed to the Governorship.

When Alfred E. Smith introduces as his successor Franklin D. Roosevelt, his personal friend and close political associate.

Alfred E. Smith has been a force in politics for more than a quarter of a century. Born in the East Side section of New York and reared there he rose successively to be Member of Assembly, Speaker, Member of the Constitutional Convention, Sheriff of New York, President of the New York Board of Aldermen, four times Governor of New York and the choice of his party for the Presidency of the United States.

Although defeated in the latter ambition he polled over 15,000,000 votes and, undoubtedly, is the best loved man in public life. This condition is due not only to Governor Smith's public service but to his fine personal qualities and his human feeling for his fellow men especially "the under dog".

Moreover, he is a living example of what a typical American husband and father should be. To sum up: Alfred E. Smith is our ideal of a truly Christian gentleman.

Governor Roosevelt is new to executive life in New York state, except for two years' service as state senator. But he has always stood for ideals and principles, rather than material gain. It is plain that the people of New York state wish Governor Smith's policies to be continued because they elected as Governor, Mr. Smith's personal friend, albeit they gave their electoral votes to the representative of the opposite political party, probably because they wish a continuance in the national government of the policies of the party that has been in control at Washington since 1921.

Our best wishes go with Governor Smith wherever his future leads. To Governor Roosevelt we extend a hearty wish for a successful administration, creditable to himself and profitable to the people of New York State!

Attention is called to the fact that the Mexican labor federation known as "the Crown" is under the ban of President Gil even if it is endorsed by the American Federation of Labor.

Should Be Done

With the general proposition contained in the following editorial in a recent issue of the "Union and Times":

A Catholic man approached us recently with the outline of a plan for a new Catholic organization to safeguard the interests of Catholics as citizens in federal, state and local governments. He had in mind the formation of a society, whose members would be drawn from our many Catholic organizations, to keep a watchful eye upon the legislative programs of the different branches of civil government.

That plan is feasible and worthy of consideration. With all our organization, we have no central source to which we may turn when the time comes for action against the legislative measures which faddists and propagandists attempt to force upon legislative bodies. In Washington there is always the danger of federalized education, of the denial of wine for sacramental purposes, and many other instances of adverse legislation. In Albany there is the danger of a birth control bill being acceptable to the Senate and the Assembly, and also the passage of bills which affect our charitable agencies. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. Fanatics and fanaticism are on the ascendancy. We will have to be on our guard against the groups and organizations that camp on the steps and in the halls of legislators hoping to put through their pet, hobbies.

Such an organization as the one above mentioned could not be political in its purpose or character. Politicians or citizens seeking public office would have no place in its plan. Such an organization would have but one intent—the protection of the Church's interests against the inroads of pernicious theories or practices raised to the dignity of law and bearing the sanction of government. Among such theories are federalized education and birth control. Others will be brought forward as inventive minds form other means to hamper the Church in her work among the faithful. The time to fight such wicked nostrums is always the present. Organized effort will ensure us of victory.

It should be borne in mind, however, that great care should be taken in forming such an organization lest it develop into a Catholic Anti-Saloon League.

It might be added: The people lost their chance on November 6 last to postpone for four years at least, any Federal legislation to encourage birth control, federalized education, and kindred legislation.

Bishop Cannon insists that unless Carter Glass and the regular democratic state organization of Virginia do not apologize to him for their criticism of his course in the campaign of 1928, he will be compelled to oppose it in future campaigns!

Rather Late

Of course publicity men are eager for "side lights" and "human touches" about men in the public eye and, naturally a new President of the United States may be made to furnish "good copy".

It may be a mere coincidence but we cannot refrain from commenting on the number of incidents of the President-elect's admiration for the Catholic Church and friendship for individuals of the Catholic faith that have found their way into the public prints, especially from European sources.

These would have been received with far greater cordiality if they had appeared during instead of after the late Presidential election.

Possibly, the President's political publicity managers feared such publication during the campaign might offend certain anti-Catholic groups whose votes were thought to be necessary for success.

Our old friend, Clinton Howard, is not to cut off the supply of liquor from the Washington diplomats and the personally wet but politically dry Congressman!

The sons of Patrick Barry, co-donor of Highland Park and Miss Baker, donor of the golf courses for Genesee Valley Park, favor a Rochester man who has helped develop Rochester's park system, as successor to Calvin Laney as Director of Parks.

Now they talk of city manager plan to fight the notorious Vore machines in Philadelphia! And let it be remembered, there is no Irish control of the Philadelphia machine as Mr. Vore is a leader in the Methodist Church.

The Denver Register says very pertinently:—"The Catholic Church has existed in this nation since Colonial times. Never once has the United States Supreme Court found it necessary to prohibit an American any movement supported by the Church. Within the last few years the Supreme Court has acted adversely on two movements that were largely organized on the specious plea of fighting the alleged non-Americanism of the Catholic Church—the Oregon school law and now the K. K. K. This shows definitely enough in which camp real Americanism lies.

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German Catholics Will Organize To Fight Immorality

By Rev. Dr. Wilhelm Baron von Capitaine

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

Cologne, Dec. 17.—The German bishops' conference recently held at Fulda resolved to organize a "central working committee of German Catholics to promote public morality."

The purpose of this organization will be to wage war on Schund und Schmutz (trash and filth) wherever it is found. Its negative task will be to combat all kinds of immorality, and its positive to present good literature and supply reading rooms.

Two organizations already in existence, the Volkswartbund and Boromeuverein, will serve as a nucleus for this activity. For some time past they have warred on immorality, but the new organization will have a member of the Hierarchy as its president and the power of the Church behind it.

Mgr. Kaller, Apostolic Administrator at Schneidemuehle in Silesia, has been selected as its head, but the central office will be at Cologne. A Volkswartbund or Boromeuverein will be organized in every parish. Special collections will be taken up to increase parish libraries.

Schundkampf Sunday will inaugurate the campaign by which German Catholics hope to create public sentiment making enforcement of the anti-obscenity act passed by the Reich in December, 1927, possible.

Did You Forget Someone?

If so, you still have an opportunity of redeeming yourself. There's New Year's Day, for instance.

An expression of good will, accompanied by a gift on New Year' Day, is perfectly proper, and the following list of useful gifts might prove helpful:

- Electric Sewing Machine, Motor, Electric Coffee Percolator, Electric Toaster, Electric Heating Pad, Electric Curling Iron, Electric Combination Grill, Electric Washing Machine, Electric Iron, Automatic Water Heater, Gas Heater, Electric Ironers, Cabinet Gas Range, Electric Vacuum Cleaner, Electric Refrigerator, Electric Heater

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