

The Catholic Courier And Journal

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Friday, September 5, 1930.

THE LAY APOSTOLATE

Martin H. Carmody, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, at the recent national convention of the order in Boston, urged the members to stand solidly back of Pope Pius XI in his efforts to promote in a better and stronger way the Lay Apostolate of the Church.

Mr. Carmody made a plea that every Knight of Columbus become a Lay Apostle. His plea should find a ready response, not only in Rochester, but the country over.

Two things are absolutely essential for a Lay Apostle—have a kindly and considerate attitude towards all who are not members of the Church, and be sure of your facts.

TAXING PARISH SCHOOLS

A city assessor in White Plains, N. Y., says he "should like to see all the property now exempt from taxation put on the tax rolls, except that owned by the city."

Very good. Approximately one thousand children are being educated in these Catholic schools at no expense whatever to the taxpayers. The schools have been built without one cent of expense to the taxpayers.

White Plains recently built a new public school at a cost of \$2,250,000. It was the high cost of this school which, in part, inspired the city assessor to make a demand for taxation of parish schools and other exempt property.

This energetic city assessor had better do some tall figuring before he goes any farther with his exempt tax proposition.

ROSA MYSTICA

O Mystic Rose, in God's fair garden growing, O Mystic Rose, in Heaven's high courtyard blowing— Make sweet, make sweet the pathway I am going.

saving the city of White Plains more than half a million dollars in taxes every year of its life.

THE MARINES OF THE CHURCH

Missionary magazines are showing commendable exultation over the fact that the first North American Saints—the eight Jesuit martyrs who were canonized on June 29—were all missionaries.

Every little while we read, these days, of Maryknoll and other missionaries leaving America for China, for Japan, for India, for Alaska—for every other land under the sun where missionaries are needed.

Simply and solely for love of God, and love and service of mankind, for love of God. The missionary magazines do well to exploit the heroism of the Jesuit missionary martyrs of North America.

GOOD EXAMPLE

Knute Rockne, famous football coach at Notre Dame University, is a convert to the Catholic Church. At the close of a recent Laymen's Retreat at Notre Dame, Mr. Rockne told more than one thousand men what influenced him to join the Church.

It was an incongruous situation," Mr. Rockne told the Laymen, "that I should go to a comfortable hotel and rest myself, while all of my team, after a long, hard trip, went to Mass."

One night, facing a hard and crucial game, Mr. Rockne could not sleep. He left his room, went to the lobby of the hotel and paced the floor back and forth.

"Later," Mr. Rockne told the Laymen, "I had the great privilege and joy of going to the Communion rail with the players."

Secrets of Confessional

Many priests have died rather than violate the secrecy of the Confessional. In 1900 years there is not a solitary recorded instance of any priest revealing what was told him in the Confessional.

CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES GREW THE FIRST WHEAT IN THE UNITED STATES

non-Catholic. But if we show that fine spirit of Faith which the Notre Dame boys showed Knute Rockne—well, we are bound to make friends for the Church, which means—friends for God, and ultimately converts for the Fold of Jesus Christ.

CATHOLIC WOMEN AND MOVIES

At the recent convention of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, held in Baltimore, one of the subjects to which serious discussion was given was motion pictures.

That during the period covered by the report—a total of 1,103 motion pictures were pre-reviewed by competent committees of Catholic women; that 707 of these pictures were found suitable for use in Catholic schools or halls, and were endorsed by the committees; that the Committee was in a position to protect Catholicity on the screen; that the endorsed list of pictures is sent to all who request it, and information furnished upon request giving the reasons for non-endorsement of any picture; that two review committees of Federation women are serving in motion picture studios in New York and in Hollywood, and that their work is supplemented by other committees who review pictures in advance of their release for the theaters.

An interesting point brought out was that all pictures of one of the largest and most notable motion picture firms in America were omitted from the Federation list, whether acceptable or not, because this company was exploiting a birth-control film. The company asked the reason for the omission, and was promptly told.

Proof of growing interest in the work of the Federation was furnished by the statement that the endorsed list of pictures has grown in circulation from five hundred copies in the past two years.

This is splendid work, and work that should have the hearty support and cooperation of Catholics the country over. The motion picture industry, unless watched and safeguarded by activity of this kind, has a tendency to sink in the mire of filth.

RUM, ROME AND TAMMANY

Their battle cry, "Rum, Rome and Tammany," United States Senator J. Thomas Hellin and his friends in Alabama have launched the independent candidacy of that windy gentleman and his corkscrew mind for re-election to the U. S. Senate.

Bigotry, it is regrettable to say, has a pretty strong grip on some parts of the South, Alabama included. But we do not believe that Alabama or any other State will ever elect any man to public office of importance upon a platform of that kind.

A few days ago a Methodist vacation class visited a Catholic Church in Long Island for the purpose of getting firsthand information about the Church. They called upon the pastor, asked him numerous questions, and were delighted with the frankness of his answers and with the fine courtesy he extended to them.

these are American characteristics. Professional bigots and falsifiers, like Hellin, have done regrettable damage to these American characteristics from time to time. But their roots are safe, and they will survive.

SCHOOL REPORTS

Did you ever get one? And what was done with it, or with you when you brought it home? The writer remembers well a family of eight children, six of whom were in school at the same time.

The answer seems easy. They were earnest and successful in school because their parents cared. Their weekly reports were looked for. They were examined weekly by father and mother, too, and when one of them received a gold star for good work during the week the reward was a dime.

There are some old fogies who say one should never praise or encourage a child. But if these old fogies are not praised for their work, and if their pay envelope is not larger for better work, they become disgruntled and find fault.

Too many parents seem to have no interest in the work of their children. An example of this neglect was unfortunate in one family. The boy's report showed he had been missing Mass, and also that he was not up in his classes.

The weekly reports should be asked for from the children. They should be examined. Explanations should be asked for poor marks, praise given for good work and rewards, such as are dear to a child, bestowed to make it worth while.

Remember weekly school reports take the teacher's time who has many burdens to carry and she should have the active and continual support of both father and mother in her labor for their children's welfare.

THE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

On September 23d, 24th and 25th, the Sixth National Eucharistic Congress will be held in the city of Omaha, Nebraska. It will be held under the auspices of the Priests' Eucharistic League, of which Bishop Joseph Schrembs of Cleveland is National Protector.

The purpose of a Eucharistic Congress is to make a public profession of faith in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist, to offer Him love, praise, and thanksgiving for the many graces and blessings which flow from this adorable Sacrament, and to make reparation for the injuries and insults sustained by Our Divine Lord in the Most Holy Eucharist.

The Congress in Omaha will therefore be of unusual interest. Great preparations are being made to welcome many thousands of visitors, lay and cleric, and special low rates are being offered by all railroads for this notable gathering of men and women interested in the spiritual life of the Nation and its people.

MEN WHO HAVE VANISHED

Thirty-three years ago Salomon August Andree and two companions set out for the North Pole in a balloon, leaving Danes Island, Spitzbergen, on July 11, 1897. Later, a carrier pigeon came back with a message reporting "all well".

One month ago the bodies of the three men were found on White Island, a tiny ice-bound plot of land in the great Arctic Ocean. A Swedish battleship will bring the bodies home to a waiting motherland—heroic sons of a nation that has won imperishable glory in the wilds of the North.

In the year 1371—five hundred and fifty-nine years ago—Francisco di Podio, an Apostolic Delegate to China, set out with twelve missionary priests for the land of the Tartars. Encompassed by the prayers and the good wishes of their fellow-Christians, they left Europe for Peking. Never again were they heard from. Never again seen. Like Andree, they dropped mysteriously out of sight and sound of the world.

The Swedish explorers carried the flag, champions of civilization. The missionaries carried the Cross, champions of Christianity, messengers of God. The world has little concern for men who die, like Francisco di Podio, carrying the Cross. Yet for one man who has cast anchor in the port of missing men while carrying the flag, a hundred and more, carrying the Cross, have anchored around him. All the world over men have vanished in the mission fields—martyred, perhaps, by the very people to whom they brought the golden message of Salvation; lost, mayhap, on the sea or in the valleys or mountains, their souls but never their bones coming back to give us inspiration and thrill us with the heroism of their deaths and the sublimity of their sacrifices.

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

Cardinal Hayes of New York is an alert Churchman. A large number of British, French, Irish and other jurists, delegates to the recent thirty-sixth annual conference of the International Law Association in Chicago, attended Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York last Sunday. Cardinal Hayes, on behalf of the Catholics of New York, sent a message of welcome which was read by Msgr. Michael J. Lavelle, rector of St. Patrick's.

In his new book, "Forgery in Christianity," which Alfred A. Knopf will publish early in September, Major Joseph Wholes sets out to prove "that the Bible, in its every book and in the strictest legal and moral sense, is a huge forgery." It will surprise no one to learn that this book is the September selection of the Free-thought Book Club. So-called "higher criticism" of the Bible, made by alleged Christians, long ago sought to prove that the Bible was not the inspired word of God. But all these critics forget that the old Mother Church stood by the cradle of the Bible, nurtured and cherished it, safeguarded and protected it from the days of the Apostles to the present.