

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.

With the Approval of the Right Rev. John Francis O'Hern, D.D., Bishop of Rochester. TELEPHONE MAIN 1567

Subscription Rates: One Year \$15.00, Foreign, one year 2.00. Make all checks payable to Catholic Courier and Journal, Inc.

Editorial Staff: Priests of the Diocese, Maurice F. Simmons, Managing Editor

All communications for publication must be signed with the name and address of the writer, and must be in the Courier office by Tuesday preceding the date of publication.

Friday, December 5, 1930.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Monday, December eighth, is the feast of the Immaculate Conception, one of the important feasts of the Church year, and a holiday of obligation.

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was defined by Pope Pius IX, on December 8, 1854. At that time the Pope declared that "the Blessed Virgin Mary in the first instant of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved exempt from original sin."

The beautiful thought back of this is that our divine Saviour had a mother unstained by the slightest touch of sin. Beautiful in character, the personification of loveliness and of pure womanhood, without the shadow of one wrong act upon her soul, she shared with her divine Son the perfection that comes only from God.

The "Hail Mary," beautiful and appealing, has comforted millions of human souls. The Immaculate Conception gladdens all our hearts, for we feel that in praying to her we are praying to one who, understanding our weakness and frailties, is herself free from these.

GOOD-BYE TO FRANCE

The Methodists are saying good-bye to France. Their Board of Foreign Missions recently voted to withdraw from that country as a field for missionary activities.

Proselyting in strictly Catholic countries has never been a successful business. We doubt if it ever will be. A Catholic who leaves his church never leaves it because some other church offers him something better, or even as good.

There are, and always have been, a few persons who will desert the Church for social, financial or other reasons. But they are not sincere in this desertion, and are never dependable or helpful members of any other church.

The Virgin

Mother! whose virgin bosom was uncrossed With the least shade of thought to sin allied; Woman! above all women glorified, Our tainted nature's solitary boast;

FOR THE POPE'S JUBILEE

Fervent gratitude to God for the jubilee of His Holiness, Pope Pius XI, is the intention recommended during December for the Apostleship of Prayer.

It is an intention that will appeal to all our people. Fifty years a priest of God, and occupying the Chair of Peter when his jubilee was celebrated—surely this is a rare and wonderful blessing.

It is fitting that all of the Church should be invited to join our Holy Father in expressing gratitude for the manifold blessings and happenings of the jubilee year. It is a year that will remain memorable in the annals of the Church.

TAKING MORROW'S PLACE

Dwight Morrow's place as U. S. Ambassador to Mexico has been taken by J. Reuben Clark, Jr., who has lived in Mexico and has a warm and kindly feeling for the Mexican people.

"History records and experience demonstrates that there are no questions arising between nations which may not be adjusted peaceably, as well as with reciprocal advantage, if such questions are discussed in kindly candor with mutual appreciation of and accommodation to the viewpoint of each by the other and with patience and desire to work out a fair and equitable settlement.

This is a good beginning. Mr. Clark added to it by announcing that he will not serve liquor on the embassy premises during his term of office. For Mexico, he it known, is discouraging the use of alcohol by education and temperate appeals, but not by the use of shot guns, Anti-Saloon Leagues and sumptuary legislation.

These are hard days for fraternal buildings. A petition in bankruptcy has just been filed against the Level Club, Inc., operators of the \$4,300,000 hotel and Masonic clubhouse at 253 West Seventy-third Street, New York City.

CAUSE OF AMERICA'S DEPRESSION

Not hard times, not lack of business, not financial panic, not collapse of business acumen, not ignorance—not on any one of these reasons, nor on all of them put together, can we place the blame for the present serious unemployment in America, according to a statement just issued by the Administrative Committee of the National Catholic Welfare Council.

The unemployment situation is due, Archbishop Hanna's statement says, "to neglect of Christ," and he says it is "un-

The Rosary: Why Catholics Say It

The Rosary used by Catholics in their prayers is a string of beads, divided into five equal parts, each commemorating some great event in the life of Christ. On them the Lord's Prayer and the Hail Mary (Luke, 1-28) are recited, and when using their beads, Catholics meditate upon these events.

THE MONTH OF OCTOBER IS ESPECIALLY DEDICATED TO THE ROSARY

like famine only in that men themselves inflict it in the midst of plenty." The United States, the statement says, is suffering the tragedy of millions of men and women who need work, who want work, and who can find no work to do.

The statement of Archbishop Hanna thanks men and women, both lay and religious, who give food to the hungry, clothe the naked and harbor the harborless, and he says God will reward them. The statement continues:

"There can be no respite in this generosity. More and more money and goods will be needed, it seems certain, to meet during the cold of the coming winter only the call for alms from the poorest of the poor. More than temporary alms is necessary. Justice should be done."

By justice, Archbishop Hanna means, measures should be taken to provide work for the millions who are idle, and a change of heart should so affect American business methods that the recurrence of a similar condition will be safeguarded. The co-operation of all Catholics is urged, not only as employers, but in every other possible way, and the Archbishop makes a plea that the spirit of Christ shine through the business relations and business methods of the country.

"We add our earnest appeal for the use of what is the most efficacious of means—prayer. Pray daily that the needy may be relieved; that the suffering and the consequent moral tragedies may be lessened; that a greater energy may enter into the hearts of all to build a social structure which in far greater measure than the present with voice practically the teaching of Christ and of His Church, and bring a larger measure of justice unto men."

OUR "NOBLE EXPERIMENT"

An annual report, with a statistical statement covering the operations of the Prohibition Law, has just been filed by U. S. Attorney General Mitchell for the year ending June 30th. Data in Mr. Mitchell's report shows that of the 35,819 criminal cases pending in the Federal courts at the close of the fiscal year 22,671 were based on violations of the prohibition laws. Criminal and civil cases begun, involving violations of the prohibition laws, were 68,874 as compared with 68,023 in the previous year. In both years the criminal prohibition cases totaled about 57,000.

The number of prohibition cases terminated during the year—wiped off Court calendars because of dismissal or conviction—amounted to 52,437. Pleas of guilty were received in seventy-eight per cent of these cases. Of the total number, 27,709 received jail or prison sentences, an increase of 5,107 over the previous year. Which means that 50,311 persons were sent to jail in the United States in the past two years because of alleged violations of the Prohibition laws.

The Government padlocked 8,801 buildings during the year, an increase of 2,493 over the previous year. Serious congestion in Federal courts is complained of in Mr. Mitchell's report, and inadequate forces in the offices of U. S. Marshals. Mr. Mitchell also discusses prison congestion, offering as one solution the development of a system of prison camps.

"Large numbers of prisoners do not require confinement in walled prisons," he says. "Outdoor work improves them physically and morally and results in a substantial saving in expense to the government."

This wail is also included: "Federal enforcement is not without embarrassment caused by some State and municipal officers who, under color of their office, are actively violating the laws themselves."

With 27,709 persons sent to prison, with Federal courts badly congested, with U. S. Marshals lacking necessary help, with all jails and prisons badly overcrowded, and with the Attorney General of the United States solemnly recommending the establishment of a system of prison camps, it is time the civically solvent people of the United States would do some serious thinking about the "noble experiment" of Prohibition. Comment on the figures taken from the Attorney General's report is not necessary. They are a whole volume in themselves.

CHILD LIFE IN AMERICA

Some three thousand experts in child welfare work took part recently in a White House Conference on Child Health and Protection. The conference was called by President Hoover, and the keynote of the event was: The Nation's children—that their feet may be set upon surer paths to health, well being and happiness. Many Catholics from all parts of the country took part in the conference.

A great mass of facts and information about the children of America, collected by some twelve hundred trained workers at the request of President Hoover during the past year, was unfolded for the benefit of the experts. President Hoover gave the following statistics to the conference:

- Out of 15,000,000 children in the country, 35,000,000 are reasonably normal, this number including 1,500,000 who are gifted; 10,000,000 are deficient in some respect and of this number 50 per cent are not receiving the special care they should receive. Among the 10,000,000 deficient children are the following groups: 6,000,000 are improperly nourished; 1,000,000 have defective speech; 1,000,000 have weak or damaged hearts; 475,000 present behavior problems; 450,000 are mentally retarded; 382,000 are tubercular; 342,000 have impaired hearing; 16,000 are totally deaf; 300,000 are crippled; 50,000 are partially blind; 14,000 are wholly blind.

These are startling and saddening figures. That we have six millions of children in America who are improperly nourished is a pathetic commentary upon our industrial and economic life. A great many, if not most, of the other ills may be traced directly to this one cause. The President says truthfully: "If we could have but one generation of properly born, trained, educated, and healthy children, a thousand other problems of government would vanish." It is the thought of the President, and a noble thought, that the Nation, State and community must help parents to free children from the things which drag them down, enfeeble them and handicap them for wholesome, healthy life.

Any work that may be done along these lines will be in keeping with the work and ideals of the Church and her schools for the children of America. The President hopes that everything possible will be done to make the children "strong in moral fibre, and prepared to play more happily their part in the productive tasks of human society." The strands of moral fibre were long ago entwined in the educational system of the Catholic Church in America, and it is important they should be entwined in the educational system of all children.

Every bit of work that can be done to improve the condition of the children of America will be work that will win the blessing of God—for of such as these is the Kingdom of Heaven. President Hoover is to be commended for calling this conference, and it is to be hoped that good results may be obtained, and results that will be lasting.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

The Catholic Laymen's Association of Georgia recently held its fifteenth annual convention. This Association is the best living answer to the question: "How may we become lay Apostles?" A summary of its work tells an inspiring story.

The Association distributed more than 190,000 pieces of Catholic literature last year. It conducted an advertising campaign in the daily and weekly papers of the State, to acquaint non-Catholics with the truths of Catholic doctrine. It answered thousands of questions about the Catholic religion—questions that came not only from all parts of Georgia, but literally from all parts of the United States. It checked the columns of every newspaper published in Georgia for news items or comments written in a hostile spirit towards the church, or in an erroneous way. Fifteen years ago it was necessary to write an average of one hundred letters a week to the papers of the State, setting them right in matters of a Catholic nature. Last year the average was two a month, so friendly have the papers become to the Church and so fair in printing articles about its doctrines.

The Catholic population of the State of Georgia is almost negligible—only one person in every 115 being a Catholic. There are more priests in the city of Rochester than in the whole State of Georgia, and four times as many Catholics. Like in most Southern States, bigotry was rampant in Georgia when the Catholic Laymen's Association commenced its work fifteen years ago. It was always conciliatory, never offensive; always per-

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

A man of forty-five, and over, is the most useful in business or in factory, a director of the Life Extension Institute of New York told the New York State Industrial Safety Congress in Syracuse the other day. We'd like to have him tell that to some of these smart alecks who look you coldly in the eye, and say: "Ahem! Thirty-five, eh? Well, you're just at the age where you're beginning to slip. We can't use you in our plant." A condition that exists in a large number of industries in this country.

Many old-time theater patrons hold in affectionate memory Maude Adams, who is still alive, but who has not been seen on the stage in a number of years. She was lovely and delightful in J. M. Barrie's plays, and lovely and delightful in every play in which she ever appeared. Not many people know that she donated her former home at Lake Ronkonkoma, L. I., to the Sisters of the Cenacle, in whom she is greatly interested. These Sisters recently placed a tablet in the convent in honor of Miss Adams, whose kindness to them is a precious and enduring memory.

All of us have followed the fortunes of the great Notre Dame football team with a great deal of pride. Few of us stop to ask ourselves the secret of the success of this team. It is hard work, faithful observance of training rules, the willingness to make numerous sacrifices, and unflinching loyalty to their coach and leader. The same things will make us good men and women, and good Christians. Working hard for God, faithfully keeping His commandments, the willingness to make every sacrifice for Him, and unflinching loyalty to Him, our great leader in all things good in life—surely these will help us win the battles of life. Every pastor needs men and women who will follow him and work for him as Knute Rockne's players do for him. Let us hold fast to the spirit of football, and use it in our parish affairs—the spirit that never says die.

The Koo-kooos are vanishing. In 1925 the District of Columbia had 15,133 members. At the end of June this year there were only 124 in the District. The headquarters of the Klan is here, and the Fellowship Forum, favorite child of the father of lies. In 1925 there were 53,190 members in Maryland; today there are 516. Virginia had 169,630 members in 1925, and to-day only 1,593. Montana boasted 19,100 members five years ago. There are 133 survivors, and some of these voted for "Tom" Walsh for U. S. Senator. Other states have similar records. "Hic jacet" is on the tombstone of the cowardly hooded order, and reaching out from the boneyard of the Klan is a long line of murders, brutal whippings, crimes of arson, felonious assaults, kidnappings and tortures. A foul and filthy mess!

suasive, never abusive. If letters did not influence hostile editors, personal calls were made upon them. Their good-will was not obtained in a day, nor in a year. But to-day there is not a single newspaper in the State of Georgia hostile to the Catholic Church, or that will publish an article offensive to the Church. The last hostile one hauled down the flag of hate during the past year.

Newspaper editors, college professors and many other people frequently write to the Association, asking for information on Catholic doctrine, Catholic ritual, etc. The Georgia people, content to be wrong fifteen years ago, are anxious to be right now. A woman who was circulating the so-called "K. of C. Oath," a vile travesty on truth, was sent to jail for criminal libel in Georgia last year. Her case was carried to the Court of Appeals, but without avail. When she had completed her sentence the "koo-koo-klan" labeled her "jailed by the Pope," and took her on a lecture tour. In one city of 50,000 people there were six persons at her lecture, and two of the six were reporters. The lecture tour ended quicker than her jail sentence did.

Dr. John G. Coyle, of New York City, remembered with affectionate pride in Rochester, went all the way to Columbus, Ga., to deliver the keynote address at the Laymen's convention. He gave an inspiring address on "Catholic Advance," and said this about the Association:

"The Catholic Laymen's Association of Georgia was and is a mighty factor for the unveiling of lies, the exposure of forgers and malignant opponents of Catholicism who scruple at little to injure the ancient faith. By correcting every misrepresentation made of Catholic belief, doctrine and teaching; by doing so with courtesy; by supplying every honest inquirer with authoritative statements of Catholic teaching; by speaking always for fairness, and by endeavoring to maintain good feeling and fraternal spirit among Americans, the Catholic Laymen's Association is doing a great work for God and for Country." He urged the Catholics of Georgia to continue their efforts to increase good feeling by its work and to removing misunderstanding, the basis of prejudice; in so doing, he asserted, they will be proving themselves true the noble heritage of the faith handed down to them through the generations.