

The Catholic Courier and Journal

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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 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 pensions will range from ten dollars per month to forty-five dollars, according to location, cost of living, individual needs, etc.

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.

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.

There were some champions of the old order of things, but Mussolini's fiery oration, 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.

What Is It All?

What is it all when all is told, This ceaseless tolling for fame or gold, The fleeting joy or bitter tears?

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.

Griffiths-Stirling boxing match, gross receipts, \$88,000; charity's share, \$5,000. Burns-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.

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.

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

"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?"

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.

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.

RELIGION

Religion dispels more mystery than it involves. With it, there is twilight in the world; without it, night. We are in the world to act, not to doubt.

—Bishop Spalding.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

"I wish every one pay a visit to Mexico," he said. "I am deeply interested in seeing the tourist travel to Mexico in crease. 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."

The writer has friends living in Mexico, and they pronounce the people the kindest, most lovable and likeable they have ever met or known. It is a land of great promise and of great hospitality.

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. Delaney, 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.

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."

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.

Father Delaney had been talking over Station KDKA under the auspices of the Pittsburgh Circle, International Federation of Catholic Altumnae. For some time he had been telling about the good pictures and saying nothing about the bad ones.

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.

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.

"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 an organization 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 well-being of the youngsters of America.

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 in 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.

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 dignity of domestic prelates, Bishop O'Hern announces that five distinguished Catholic laymen, on his recommendation, have been received into the Order of the Knights of St. Gregory, a society composed of the foremost Catholic laymen of the world.

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. Bernard's Seminary, and the Right Reverend Michael J. Nolan, Chancellor of the Diocese.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Very sincere congratulations will be extended to the Rev. Frederick G. Straub, Ph.L., rector of St. Alphonsus Church, to Rev. John Bohmwech, 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.