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Bérborial Blag; Priorie of the Diocess, Maurice F. Sammons, Managing Editor

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#### Friday, December 26, 1930.

#### **OLD AGE PENSIONS**\_

\* Approximately twenty-five thousand persons in the State of New York will commence drawing old-age pensions on January first. The Old Age Pension Law, enacted a number of months ago, becomes operative on that date. It will be a blessing and a boon to many people, and will enable a large number of aged people to live at home, or with relatives, instead of going to homes for the aged, or to poorhouses.

The pensions will range from ten dollars per month to forty-five dollars according to location, cost of living, individual needs, etc. In New York City, where the cost of living is much higher than in the towns or rural districts, the highest rate will be paid. The State will pay half the pension cost, and the various localities the other half, each community

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paying only for its own pensioners. This is a good law. Many aged per-sons are able to earn a little money. and a small pension will make it possible for them to live in their own homes, or to pay board to relatives or friends. Their declining years will therefore be much happier, because it will be possible for them to live with persons they know and love.

What is it all when all is told, This ceaseless toiling for fame or gold, The fleeting joy or bitter tears? We are only here a few short years, Louise only here a few short years, Loving or hating, nothing can last. Each pathway leads to the silent fold. Oh! What is it all when all is told?

What is it all? A grassy mound Where day or night there is never a sound Save the soft, low mourn of the passing breeze

As it lovingly rustles the silent trees; Or a thoughtful friend with whispered

prayer May sometimes break the stillness there. Then hurry away from the gloom and cold. Oh! What is it all when all is told?

What is it all? Just passing through-A cross for me and a cross for you; Ours seems heavy while others seem light. But God in the end makes all things right. He tempers the wind with loving care; He knows the burden that each can bear, Then changes life's gray into heavenly

gold. Ah! That is all when all is told. -Hope

# CHICAGO CHARITY SPORTS

Chicago has been holding a series of "charity sports," to help the poor unemployed. The net results of some of these events are a good indication of what the word "charity" means to a lot of people. Here are some figures that tell an impressive story:

Griffiths-Stribling boxing match, gross receipts, \$88,000; charity's share \$5,000. Bears-Cards indoor football game, gross receipts, \$15,000, charity's share, \$2.000.

Intersectional football game, gross receipts, \$100,000; charity's share \$10,000. K. of C. basketball games, gross receipts, \$11,000; charity's share \$10,000.

The Knights of Columbus is the only organization-listed-above that showed an honest understanding of the word charity. Many "charity benefits" all over the United States are on a par with those held in Chicago. Slick promoters usually have as much charity in their souls as a bulldog chasing a tomcat. The word charity, in these cases, covers a multitude of sins. The promoters and their-clients get-thecash; the unemployed get a bowl of watered soup, with some rare and splendid exceptions like that of the Chicago Knights of Columbus.

# THE SHAME OF AMERICA

Mark Sullivan, acknowledged to be one of the foremost political writers in America, in-a-recent-copyrighted article, asserts that the Democrats will have a wet platform in the next presidential election, not so much as a matter of principle as a matter of good politics. Then he asks the question: "Can the Democrats, with a wet nominee, carry the solid South?" He answers the question by

With it, there is Religion dispels more mystery than it involves, twilight in the world; without it, night. We are in the world to act, not to doubt. Leaving quibbles to those who can find no better use for life, the wise, with firm faith in God and man, strive to make themselves worthy to do brave and righteous work. Distrust is the last wisdom a great heart learns; and noble natures feel that the generous view is, in the end, the true view.

-Bishop Spalding.

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#### The Catholics of America are not particularly concerned about electing a Catholic as President of these United States. But we are deeply and sincerely concerned about the good will, the friendship and the confidence of our fellow-American citizens not of our faith. We are concerned about helping to bring about a situation so that whenever a man is nominated hereafter for the office of President his religion will not be questioned, but rather his qualifications, his fitness for office, his honesty and his patriotism. Catholic and Protestant blood was shed together in obtaining and maintaining liberty, and it should never be separated by fanatics, liars and bigots. America is too wonderful a country for that. And the American people, in the last analysis, are too noble and fairminded for that. This never should be the land of hate, but the land of justice,

honesty, civic and political virtue, friendship and neighborly kindness. Every one of us, Protestant and Catholic, should help make it that, and put an end to existing shameful conditions.

#### SOWING THE POISON

#### There was no Santa Claus in Russia this year. No Christmas trees or Christmas presents. No exercises, educational or religious, in which the Christ-child is the central figure.

Instead there was an "artistic" anti-Christmas campaign, prepared and staged by the Russian Department, of Education. There were theatrical and circus performances, with Santa Claus pictured as a hard old villain, if he was pictured at all, and on Christmas-morningthere were street parades of school children carrying anti-religious banners, and effigies in mockery of religion.

Holy candles were supplanted by radio tubes, and ikons, or images of saints, by books. And the radios and told all the people of all the books land that there is no Santa Claus, no Christmas, no God.

# CRITICIZING THE MOVIES

There is a priest in Pittsburgh, Pa., who is guilty of lese majeste. Lese majeste against King Movie. The Rev. James M. Délâney, who was pushed literally off the air and out of the broadcasting studio of Station KDKA, because he gave his honest opinion about bad motion pictures. Station KDKA does not want that, will not permit that. The motion picture theaters do not want that, and they brought pressure upon the station to put an end to it. Therefore, Father Delaney has been denied the use of the broadcasting station.

It is not so many years ago when lordly brewers used to glare at police officers and say: "You better leave my saloonkeepers alone, if you know what is good for you." Cops who didn't leave them alone were frequently transferred, sometimes demoted, and occasionally fired. For brewers contributed heavily to political campaigns, and had a "pull."

Motion picture theaters are acting the same role now. They are generous patrons of Radio stations. They have a "pull," because they pay heavily for advertising to the stations. And so they say, some-times, to the stations: "You better keep everybody off the air who criticizes our productions, if you know what is good for you." They forget, as the brewers forgot, that there is a public which, when aroused, will have a lot more to say about such things than they realize.

Father Delaney had been talking over Station KDKA under the auspices of the Pittsburgh Circle, International Federation of Catholic Alumnae. For some time he had been telling about the good pictures and saying nothing about the bad. ones. The Federation, which has been paying a lot of attention to motion pictures, had been doing the same thing, until some weeks ago, when Archbishop Curley of Baltimore told the ladies they were following the wrong course, that they should praise the good and condemn the bad ones-hit them hard and hit them often. Father Delaney did this, and motion picture theaters promptly protested to the Radio Station. The manager notified Father Delaney that his talks would have to be censured—in other words, that the Station and the theaters would practically tell him what to say. Father Delaney promptly declined to submit his talks for censure, and was as promptly denied the use-of-the Station The-Rt-Rev. Hugh-C. Boyle of Pittsburgh approved Father Delaney's action. Not so long ago this paper, and every other Catholic paper in the country, received a long list of rules, regulations and promises which had been solemnly agreed to by leading motion picture producers for safeguarding and improving the morality and decency of pictures. Then and now the writer considered this just plain bunk, camouflage, dust in the eyes of those who might object to the character of many of the pictures. The incident in Pittsburgh proves how sincere the theaters are for "reform." Many theaters-want dirt just because dirt pays, and many of them will clamor for dirt until they are crushed under the iron hand of fanatic reform, just as the saloons have been crushed. Stopping Father Delaney's talks over the air is the most senseless, foolish and inane thing the theaters and the broadcasting station could do. They are merely touching a lighted match to the oil of public indignation, and they had the better beware of the explosion that is bound to come.

## TELEPHONE MAIN 156

# WAYSIDE WHEAT By the Managing Editor

Holy Cross College has no heart. It gives dear old Harvard a terrible beating in football, then turns right around and defeats her in a debate-the first debate held between the two institutions in twenty-five years.

The spirit of Christmas and the New Year is unsurpassed in the entire range of human experience. At no other time of the year does the world undergo such a revolution in sentiment, in action and in thought as at the time commemorating the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem and the visitation of the Wise Men.

There are only two million Catholics m England, out of a population of some forty millions. But the three leading poets of England, the three leading satirists and the three leading novelists are Catholics. The poets are Alfred Noves, Belloc and Chesterton, the satirists Father Ronald Knox, Chesterton and Belloc, and the novelists Joseph Conrad, Compton MacKenzie and Maurice Baring.

# NEW MONSIGNORS; NEW KNIGHTS

The Diocese of Rochester has five new monsignors - five loyal, devoted, self sacrificing priests who have been selected by Pope Pius XI for special honors and special recognition. They are:

The Very Reverend J. J. Bloomer, V.F., rector of St. Patrick's Church, Elmira; the Rev. John F. Boppel, rector of St. Boniface's Church, Rochester; the Rev. John P. Brophy, rector of St. Monica's Church, Rochester; the Rev. George V. Burns, rector of the Sacred Heart Church, Rochester, and the Rev. Joseph S. Cameron, Ph.B., M.R., rector of the Immaculate Conception Church, Rochester.

In connection, with the announcement of the elevation of these priests to the dinity of domestic prelates, Bishop. O'frem announces that five distinguished Catholic laymen, on his recommendation, have been received into the Order of the Knights of St. Gregory, a society comthe world. These new Knights of St. Gregory are James P. B. Duffy, Eugene J. Dwyer, Harry C. D'Annunzio, Joseph H. Weis and Walter Wojtczak.

--In addition to the new monsignors named above, the Diocese of Rochester has four others-The Right Reverend Msgr. William M. Hart, Vicar General of the Diocese; the Rt. Reverend Msgr. James J. Hartley, rector emeritus of St. Bern-ard's Seminary, and the Right Reverend Michael J. Nolan, Chancellor of the Dio-A249

EXIT A HOLIDAY IN ITALY

Sixty years ago, September twenty, 1870, an Italian army battered to pieces the fortifications at the Porta Pia, entered the city of Rome, captured it, and later made it the capital of all Italy, thus despoiling the Pope of his last remaining temporal possession. Pope Pius IX, in protest against this outrage, declined to accept the so-called Papal Guarantees Law, shut himself up in the Vatican and became, as did his successors, the historic "prisoner of the Vatican."

Italy, glorying in the traditions and history of ancient Rome, and proud of possessing the seat of the world's most famous empire, in 1875 declared the date of the capture of Rome a legal holiday. From that day to this it has been celebrated as a great national fete day-a celebration\_that\_but\_added\_fuel-to-the differences between the Vatican and the nation. When Pope Pius XI brought about

is this difficulty with Italy some months ago, and the signing of the Lateran treaty tended the long period of unpleasant hostility, there was occasion no longer of celebrating the holiday commemorating the capture of Rome.

The changed conditions, the changed spirit, and the outward evidence of happier relations were all evidenced in a splendid manner the other day, when the Italian Chamber of Deputies, amid great enthusiasm and stirring applause, voted to abolish this holiday and to replace it with another holiday—February 11th—the date of the signing of the Lateran Treaty. Premier Mussolini-opportunist, patriot and great leader - spoke sharply of the undesirability of the old holiday, and enthusiastically of the need of the new one. He said the celebration of the old holiday had degenerated into an anti-religious celebration, and that it held no love for the hearts of true Italians.

There were some champions of the old order of things, but Mussolini's fiery oraon, and the sincere gladness felt in Italian hearts over the present happy relations between Italy and the Vatican. brought complete victory to the new holiday and death to the old one. Thus it ended, by voice and votes, a condition stablished by blood and bayonets: And thus is Italy drawn into closer kinship with the Vatican, closer to the Cross and closer to God as a nation and a people. The new holiday, we may be sure, will of all true Italians. This is as it should be and the hope of the Cifristian world will be that this condition will grow thought will the years, with brighter topy due half and happier and better days

quoting Frank B. Kent, able political writer of the Baltimore Sun, one of the leading daily papers of America, as follows:

"Everybody concedes these Southern states are safely Democratic with any Protestant candidate, no matter how wet."

"With that judgment," says Mr. Sullivan, practically all observers will agree. It is true that five or the states in the Democratic Solid South'went Republican in 1928. (Practically all for the first time in fifty years.) But the Democratic candidate in that year, ex-Governor Smith, of New York, was a wet and also a CathoHc.

"The opposition to him for these two reasons undoubtedly overlapped and is not easy to disentangle. Practically all politicians admit, however, that Governor Smith's religion could account for the comparatively narrow margin of votes by which he lost most of such Southern states as he did lose. Governor Smith lost Texas, for example, by 25,400 votes in a total of 720,000. Can any realist in politics doubt that this narrow margin of 2 per cent, of the total vote was probably due to Governor Smith's religion, apart from his wetness? Can any doubt, in other words, that a wet Democratic candidate, provided he is not also a Catholic, can carry the Solid South?

"Does any observer dissent from the Judgment here expressed, that the South would go solidly Democratic, as ordinarily. for any probable Democratic wet candidate other than the Catholic ex-Governor Smith? To put it the other way round, does any wellinformed citizen of the South believe that any Southern state would go Republican just because the Democratic nominee is a wet-such a wet as Governor Franklin Roosevelt, for example?

Mr. Sullivan then proceeds to show that in the next Presidential election the Democratic candidate-providing he is a Protestant-stands a very good chance of being elected. What Mr. Sullivan writes is what every honest American knows who is willing to look the facts in the face. Alfred E. Smith was defeated for the Presidency of these United States because of his religion, and for no other reason. This is to the everlasting shame of America, and it is likewise to the everlasting shame of America that two leading political writers, well versed in public affairs, agree that a Catholic candidate cannot be elected President of this nation.

This situation is not due to any just or honest objection to the Church or to the Catholic religion. It is due to a bunch of lying bigots, falsifiers, defamers, cheap political tricksters, headed by men like the discredited Bishop Cannon, and by numerous rabid, un-Christian ministers who turn their pulpits into seething stink-pots of hate whenever anything with a Catholic flavor to it comes before the public. There are millions of fine, honest, upstanding American citizens in the South who believe the lies and slanderous statements of these un-American bigots, and it will take years of patient, kindly missionary work to undo the harm done by them.

Thus did the Soviets, vicious and violent atheists, sow in childish hearts the poison of their propaganda, killing for these children all the joys of Christmas, all the sweetness and beauty of the Christ-child, all the lessons of religion and morality woven into and around the Christmas season. Our pity and our prayers go out to all the children thus robbed, and thus defrauded.

## **MEXICO FOR TOURISTS**

A lot of Americans have an idea that Mexico is a terrible place in which to live or visit. The internal disturbances of the country have been exaggerated, the movements of bandits exploited, and a number of so-called evangelical workers have sought to make Americans think it is a benighted land, badly in need of missionaries at so much cash per missionary. Well, we have our own bandits, and other conditions about which we are not very proud, but we don't consider ourselves very benighted, or in need of help or sympathy.

Senator Dwight W. Morrow of New Jersey, ex-ambassador to Mexico, has different views about Mexico and its people. The Advertising Club of New York City gave a luncheon in honor of Mr. Morrow the other day, and he talked about Mexico. He spoke warmly of Mexico's inhabitants, its scenery, its art and its historical interest, and urged Americans to travel there to see its beauties for themselves.

"I wish every one pay a visit to Mexico," he said. "I am deeply interested in seeing the tourist travel to Mexico increase. There is no place on this earth with a more beautiful climate. There is no place on this earth with more interesting things to see. It is like making a visit to Spain, Italy, Egypt and India all at one time. It has the civilization and the beauty of Spain and Italy. It has fascinating architecture. And the archaeological discoveries which are being made in Mexico are of intense interest. I think the time is coming when many more Americans will be going to Mexico for their holidays."

The writer has friends living in Mexico, and they pronounce the people the kindliest, most lovable and likeable they have ever met or known. It is a land of great promise and of great hospitality. It is good to know the truth about this Catholic country, and to hear it from a high-minded non-Catholic citizen like Senator Dwight W. Morrow, who knows whereof he speaks.

#### AN AUDACIOUS EFFRONTERY.

The American Birth Control League made three unsuccessful attempts to get into a hospitable chair at the recent White House Conference on Child Health, at Washington, D. C. Among others, the League tried to gain admission through Secretary of the Interior Wilbur. He promptly wrote:

'Our work is with the child; consequently, it starts with conception and not before. Since this is the case, you can see that your particular organization does not happen to fall within the scope of our conference.

Which exactly fitted the situation. It was a piece of audacious effrontery for anorganization whose mission is to prevent the birth of children-in plain language, to kill them before they are born-to ask for a place at a conference designed to promote the health, welfare and wellbeing of the youngsters of America. The American Birth Control League does not belong at any such conference. The great American ash can is its logical place, and the quicker it goes there the better for the country.

Sincere and hearty congratulations will be extended to all of the new monsignors, and to all of the new Knights of St. Gregory. May they wear their honors well, and, happy in the respect and esteem of their friends, enjoy for many, many, years the distinction accorded them by the Holy Father. Dear to their friends are their names, and it is our hope that "the ear of God may find them sweeter still."

### THE NEW ST. ALPHONSUS' CHURCH

The new St. Alphonsus' Church in the city of Auburn, N. Y., was dedicated Sunday by the Rt. Rev. John Francis O'Hern. D.D., Bishop of Rochester. It is a beautiful church, giving generous expression to the love, the zeal, the devotion and the Faith of priests and people in that parish. Distinctive and appealing in its Romanesque architecture, it is a splendid addition to the churches of the Diocese of Rochester and the city of Auburn.

More than three-quarters of a century ago a small group of God-fearing men and women of German blood organized the parish of St. Alphonsus in Auburn, They were poor people-poor in the things of earth, but rich in better things, the spiritual and eternal truths of God. There first church was an old barn-a rude, structure, without beauty and without appeal. But these heroic pioneers remembered that our divine Lord was born in a stable at Bethlehem, and they were glad to have even a stable for their church. As their numbers grew, their love grew, and out of the generosity of their hearts and the-love of their souls they builded later another church, and now this new church, spacious, beautiful and rich with the treasures of their Faith.

The dedication of this fine new church was a memorable event in the life and history of the parish. A happy touch of sentiment was given to the ceremony. Mrs. Angeline Baker, then a young girl, had the honor of placing the first bouquet on the altar of the first church, built seventy-seven years ago. Saturday she placed the first bouquet on the altar of the new church, had a place of honor at the dedicatory ceremony, and heard Bishop O'Hern call her "the ace of the congregation."

Very sincere congratulations will be extended to the Rev. Frederick G. Straub, Ph.L., rector of St. Alphon/sus' Church, to Rev. John Bohmwetch, Ph.B., assistant rector, and to all the people of the parish, on the erection, completion and dedication of this splendid new house of God. It is symbolic of their faith, their zeal, their love for religion and for God, as well as for the finer and better things of life.