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EMBER DAYS

The first ember days of the new ecclesiastical year occur on the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday in the third week of Advent. They will be on December 17th, 19th, and 20th this year. On these days we must remember to thank God for the blessings of the past season and beseech Him for a continuance of His favors during the coming months. We should also pray for the young men who on these days will be ordained priests of God—pray that they may persevere faithfully in their noble calling and lead countless souls to their Master.

"THE PADRE OF THE RAINS"

In San Jose, California, an aged priest lies dead. He is Father Jerome Sixtus Ricard, S.J., known the world over as "The Padre of the Rains." His life's work is expressive of the diversity of the work of the Church. He was an astronomer, a scientist, a student supreme of the Heavens and the phenomenon of the Heavens. He made a special study of the sun "spots," and from these he was able to forecast the weather with uncanny perfection. He compared more than four thousand weather maps with three thousand spots on the sun, and from this comparison he drew his conclusions. Other scientists laughed at his theory at first, then accepted it, many of them, in amazement.

Father Ricard was one of the best known scientists in his line in the world. Deeply religious, humble, kindly, helpful, he exercised a great influence in the world of science, and was an inspiring example of the fact that man could be a great scientist and still hold fast to the truths of God and of His Church. He will be kept in affectionate memory, and his death takes from America one of her best-beloved figures in the realms of science.

IS THE RADIO EFFECTIVE?

The Catholic Radio Hour, from six to seven o'clock every Sunday evening, is donated to the Church by the National Broadcasting Company. It has been in operation now since March second. At the recent meeting of the Hierarchy of America in Washington, D. C., Bishop Schrembs of Cleveland, O., made a report covering some of the results of the Catholic Hour. During thirty-nine weeks, more than five thousand letters were received from 3,100 persons. Less than one hundred of these were critical, or abusive. Many of the letters were from non-Catholics, and a great number of these were in search of further information—they wanted to know more about this doctrine and that of the Church; about the Sacraments, Confession, etc.

The great majority of the letters came from rural sections—from men and women who still have the time and the inclination to think of religion and of God; from men and women who are glad of the privilege and the pleasure of hearing able speakers and enjoying beautiful music. Three important facts were brought in these letters, Bishop Schrembs said: The programs are carrying to Catholics in rural sections and areas located far from churches instructions in their religion and a stimulus to practice it; non-Catholics are showing increasing interest in the statements of Catholic doctrine and the truth they hear in the addresses; both Catholics and non-Catholics report a great interest in the programs and a strong desire for their continuance. The various speakers have reported definitely a number of conversions due to the Hour and further numbers of those seeking instruction in the Catholic religion.

This answers the question: Is the Radio effective? The Radio is effective, and wonderfully effective. We believe that not one person in twenty who enjoys a program writes about it. The average person does not bother to write, but the average person will tune in again and again

Mediat'rix of All Graces

Like the fragrant flowers adorning
Some rich shrine of marble ruins,
Like the breath of early morning
Wafted through scent-laden air,
Like the light when day is dawning,
Mary comes divinely fair.

God created her far fairer
Than the fairest of our race,
And He gave her something rarer
Even than the lowliest face,
For He made her the sole bearer
Of the fulness of His grace.

Now in Heaven it is His pleasure
To set Mary by His side;
But there cannot be a measure
For the Holy Spirit's bride,
So He gives her all His treasure
To distribute far and wide.

God, Who everlasting liveth,
Near Whose throne our Mother stands,
In His Wisdom so contriving,
That, when answering our demands,
Every gift which Jesus liveth
Comes to us through Mary's hands.

Oh! then, let our souls be yearning
For the blissful peace which springs
In these hearts forever burning
With a love of heavenly things,
And to Mary ever turning
For the golden gifts she brings.

Allan Rose.

and imbibe, hungrily, the truths he or she seeks, and the spiritual hope and inspiration missing so sadly from the average life. The five thousand letters represent, broadly speaking, more than one hundred thousand grateful persons, to say nothing about the millions of others who are more or less benefitted and inspired by the Catholic Hour talks and the music that is soul-lifting. The results are there; the work should be continued.

"MOTHER" JONES

"Mother" Jones, fiery agitator for union labor, dramatic leader of many a stirring strike in days that are gone, was laid at rest this week in a little cemetery at Mt. Olive, Illinois. She was placed close by a monument erected in memory of striking union miners, shot down in cold blood during serious labor troubles many years ago. Her "brave boys," she called them many a time, as she wept and prayed over their graves.

It is hard to think that this heroic old figure—she was one hundred when she died—started life as a teacher in a convent school. Fifty or sixty years ago labor conditions were hard in many places in America. Immigrants were imposed upon, tyrannized over, misused, exploited. Many of them worked under conditions that virtually amounted to slavery. Death took from "Mother" Jones her husband and children, with one breath of contagion, and she gave her life thereafter to humanity, to laboring humanity. She had a fine sense of the dramatic, and many a time she has been called "The Joan of Arc of Union Labor in America," so fiery was her leadership, so indomitable her will, so heroic her soul. Jails, bayonets, brutal treatment, coercion and terror—these but added fuel to the fires of her soul. Where trouble was, she was; where bayonets were turned against human breasts, her breast was the first at the steel. "Anarchist," they called her, "agitator," "traitor," and other things. But she lived to be loved and respected by great men who had clamored for her imprisonment, some of them for her blood.

All through her fiery life "Mother" Jones was a devout Catholic. She had a brother a noble priest, dead now. Her Church taught her stirring and strong principles of truth, justice and right. These she fought for, and the Irish blood in her veins supplied the fervor that for generations yet to come will make her name a benediction to those who toil in the great fields of life.

CHURCH UNITY

The Institute of Social and Religious Research in New York City, after three years of laborious investigation, has concluded that a desire for individual power by ecclesiastics, a certain amount of denominational snobbery and a general confusion of issues and aims have practically emasculated the Protestant Church movement for co-operation through federations in American cities.

The materials composing the report was obtained by intensive first-hand studies in the following nineteen cities: Baltimore, Boston, Brooklyn, Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis, Minneapolis, New York, Oakland, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Portland, Me.; Rochester; Sacramento, San Francisco, St. Louis, Washington, Wichita and Youngstown. In five other cities—Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Louisville and Toledo—limited first-hand studies were made.

The co-operative movement among Protestant churches is that in which various churches set up a central organization, with paid secretaries and workers, usually known by some such title as the Federated Council of Churches, which is designed to administer as a unit many branches of activity which the churches would ordinarily conduct individually with a great amount of duplication of effort.

The Institute report, among other things, says: "Constant subjection to unnatural inhibitions, the weight of narrow and suspicious denominational control, the continuous thwarting of vital impulses by ecclesiastical hands upon the machinery might well render the best of movements permanently powerless to incarnate the profounder meanings implicit in it."

For Law and Order

If there is to be a thought of backing up sensible law and order in the United States, there must be awakened in the communities everywhere the right sense of justice. Nations will think as the units in those nations think. We must devote our efforts to getting the whole Catholic citizenry to stand for a higher sense of order, right and principles of justice. And then through this example we may hope to improve all citizenship. — The late Archbishop Austin Dowling of St. Paul, Minn.

There will be many ministers, of course, who will resent this report and its language, in a vain attempt to bolster up a cause that practically all of them know in their hearts to be a failure. And more and more, as the years come, and the spirit of modern indifferentism continues to grow, will the difficulties of the various churches increase and their efforts towards unity fade and fail. This is why so many ministers today are preaching religion in a general way. They are afraid of dogma, of strong definite truths and commandments, and by losing their virility they are losing their lives.

Church unity can come only by holding fast to the faith and to the teachings of Jesus Christ. "I am the good shepherd; and I know mine, and mine know me," our Saviour said long ago.

The passions and ambitions of men have made many so-called folds for humanity. Millions of people, dissatisfied with the teachings, the lack of authority and the lack of solid religion in Protestant churches, have left these churches entirely. This is lamentable, tragical. It was of people like these our Lord spoke when He said: "And other sheep I have, that are not of this fold: 'Them also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.'"

God loves all people, and the Church of God loves all people. Every immortal soul is precious and every immortal soul should be saved. Prayer, labor, sacrifice and constant labor for God and for all the children of God—these are essential if we would save America from growing disunion of churches and the terrifying increase in the religious indifferentism of our people. It should not be hard for all people to understand the words of Jesus Christ—"There shall be one fold and one Shepherd."

SIMON BOLIVAR

One hundred years ago, on December seventeenth, 1830, Simon Bolivar died at Santa Maria, Colombia, South America. Two continents, North and South America, are preparing to celebrate the centenary of his death. For Simon Bolivar was a great champion of liberty, a prophet striding across the summits of the Andes, calling to all peoples to follow him and fight for their inalienable rights. He was the Moses and the Napoleon of South America, the Washington and the Lincoln of several nations on that continent. Venezuela, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador—all of these nations were fired by the torch of liberty carried by Bolivar. His sword was their key to liberty, his voice their inspiration to action, his example their guide to heroic deaths in Freedom's cause.

Napoleon set the soul of Bolivar afire. His dash, his energy, the genius of his leadership, the magnetism that revived France—these stirred the soul of this fiery champion of liberty. Native of Venezuela, orphaned early in life, he was educated in Spain, and in his young manhood he followed the fortunes of Napoleon with burning admiration as long as he remained faithful to the people. But when he had himself crowned emperor, when he sought to dominate the Pope, when his personal ambition overcame his honest zeal, Bolivar turned against him.

High up on the Aventine Hill, in ancient Rome, Bolivar saw Napoleon capture the city. Climbing to the uttermost spot, he raised his right hand solemnly towards Heaven and pledged wealth, life, talents and energy to the great cause of freeing the people of South America from foreign oppression. He crossed the ocean, going to his native land. Battle after battle he fought. Time and again he lost. Time and again he won against fearful odds. Treachery and dissension cursed him and well-nigh wrecked his cause. But, inspired by an almost superhuman genius, he gathered new armies, crossed mountains and traversed forests with daring speed and tremendous energy—imitating Napoleon by surprise attacks in unexpected places—and struck the shackles from nation after nation and people after people. With prophetic vision, sensing that many small nations might not be able to hold the freedom bought by their blood, he founded Pan-Americanism, a union of South American states pledged to support and defend the freedom and progress of all.

His bones rest in the soil of Colombia. His spirit thrills all South America. "War is my element, its perils my glory," he told his followers long ago. Barefooted, half-starved, poorly clothed and ill-equipped, his army heard him utter these fiery words when their spirits were low. They caught his contagion for battle and for sacrifice.

Unlike Napoleon, Bolivar never turned his back upon the Church from whose breast he had drawn his love for liberty and for justice. He was a devout Catholic in his boyhood and youth, and when the shadow of death was upon him he lifted his voice in the Congressional hall in Colombia and said:

"Permit me that my last act be to recommend to you that you protect the holy religion which we all profess, the abundant source of the blessing of Heaven."

So beautiful is the untarnished spirit of his faith that the Hierarchy of North America, through Archbishop Hanna of San Francisco, recently sent a noble message of congratulation to the people of South America, expressing the pride and love we all cherish for this human torch of liberty, this sterling champion of the Cross—Simon Bolivar, great patriot, great soldier, great leader, great lover and champion of justice, freedom and religion. On December seventeenth every Catholic school in America is expected to pay tribute to Simon Bolivar, and it would be well if all schools did likewise. For no greater patriot ever lived, nor man more devoted to the rights of humanity. His sword and heart are still, but his voice is forever vibrant with the cry of liberty!

JUDGE BEN LINDSEY

We have not read Judge Ben Lindsey's book on companionate marriage. We do not propose to read it. We have read what Jesus Christ said to the Pharisees, when they came to Him on the coasts of Judea, beyond Jordan. A great multitude had followed Him, for His fame was great, and the people loved him. And there came to Him the Pharisees, tempting Him, St. Matthew tells us, saying: "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?"

And Jesus, answering them said: "Have ye not read that He who made man from the beginning, made them male and female? For this reason (for marriage) shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife, and they two shall be in one flesh. Therefore, now they are not two, but one flesh. What, therefore, God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."

There is no equivocation here. No companionate marriage. No legalizing adultery or divorce. And the Catholic Church stands unalterably to-day, as it has for all time, upon this clear, firm, uncompromising declaration of Jesus Christ.

Differ much as we do in some things with Bishop William T. Manning of the Protestant Episcopal Church of New York City, we stand firmly with him in his treatment of Judge Ben Lindsey of Denver, Colorado, in the Cathedral of St. John Divine last Sunday, when he took an unalterable stand against the so-called companionate marriage scheme of this ex-jurist. He could not do otherwise and stand for decency, for morality and for the protection of womanhood. He could not do otherwise and stand for the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Bishop Manning pronounced the latest book of Judge Lindsey to be "one of the most filthy, insidious and cleverly written pieces of propaganda ever published in behalf of lewdness, promiscuity, adultery," etc., ever issued. His whole scheme, as we view it, is a mess of common filth, sugar-coated with rhetoric. It has no place in Christian civilization or society; certainly no place in any church that professes to teach the truths of God.

Judge Lindsey, as we view him, is a notoriety seeker of the worst kind. And the unfortunate part of it is that American morals have sunk so low that a large percentage of our people stand with him and acclaim him as an apostle of something new. Yet his doctrine is as old as humanity, as old as immorality, as old as indecency. In spite of this, some so-called ministers of the gospel hasten to support him, and the student body of Dartmouth College—young American men, mind you—hasten to pass a resolution denouncing Bishop Manning for interfering with free speech—for not permitting a mountebank of indecency to attack the teachings of Jesus Christ in a church dedicated to God!

Thus low have we fallen in our ideas and our ideals. The division of the churches of America on this case, the division of the ministers of the gospel, the division of the people themselves, the slurs and the slams that so-called respectable daily papers have given to Bishop Manning—all of these things are but appalling evidences of the growth of immorality in our country, and of the average man's indifference to things that are decent and wholesome. For, in the last analysis, the Commandments of Jesus

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

A fifty-nine year-old widower in New Hope, Pa., recently got a "mail order" wife through a matrimonial agency. She ran away the next week with two thousand dollars of his money. He should have sent her to Judge Lindsey's school of love before entrusting his fireside and pocket-book to her care.

Long ago the writer learned in school that "freedom shrieked when Kosciusko fell." Freedom had a chance to let another shriek out of her at the recent elections in Poland, when Marshal Pilsudski sent eighty-one opposition candidates to jail, and suppressed the pastoral letter of a Polish Bishop pleading for free elections. This gentleman would be a welcome addition to some of our American political organizations. It's too bad to have him wasting his talents in Europe.

Governor Pollard of Virginia has had his hair pulled clerically. He did not mention the name of God in his Thanksgiving proclamation, but he did urge the people of his state to observe the day "each in his own way, in accordance with the dictates of his own conscience," and to show good cheer, kindness and charity towards all needy people. An Episcopal minister promptly took him to task for such a proclamation, and the Governor hit back sharply. A Thanksgiving proclamation without the name of God is just as appropriate, to our mind, as a prayer without the name of God. But some Governors try hard to be original, when they would be better off by just being sensible.

The color of your hair or skin, or the size of your shoes won't make much difference with your progress in life, providing you are able to give the world something original, something the people want. Madame C. J. Walker, colored, died recently and left a palatial residence in Paris, and another one at Irvington-On-Hudson, N. Y. The furnishings in the one on the Hudson were auctioned off for \$58,500. Sarah Washington, colored, bought a gold-leaf-covered phonograph for \$45. A Tabriz rug, 21x14 feet, brought \$1,400. A Yonkers woman bought a 24-karat gold-leaf-finished grand piano for \$450. Besides her residences, she left an immense fortune, all made out of a mixture to take the kink out of the hair of colored people. Before that she took in washing. Do your work well, and say your prayers well, and life isn't such a hard struggle, after all.

Ireland will soon be singing of the great men of the present day rather than of long ago, according to Power O'Malley, gifted Irish painter, now in New York exhibiting some of his works. Mr. O'Malley says there is in the making in Ireland a renaissance which will produce greater men than have ever come out of the country before. The new national vigor will affect science as well as the arts, Mr. O'Malley believes. In writing, especially, he expects great strides will be made because, he says, "writers are more Gaelic in feeling than ever and their inspiration is coming directly from the people." Mr. O'Malley was horrified to find a serious lack of humor in America. Jazz and the blues, he found, but no humor. Wait until he goes to Coney Island, or to an Anti-Saloon League meeting.

THE NOTRE DAME TEAM

It is no exaggeration to say that the work and the fame of the Notre Dame football team this year has aroused unparalleled enthusiasm throughout America. The city of Chicago gave the team a reception on Wednesday that "resembled somewhat the fury and tumult which greeted the Armistice of the World War," an Associated Press writer says. The team and its famous coach, Knute Rockne, have been deluged with invitations from all parts of the Nation, and when the players reached home on Wednesday all residents of South Bend, Indiana, seemed to have front places on the receiving line.

We have said on more than one occasion that the thing we like about the Notre Dame team more than anything else is its thoroughly fine, loyal and human spirit. Many non-Catholics have played on the Notre Dame team since Rockne became its coach. One of them was the son of a Congregational minister, and Rockne says he was one of the greatest of them all. Racial and religious lines are forgotten. The team is the thing. Some one tried to get Rockne to make a comparison between Harry Stuhldreher's playing and Frank Carideo's. "One of them wore his hat sideways," replied Knute. He is loyal to every man, and every man is loyal to him, and they are all loyal to the fine Catholic ideals of Notre Dame. Prayer has been their greatest inspiration, and Rockne's, too, for it was the clean and sincere Catholicity of his boys that influenced him to become a convert to the Church. It is hard for some people to analyze the wonderful spirit of prayer and of faith in God that has inspired all Notre Dame teams at all times. This is the cornerstone of their success!

Christ are not debatable. The one which says: "Thou shalt not commit adultery" is just as forceful as that which says "Thou shalt not kill!"