

The Catholic Courier And Journal

Official Paper of the Diocese of Rochester... Published at 237 Andrews St., every Friday by THE CATHOLIC COURIER and JOURNAL, Inc.

Subscription Rates: One Year \$2.50, Foreign, one year 3.00

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Friday, December 20, 1929.

TO ALL OUR READERS

To all our readers, their families and their loved ones, we wish a blessed and beneficent Christmas, and a happy New Year, rich in spiritual treasures, and in growth, work and deeds pleasing to Almighty God.

UNIVERSALITY OF THE CHURCH

A solemn Mass of requiem for deceased Cardinals of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda Fide was celebrated in Rome a short time ago.

MINGLING WITH THE MIGHTY

His Royal Highness Sisowath-Monivong, king of Cambodia, recently received with becoming solemnity the Most Rev. Columbanus Dreyer, O.F.M., Apostolic Delegate to Indochina.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

By Miss Betty Nash, Nazareth Academy. There are thousands and thousands of people who do not know the real meaning of Christmas.

I May Not Go to Bethlehem

I may not go to Bethlehem this blessed Christmas night, But I can seek a little shrine, whose candles, burning bright,

The First Christmas

"And there were in the same country shepherds watching, and keeping the night-watches over their flock. And behold an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the brightness of God shone round about them, and they feared with a great fear."

profit. But there is no doubt that a subscription to a Catholic paper, preferably the approved Catholic Diocesan paper, is one of the best gifts to send to those we esteem.

This year let us, in every case, make our Christmas gift reflect the religious spirit of the time. Let us have our Lord in it and have thoughts of our Lord suggested to those we are to greet from our hearts with the wish of a Merry Christmas.

WHY APOLOGIZE?

Some time ago a couple of men were carrying on a conversation in a railroad train. They seemed to be willing to have their near-by travellers listen to it.

The statements that the Catholic Church is in politics and that it meddles with the rights of its children in political matters is well known to be false by honest non-Catholics.

There has been and there is too much apologizing for our faith. There are too many who wish to side track religious matters because of their fear that it will lead to controversy.

CARRYING THE CROSS UP NORTH

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Gabriel Breynat, O.M.I., of Mackenzie, Northwest Territory, Canada, an aged man, left Fort Smith early last July to visit the mission stations along the Mackenzie River.

Early in the summer Bishop Breynat visited a large portion of his Diocese by airplane, covering in one hour more territory than he could cover in many days by dog-sled, his former mode of travel.

We who live in a more favorable climate, with churches all around us, and the active automobile ready to whisk us back and forth to Church, have little idea of the sacrifices that are being made by priest and lay people who carry the cross up North.

CHRISTIAN OR PAGAN—WHICH?

Our Lord's birthday is fast approaching. All of good will are planning, according to their pocketbooks, possibilities to show that good will.

There are many ways in which we show our good will to others. And many times we perhaps send some gift to another because we know or are afraid another will give us some token of good will.

However, there are many ways in which we show this good will. In every case, let us ask you, should not the religious part of the feast be the most important? And, if it is, then we will use religious gifts at least in part.

That is what the collect for the fourth and last Sunday of Advent means to us. It refers us to the days in the Old Testament when a Redeemer who was expected, had not yet come but was about to come.

ized by the Catholic Church. Why, then, in face of the fact that we were here in this land first, apologize to others who seem to object to us being here at all.

The treatment of Catholics in Maryland by non-Catholics, when they were given asylum there because Maryland gave religious freedom, is well known from history.

Knowing these things as we should from reading our Catholic papers and our history and Catholic magazines, there is no excuse for any Catholic to side-track religious matters, to be ashamed of his faith, to apologize because he is a Catholic.

The good Catholic is a true follower of the Crucified One; he is a true and loyal citizen of the country in which he lives; he is obedient to its laws, or he is not a good Catholic.

CIVILIZATION, CULTURE, CATHOLICISM

It is queer the different meanings that have been associated with the above words. Men of all time have juggled them. At one time the persecution of Catholics was called a culture war, "kulturkampf."

Catholic doctrine and teaching insists on civilization and progress as a duty. It has always done so. The Catholic Church is and has been the most effective instrument and the most secure guarantee for progressive civilization.

But what is civilization? Here philosophers and sociologists divide their camp. They are always splitting hairs on "Kultur" and civilization. Social helps which make man live better and better; the expansion of life; the enrichment of the intellectual, the artistic, the economic and industrial life; the closer connection of the finite and the Infinite—all of these give us some idea of how they dash and dodge.

The tendency to a better and higher civilization is not only a natural one, it is a solemn religious duty. God created us, He created us for Himself. We live for Him. He is the only end and reason for our existence. We must tend towards Him, we must always look to Him for our rules and standards of life. God is Existence and Life in its entirety. Beyond and above Him there is nothing which is life. In the control of our lives and ourselves, we become like Him and we fulfill a fundamental religious obligation.

In the periods of history we find the ruins of successive civilizations. They saw the light of day, they grew, they became mighty and they fell. What's the cause? In the cases of many, they are too deeply buried in the ruins of oblivion to be discernible. We may surmise. Very often there was self-destruction, due to a lack of uniformity in ideas and ideals. A house divided amongst itself. Material wealth resulting in sensualism, frustrated learning, art, efficient action and spiritual progression in individuals and in groups.

There is a remedy in the Gospel teachings and in the sound teachings of the Catholic Church. The first pages of the Book of Life proclaim the great law of abnegation. The Church of Christ is above time and space. Thus she transcends that individualism which has caused the death of many civilizations in the past. It will kill ours, if we do not rise above wild nationalism, set aside false values of the rational order, and strive after the Catholic ideal of Christian civilization.

The Christian ideal in the individual soul is insufficient of itself to accomplish this. Only a visible, universal and divinely organized Church, can give permanent and supernatural support to the collective work of humanity, which is civilization. Man is made up of soul and body, of matter and spirit. His highest ideals must rest on reality and on a sensible life. To ensure that we avoid fatal fantasies, so characteristic of human mortals; the divine Will must be interpreted for us by a visible authority which, with the help of the Holy Ghost raises us above the errors of our individual imaginations.

Certainly, civilization is only the natural, terrestrial and transitory aspect of the Kingdom of God; but it is required by our Heavenly Father for the peace and happiness of His children. Civilization will never be sure of being permanent if it is not supported by the power of the Holy Ghost who is in the Catholic Church alone until the end of time. Catholics have an inferiority complex, many say. In civilization and culture they are retards. Yes, Catholics think less of the good of this world than of their eternal salvation. They do not disdain matter, which is of God's creation, but they do not believe that progress consists in the stupidities of insensate luxury. They do not admit that their intellectual view of the world must depend on a transitory hypothesis which will soon join the melancholy specimens exhibited by scientists for example the behavioristic psychologist. They refuse to consider jazz and the "talkies" the highest form of art. In this Catholics are only the more representative of civilization and culture.

Sunday's Liturgy

Dec. 22

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

By Dom Oliver Kapsner, O.S.B.

carries a message of joy anticipating the possession of the object. And, thanksgiving that is due to God to-day. The collect begins with the words of praise: "O God, who hast made this most holy night to shine forth with the brightness of the true Light."

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through the hand of God to lead it through life unto that unceasing and only true happiness in heaven where we beseech Thee, that we may enjoy His happiness in heaven, the mystery of whose light we have known on earth.

Michigan Catholic Papers to Merge

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 20.—The merger of the Catholic Vigil with the Michigan Catholic of this city, has just been announced by the latter paper. The announcement is as follows: "In this week's issue The Catholic Vigil, official organ of the Diocese of Grand Rapids, will announce its discontinuance as a newspaper."