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The Catholic Courier

And Journal

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تبهند سنة Friday, February 20, 1981

LENT

Wednesday of this week was the beginning of Lent, a solemn period of fasting and of prayer, during which the Church reminds us of that divine warning: "Remember, man, thou art but dust, and unto dust thou shalt return.'

Special services are being held in all churches during Lent. We should attend them faithfully, eliminating social, theatrical and other diversions as far as possible from our lives during this period. Quiet prayer with God, prayer to the blessed Mother of God, and to the Saints, especially our patron Saint ; frequent visits to our churches; daily attendance at Mass, possible; frequent reception of Holy Communion; recitation of the beads, and the Way of the Cross; pious reading, and meditation-these will help us obtain lasting spiritual good from the holy season of Lent.

Fasting and abstinence, in themselves, mean little or nothing. But if we do them for God, if we deprive ourselves of some of the luxifies welowe, if we abatain from food and offer the abatinence to God for our sins and for the sins of the world-ah, then, the rewards are priceless, the results beneficial.

As the athlete goes into intensive training for the development and strengthening of his body, so should the Christian for the development and strengthening of his soul. Lent is the

A Prayer

I do not ask, O Lord, that life may be A pleasant road, I do not ask that Thou shouldst take from

A CARLEND AND AND A CARLEND AN

Aught of its load. I do not ask that flow'rs should always spring

Beneath my feet; I know too well the poison and the sting Of things too sweet.

For one thing only, Lord, dear Lord, I plead: Lead me aright-Though strength should falter, yes, though heart should bleed-

Through Peace to Light.

I do not ask, O Lord, that Thou should'st shed

Full radiance here; Give but a ray of peace that I may tread Without a fear.

I do not ask my cross to understand. My way to see; 'Tis well in darkness just to feel Thy hand And follow Thee.

Like restlens day is joy, but peace diving Like quiet night. Load me, O Lord, till perfect day shall

shine Through Peace to Light,

-Rev. Raymond R. McCarthy, S.S.J.

Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and South Carolina, with the Southern Baptists and Methodists generally second and third. Mormons are the leaders in Utah and Idaho, with Catholics next.

These are interesting figures. They are an inspiration to continued sacrifices, ceaseless labors and untiring zeal. The Church has great mission fields in America, especially in the South and West. Good will and respect for the Church are growing even in these sections. The Radio s doing wonders in dissipating prejudice and in counteracting the evil work of professional bigots. With God's help the Church will continue to grow, working unselfishly for the salvation and the uplift of mankind, and for the furtherance of noble and exalted ideals of citizenship and of patriotism.

THE POPE'S RADIO SPEECH

"Ad universam creaturam: Quia arcano Dei consilio succedimus in loco Principis Apostolorum"-thus to our ears came the magic first words of the first Radio talk ever given by any human being to the entire civilized world. Pope Pius XI was speaking from the new broadcasting station built by the Marquis Marconi in the Vatican City-speaking in the official language of the Church Universal to the entire world-"Ad universam creaturam" -on that memorable Thursday morning of last week, February twelfth, the ninth anniversary of his coronation as Pope of Rome, lineal successor to St. Peter-"in loco Principis Apostolorum," in the place of the Prince of the Apostles.

It is impossible, of course, to make an approximate estimate of the size of his audience. Certain it is, however, that many millions of people heard him; listened reverentially and with great awe to his voice, and pondered over his words after wards as they read them, translated into many living languages and published in thousands of newspapers throughout the world. People of all faiths, and those of no faith, heard him-and we have yet to hear of a single instance outside of Soviet Russia that was disrespectful, hostile or antagonistic to his talk. Everywhere the greatest respect. Everywhere the greatest reverence. Everywhere the feeling that here was in very truth a great miracle. In many places the feeling that here, almost, was the voice of God. Indeed, as Cardinal Hayes of New York City so well says, the Pope spoke in much the same vein as he felt that God Himself would have spoken were He talking to the world.

"Religion and Morality Indispensable"

"Of all the dispositions and habits, which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports. In varia would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of Men and Citizens. ... A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that mational morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."-George Washington, in his "Farewill Address."

JOHN BARRY, A COUNTY WEXFORD IRISHMAN, A DEVOUT CATHOLIC. A CLOSE FRIEND OF WASHINGTON'S, A LOYAL FIGHTER FOR LIBERTY, WAS MADE THE FIRST COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN NAVY.

exceedingly calm after he had talked two or three minutes, then looked expectantly at Signor Marconi, as if to ask: "Am I doing all right?" His voice, a trifle nervous at first, became natural, clear, soothing, beautiful. An invalid woman, telling her family about it that night, said with tearbrimming eyes: "He seemed to be right here in the room with me, talking to me like a father." We venture to say that many, many people felt like that-so great and true is the filial love we treasure for our Holy Father.

The Pontiff's address lasted fifteen minutes. When one read the translation afterwards the thought came:

"And this the secret is of all his art: He sees life wholly, others but in part."

The Pontiff's arrival at the station was heralded by a blast of silver trumpets from the Vatican Guards. He was met by Signor Marconi and Father Gianfranceshi, director of the wireless station at the Vatican. The Pope turned on the electric current, walked to the transmission room and set the other machinery in motion, then to the traffic room, where he perforated a piece of telegraphic tape, sending out to the world the message: "Laudetur Jesus Christus." His face was wreathed in smiles as he asked Marconi for information. Then he seated himself before the microphone, with Signor Marconi on one side of him and Father Gianfranceschi on the other. Signor Marconi introduced the Pontiff to the world, in a brief and beautiful talk, closing with "Be pleased, Holy Father, I pray you, to let your voice be heard all over the world." He spoke in Italian. The Pope then spoke in Latin.

One estimate has it that the Pope was heard by three-hundred millions of listeners. An official translation of his talk is given in full in this issue of the Catholic Courier and Journal-a much better one than we were able to obtain last week. It is an appealing and beautiful talk, a plea for-religion, right living, prayer, love and service of God, charity and justice, with sweet and tender thought for all who are afflicted in this world. He closed with his blessing to all people, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. No one could hear that talk, no one can read it, and not be profoundly moved and influenced.

thought. It will help cement the fine and friendly feeling they now have for the Church. It will help promote harmony in religion the world over. It has brought the Pope, that mystery man of the world to many people, to the doors and into the homes of millions of people. They have heard the sound of his voice. They have felt the thrill of his words. They have sat under the spell of his sweet and kindly charity, and have breathed with him a spirituality that is of Christ. No wonder that Cardinal Hayes of New York said the Pope's Radio talk is one of the wonders of the modern world. It made the entire universe fell the magic touch of an eternal world of thought and love, and men and women, listening for it, reached reverently for something akin to the hand of God.

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WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Midlior

Brother Joseph Dutton, co-worker with the saintly Father Damien at the leper colony on the island of Molakai, and a devoted worker in that colony during all the intervening years, has just been elected an honorary member of the Spanish War Veterans' Association. He is still confined in a hospital in Honolulu, suffering from defective vision and advanced age, after a life of great sacrifice and heroic labor for afflicted human beings.

The Providence Night Refuge and Home, in the east end of London, a Catholic shelter for homeless people, founded by the late Msgr. Gilbert, is now directed by his nephew, Sir John Gilbert. Free beds and free meals are provided here for all who apply. For many years the Lord Mayor of London has presided at the annual meeting of this home, held on April twenty-fourth. This year Princess Mary has promised to preside. So warmly has the work grown in the hearts of the people of London that royalty is arixious to show its appreciation and its approval.

Next year the two-hundredth anni-

shook its skirts clean of these so-called one hundred percenters. Of Rowbottom we know nothing. But no man can carry the dirty flag of bigotry and hate, and escape the soot that falls from it. Clean Americanism, respect and good will towards the other man, whether or not he is of our race or creed—what a beautiful thing it is for all of us, and ennobling to our country and its people.

During the World War the writer was present at a Liberty Bond rally at which four wounded Canadian soldiers were speakers. One of the boys had lost his right arm. Things were going badly with the Allies, and all America was trembling with apprehension. An excitable woman arose and asked: "Will some one please tell me why the English do not enforce conscription in Ireland, and make the Irish fight?" The Canadian who had lost his right arm stood up. His eyes were blaz-ing. "I will tell you, madam," he said, voice tense and hard. "It is because the English are afraid that one hundred thousand Irish bayonets in Flanders Fields would be turned upon them if they shed any more blood in Ireland. And they never can enforce the conscription act there without shedding a lot of blood." General Pershing's story of the World War, now being published, bears out this statement, for this week there appeared the following paragraph:

*The question of applying conscription to Ireland was then under consideration by the British, and it seemed probable, according to views expressed more or less guardedly, that British troops would be required to enforce it. Inasmuch as such a neasure might possibly have affected the attitude of American troops of Irish origin toward service with the British, our argument was strengthened regarding the de-sirability of keeping our own troops together and organizing them into an American Army at the earliest possible date."

In plain English, General Pershing did not want his troops brigaded with the British lest the very thing might happen which the wounded Canadian predicted. The English, apparently, feared the same thing, for they never dared enforce conscription in Ireland. There were many thousands of men of Irish blood in the Allied armies, and it was no secret that many of them were openly hostile towards the English-for a nation cannot brutalize, debase and persecute a noble people for eight hundred years and expect the sons of that people to call them "Brother" in battle, even though they fought under the same flag. Pershing's frank recognition of this feeling will be no surprise to a lot of people.



According to the best reports from Alabama, Mr. Heflin, running as an independent, was defeated by Mr. Bankhead in an election as fair as elections usually are in this country. The ballot-boxes, it is said by Senator Black, were opened in the presence of Mr. Heffin's representatives

lost logical time of all the year for this Let us take inventory of our spiritual state. If we have a bad habit, break it now, fight it, overcome it, and ask God and His Blessed Mother to help us win the fight. If we have been neglectful of our holy religion, careless or indifferent in helping our pastor in the overwhelming tasks that are his, the time to change our attitude in these things is now, in Lent, when our Blessed Saviour holds out His arms in special appeal to all of us. God calls us now. Let us go to Him like de-voted children, loving and true.

CATHOLIC STATISTICS

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The 1981 edition of the World Almanac carries some church statistics that make interesting reading. In the classic lan-guage of the announcer for Amos and Andy, here they are:

In thirty-three of the forty-eight states the Catholics outnumber any other denomination. In forty-four of the fifty largest cities in the United States Catholics are more numerous than any other denomination. The Jews are second in thirty-one of the fifty cities.

In Kansas the Catholics are only six thousand behind the Methodists in membership. The Methodists lead in West Virginia, with the Catholics third. Southern Baptists are in the lead in six states: North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tenneasse and Öklahoma. Catholics hold second place in Kentucky, but are very low in the other five states in this grou

The Jews load all churches in New York City, with 1,765,000 members, while the Catholics are a close second, with 1,733,954 members. Third place is held by the Episcopalians, with the low member-ship of 141,206. The city of St. Louis has 527,182 church members listed, with acond, with 50,000. In most of the other large cities the Catholics are two and three imes more numerous than the next lead-

ing demomination. Kn Khun Kian orators will not find much comfort in this paragraph: Of the eleven inter where the percentage of illiteracy is the others the percentage of illiteracy is both the arc states in which non-train states where illiteracy is greatest: Arbanes: Florida, Georgia, Arbanes: Florida, Georgia, Ministrations, Ministrippi, North, Ministrippi, Corolina, Tennesses and Ministrippi, are of these states in the states are most numerous is

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Back to the Prophet Isaias we go, for the key to the second paragraph of his speech-"Hear, O ye Heavens, and give ear, O Earth, for the Lord has spoken!" And the Supreme Pontiff said: "Hear, O Heavens, that which I shall say, and listen, O Earth, to the words of my mouth !" And the same paragraph takes us back to that wonderful night on the hills of Bethlehem in Judea, when the angelic host appeared before the shepherds who were watching their flocks on the hills-for the Pope says: "Let our first words be: 'Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace to men of good will." The salutation not of man, but of angels, God's messengers to the world of humanity. Glory to God, and peace to men of good will-the cry of the Church for ages!

And one thou	ght:
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Can pluck	
	t and toos it over
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Of a violi	
Are Nows	
Or a city's	din:
If songs H	te crimnon roues
Are called	from this, blue air,
Why show	d nortals wonder
If God he	in prayer!"

And one could not help thinking, as one listened to the voice of the successor of St. Peter, that in very truth the whole world was tuning in on a broadcasting from Henven.

Reliable press dispatches tell us that Pope Pius was visibly concerned and quite ner yous at the start-"like a young priest about to preach his first sermon," he whis-persed to Signor Marconi; but that he grew en energenet an en en

A splendid and kindly sentiment was evidenced towards the address by Protestants and Jews throughout the world. Many ministers made it the subject for their sermons on the following Sunday, and confessed they were strangely thrilled. One told how two thousand people, men, women and children, had knelt in the icy streets in New York City and blessed themselves when they heard the voice of the Pontiff. Many of the women held little babies in their arms, showing that they possess what the average modern woman lacks-Faith and children. The minister commented on these kneeling people, and said it was a great evidence of reverent faith towards a benevolent and kindly spiritual ruler.

In Rochester many thousands of non-Catholics heard the Pope's talk, and were greatly moved by it. Many other thousands read it carefully, word by word, and were still further moved. For many peo-ple, it was the first real religious thrill that had stirred their souls in a long, long time. They liked it. It was like a great adventure come to their souls, the unfolding of a new page of life, the shadow of the invisible falling upon their souls, and turning into a flood of golden light as it fell.

The English translation of the Pope's talk was given over the Radio from the Vatican City by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Spellman of Boston. His aged father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. William J. Spellman of Whitman, Mass., heard their son's voice, recognized it and sat spellbound while he told the world what the Pope had said. His two sisters and two brothers heard him likewine - great happiness for them all.

Italy is fortunate in having the inventor of wireless to help in putting it on the radio map. Little did Guglielmo Mar-coni realize back in 1891, when as a youth he sent and received signals at Bologna, Italy, that some day, forty years later, he would be linking his native land with all other nations of the earth by means of the spoken word and the music of that sunny clime.

We believe the good effect of the Radio talk by Pope Plan will be incalculable. It has stirred the souls of millions of non-Catholics. It has given them food for new

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Bar Story

versary of the birth of George Washington will be celebrated all over America. It will do America a tremendous lot of good if the story of his life extracts from his letters and his speeches, knowledge of his ideals, and of his fine civic and moral principles are made known throughout the land. He despised intolerance. He emphasized the need of teaching religion and morality. He was an unfailing champion of clean and honest citizenship. He stood strongly for fair treatment of all nations and all peoples, and he had a deep and abiding faith in God. America is badly in need of many lessons from his life.

Major General Clarence Ransom Edwards, war-time commander of the famous Twenty-sixth, or Yankee Division of the A. E. F., died in Boston Saturday and was given a great military funeral, with burial in Arlington Cemetery on Tuesday. Twenty thousand persons walked reverentially past his bier on Sunday in Boston, before his body was taken on the journey to Washington. This fine old warrior at one time was professor of military science and tactics at that splendid Catholic school, Fordham University, and he is warmly remembered there. He had many dear friends among the Catholic people of America.

A beautiful church is to be erected at Gurteen, near Galway, Ireland, in memory of Rev. Michael Griffin, who was brutally murdered in the midst of the "Black and Tan" regime in Ireland. Father Griffin was a heroic champion of the rights of his people. He "disappeared" from his little parish home one night, and his body was found on a lonely hillside next morninga new martyr to a great land. A fine Celtic cross marks the place where his blood blessed the soil, and now his friends are going to build a church in his memory. Ireland has a glorious army of similar heroes and martyrs, and Michael Griffin's name will not be the least among these.

Congressman Harry Rowbottom of Indiana, indicted recently by a Federal grand jury, in connection with alleged frauds in postoffice appointments, climbed into power on the Ku Klux ladder. He was a comrade of D. C. Stephenson, who got the Indiana Legislature to pass a rabid dry law, then celebrated the event with a booze party, and who is now serving a life sentence in prison on the charge of murdering a girl, whom he criminally as-saulted first. The State of Indiana sent a lot of other men of this ilk to prison, and | theology .- New York Times.

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when the vote was counted. His charges of fraud are unsupported by any disinterested testimony. If the Senate is to seize and search ballot-boxes of a State merely because a defeated member makes a general accusation of fraud, it will be loaded with another time-killing and improper function. The regular Committee on Privileges and Elections is duly empowered to hear charges and supporting evidence, if any, and then to decide whether to proceed further. There is no reason-certainly nothing in the history of the 1930 election in Alabama-why Mr. Heflin's contest should go to a special committee, endowed with unusual powers.

For years this Senator, with "his bigotry, lack of religious tolerance and the lack of many of the courtesies expected between one gentleman and another," as the Alabama House said, bored the country with his speeches. Then he bored the Senate. Finally, he bored Alabama and made her ashamed. Considering the points against him, he ran deplorably well as an independent last November. It would be the better part of wisdom, as well as of sportsmanship, if Mr. Heflin retired gracefully with that laurel.-New York Times,

THE POPE'S MESSAGE

Doubtless most people were more impressed by the very wonder of the Pope's message to all the world than by its substance and weight. It was a Papal benediction for all mankind, both within andwithout the fold of the Catholic Church, combined with exhortations to those in authority, whether ecclesiastical or secular, wholesome warnings to all citizens tempted to civil disobedience, and an ardent prayer for peace throughout the earth. That such an utterance from so august a source should have been conveved instantaneously to dwellers eyen in the uttermost parts of the sea may be regarded as the crowning miracle, thus far, of man's transmission of human speech through the air by radio. The whole was a sort of unconscious fulfillment of the sublime oracle of the Psalmist: "In omnem terram exivit sonus eorum, et in fines orbis terrae verba corum." This was said, of course, of the heavens which declare the glory of God. The voice was that of what may be called natural theology. But all must have felt a similar exaltation and splendor in the voice which was transmitted to the universal ear on Thursday conveying the blessing and the solemn injunctions of the one whom millions reverence as the chief expounder of revealed