

The Catholic Courier and Journal

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Friday, June 13, 1930.

OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF PARKS

Rochester is fortunate in having at the head of its city parks a man of the ability, the experience, the knowledge and courtesy of Patrick Slavin.

It was most fitting, therefore, that the new Commissioner of Public Safety, Donald A. Dailey, knowing these things, and appreciating them, should name Mr. Slavin as Director of Parks.

A GREAT CELEBRATION

That was a great celebration, held by Our Mother of Sorrows Church on "Eddy's Hill" last Sunday, in observance of the centennial of the church.

An inspiring feature of the celebration, and one that was happily emphasized by Bishop O'Hern in his address, was the union of all creeds in observance of this centennial.

A MODERN ANANIAS

When Bishop Cannon of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, told the Senate Lobby Committee the other day, under oath, that he is being persecuted by Catholic and wet interests, he told an unqualified falsehood, as far as Catholics are concerned.

The Catholics have no interest or concern in the hop-skip-and-jump activities of Bishop Cannon, neither in his stock market adventures, his political migrations, his Prohibition antics, nor in the mysterious cash collections that have been stuffed into his hip-pocket for surreptitious use abroad in the land.

But when Bishop Cannon disgraces his cloth, when he cheapens and degrades his church position, when he commits acts and deeds that come under the scrutiny of District Attorneys and Legislators, when he makes a political polygamy out of himself, and gets into difficulties that call for the censure of the good people of his own church—when he does all of these things, and cries out that the Catholics are persecuting him, he is merely spilling more ink upon his episcopal shirt, dirty enough already.

While there may be some who will applaud the Bishop for what he has said and done, we firmly believe that in the future his voice will have no more influence in America than the voice of a raven as reverberating down through the ages. For this reason, he alone is responsible for his day, and they will not tolerate him with such sweeping headlines.

There Should Be a United Church

Catholics believe the true Church of Christ should be united, that is, all Christians should believe the same truths, assist at the same sacrifice, profess the same faith, partake of the same Sacraments, and obey the same spiritual authority.

CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES FIRST DISCOVERED THE COPPER MINES IN THE LAKE SUPERIOR REGION

SORRY FOR THEIR SINS

The overwhelming defeat of U. S. Senator Simmons of North Carolina for re-nomination to the high office he has filled these many years is a striking illustration of the fact that the voters of the State are sorry for their sins.

The people of North Carolina, we may be sure, are like the people of other American states—the great majority honest, sincere and upright. We never yet knew a people deceived by fraud and lies, but what that people turned in wrath upon the disseminators of these frauds and lies. This is just what has happened in North Carolina.

CAN YOU WARBLE?

Punk. Whatever that is. "Worse than punk," said the self-constituted critic as he left the Church after late Mass. His companion listened for more. He heard more. It was a criticism of the choir by a man who did not know la from fa.

In that church as in many others, the pastor was giving the best he could to God; the music sanctioned by the Church, music far removed from the opera and jazz. The trouble was that too many of his flock did not understand or appreciate good music when they heard it.

"You," said the friend to the critic, "have no reason to find fault. You have not done one thing to help build up that choir, and you have done much to keep others out of it. Now, do not pull down what others are building up—Help and do not hinder, and if you cannot understand or appreciate good church music, don't tell every one your weakness—Boost your choir and join it if you have a voice."

A Catholic newspaper in the home is a mighty influence for good, combatting as it does the evils of the times. No family should be without one.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

"The Institute of Social and Religious Research, financed by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., has just issued an abundance of statistics on the growth of church membership in the United States.

The report contends that the churches of America are holding their own in membership, and that out of every one hundred persons over thirteen years of age in the United States, fifty-five are members of some church, just as they were ten and twenty years ago.

There are 212 separate denominations in America, according to the report. Sunday schools have an enrollment of 21,000,000 pupils, although Catholic Sunday schools have fallen off seriously in the past ten years, due to the enormous growth of parish schools, which eliminate the necessity of Sunday schools.

The value of church edifices alone, not including rectories, schools, convents, hospitals, asylums, homes, etc., under church care, and erected with church money, is placed at \$3,800,000,000. The total expenditures of churches in 1926 is placed at \$817,000,000. There are 232,000 churches in America, the report says, as compared with 256,000 public schools.

From 1906 to 1926, the report says, the rate of increase in the enrollment of parochial schools was nearly twice that of public elementary and secondary schools indicating the rapid multiplication of such schools.

There are five women church members to every four in the country. The total church membership is given as 41,380,000. Of these, 13,000,000 are credited to the Catholic Church, counting only those who are over thirteen years of age.

The second largest denomination in the United States is the Methodist Episcopal Church with 3,700,000 adult members, or 8.1 per cent of the national total. It is followed by the Southern Baptist Convention with almost 3,300,000 adult members, or 7.4 per cent of the entire total.

The membership of Jewish congregations is estimated at 2,930,000.

The two other denominations with more than 2,000,000 adult members each are the Negro Baptists and the Methodist Episcopal Church South, while the Presbyterian Church in the United States, the Protestant Episcopal Church, the Disciples of Christ and the Northern Baptist Convention have from 1,000,000 to 2,000,000. The United Lutheran Church in America and the Congregational Church have roughly 900,000 and 860,000 respectively, and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other States, 700,000. No other denomination has as many as 500,000.

Protestant Episcopal and Roman Catholic Churches are also largely urban, with more than 80 per cent of their members on the rolls of city churches.

The Roman Catholics, Jews and other non-Protestants taken together make up 38 per cent of the total church membership of the United States, while the Protestant denominations include 62 per cent. The South constitutes the stronghold of Protestantism. There are eleven States, all below the Mason and Dixon Line, which report at least nine out of ten members as Protestants.

The industrialized East tends to be dominantly Roman Catholic. In all the New England States Roman Catholics make up at least half the adult church membership.

The Southwestern States of Arizona and New Mexico with their strong Spanish traditions are also predominantly Catholic.

The Jews are particularly numerous in New York and to a less extent in New Jersey, while the Mormons claim half the members in Idaho and nine-tenths of the total in Utah.

The Roman Catholic Church, the report says, "makes a far better showing, and the Negro bodies a far worse showing."

Finding You

Dear God, I wish I could have been Among those girls and boys You called to come and talk with You. And who left all their toys, And ran and climbed up on Your knee, And held Your Hand, and sat Around You, learning lovely things— I wish I had done that!

—Mary Dixon Thayer.

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

The Irish Free State Censorship Bureau has barred four more English newspapers, all weekly—"News of the World," owned by Lord Riddell; Empire News, Thompson's Weekly News and The People, all of which had substantial circulations in Ireland.

The District of Columbia Court of Appeals recently upheld the right of members of Congress to utter false and libelous statements, and to be free from legal responsibility therefor.

A Buffalo truck driver, aged 25 years, was sentenced recently to serve 15 years in Auburn Prison, because he parked his truck on a highway at night and left it without lights.

The Diocese of Cleveland has just purchased the historic and stately St. Paul's Episcopal Church in that city, and will remodel it into a Shrine for the perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Patrick F. Scanlan, editor of The Brooklyn Tablet, has been awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by Villanova College.

Union graduating exercises were held on Thursday evening last week by the Schools of Nursing of the Rochester General, Strong Memorial, Genesee, Highland and Park Avenue Hospitals.

PRESBYTERIAN FORESIGHT

The Presbyterian General Assembly, in session at Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, this week, adopted a resolution denouncing modern divorce as a "destroyer of civilization," and calling upon all ministers of the church to fight it.

This is commendable action, as well as good foresight. Divorce has been growing at a frightful rate in America, in some cities as high as one divorce to every seven marriages.

Human law has never been able to improve God's law; nor will it ever be able. And God's law is: "What, therefore, God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."

There can be no quibbling about the meaning of that. It is positive, and it is final.

their fundamental cause, bad housing. This is right in line with some of the things we have been told by Chaplains of Jails and Reform Schools—that when delinquent young men serve their terms and go back home, they usually go back to conditions that are instrumental in driving them straight back into a life of crime.

CURRENT COMMENT

WHAT ONE LAYMAN DID

Jerry Donovan was not a missionary by profession. He was just a mason-contractor, building a new church in a new church in a South Carolina village.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The supreme principle governing frequent Communion is the fact that this Sacrament is not intended as a reward for those who are exceptionally worthy of it—no creature, however excellent and exalted, could ever strictly merit such a favor—but it is ordained to be the regular food and ordinary medicine of the supernatural life of the soul.

VACATIONS

Summer vacations bring some very pertinent considerations to the fore. Catholics have an obligation to hear Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation all the year through.

When planning a vacation either for the children, the family or one's self, it is well for Catholics to select places that afford every opportunity for the fulfillment of all the obligations imposed both by God and the Church.

TO WIPE OUT THE SLUMS

Alfred E. Smith, ex-Governor of New York State, has been elected President of the Housing Association of New York, a society organized for the express purpose of wiping out the slums of New York City.

To remove "blighted districts" by slum clearance and new construction, to prevent the creation of new slums, to enforce existing housing laws and to raise by additional legislation the legal housing standards are among the major purposes of the association.

The association hopes in time to make New York a city of model housing for people of limited means.

Mr. Smith is enthusiastic about the plans of the Association. He recalled that when the old tenement house law was passed almost forty years ago it was predicted that the dilapidated tenements would be torn down in twenty-five years.

Billions are spent annually for philanthropy and the study of crime, Mr. Smith says, and for the study of delinquency and disease, but very little goes to remove