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WITHOUT PROGENY

Eighty years ago the Diocese of Erlau, Hungary, had a Catholic population of 300,000, and 385,000 Protestants. A recent census shows 809,899 Catholics in the Diocese, and 474,604 Protestants. The latter, without children in many homes, and in others with only one or two, gained approximately fifteen hundred per year on an average for the eighty years. The Catholics gained approximately five thousand per year for the eighty years.

Families without progeny are scattered by the winds of the years—dust unto dust, without loved ones to treasure or perpetuate their memories. "Increase and multiply" is God's commandment to the human race. Birth control advocates are trying to twist that around so it will read: "Subtract and enjoy." In other words, they look to things earthly, not to things heavenly; they shape their lives for the world and not for God. Time will write their names in the dust of doom, just as it has written and is writing the names of races and peoples who constantly ignore or defy the laws of Nature and of Nature's God.

ST. JOSEPH'S MONTH

The month of March is St. Joseph's month, designated by our Holy Mother Church as a period of special devotion to St. Joseph, foster father of our Saviour and spouse of Mary, Mother of God. St. Joseph is the patron saint of the Universal Church, and we should pray to him, ask his help, and ask him to intercede for us with Jesus, whom long ago he carried in his arms and sheltered and protected in his humble home in Nazareth.

St. Joseph is the perfect symbol of obedience, humility and holiness. He was the devoted companion and protector of Mary and a loving and watchful father of the child Jesus. Humbly and with great concern he walked with Mary on that memorable night long ago when she sought shelter in the stable of Bethlehem. He was by her side, when obeying the command of the angel, they fled with Jesus into Egypt, to save the child from the sword of Herod, and when danger to the child was over he led Jesus and Mary back to the land of Israel, to the humble little home in Nazareth, where he was their companion and protector for many years.

It is reasonable to assume that St. Joseph enjoys special favor in Heaven, that his prayers and appeals will be most fruitful for all who ask his help and assistance. His life, humbly lived, is an example to us all in fragility, in industry, in love and in obedience. If we pray devoutly to him, and ask him to intercede for us, fortunate shall we be. If he becomes our friend and intercessor at the court of Heaven, March month will be his feast day, and it would be well to ask him between now and then to help us obtain needed material and spiritual blessings, and to help protect us from sin and lead lives pleasing to God.

IRELAND MAKING PROGRESS

The Irish Free State is nine years old now. Ten years ago the Black and Tans—the scour of the British army—were sweeping through Ireland, terrorizing the people, burning, killing and laying waste the land, where Irish nationality raised its head. It was the last brutal attack of the British government to crush the Irish people's independence. It failed miserably, and the world was against the British, but not all of it failed because the spirit was unconquerable.

When the storm broke in 1927 there was a great rush on the part of Protestant missionaries to leave China, so much so that it is said only five hundred remained out of more than eight thousand. Many of these missionaries had families to look after, and they are not to be criticized for seeking safety in flight. But with the Catholic missionary it was different. Sisters, priests, brothers and Bishops—they were all consecrated to God and to the work of God. Not one left his or her post for temporary safety from marauding bands of murderers. For instance, when the U. S. State Department had issued a solemn warning to all Americans to flee from the bandit-infested regions, Bishop O'Shea of Kanchow and more than a score of workers, priests and Sisters, remained in the heart of the worst region of all, facing torture and death every day of their lives for many months.

Prayer to St. Joseph

Saint Joseph, guardian of the just
 And patron of the meek and pure!
 Our souls in thee confide and trust
 For aid and guidance sweet and sure.

O thou most honored of our race
 Who didst our Jesus nurse and tend,
 Lead, lead us on in His sweet grace
 Till life and all its sorrows end.

Pray for us that we may be pure,
 And meek and humble like to thee;
 And be our hope and help secure
 When our last ling'ring hour we see.

Bring Jesus and the Mother-Maid
 To bless us to our latest breath;
 And oh! be near to guide and aid
 As we pass through the gates of death.
 —P. J. Corcoran in "Annals of St. Joseph's Shrine."

Catholics and Science

We Catholics do not fear Science. We welcome Science. God still enlightens the world. He does so to-day, if not through prophets, at least through the intelligences of men. Hence the Catholic remains poised. The theory of Evolution does not affright him. . . . With St. Paul, the genuine Catholic believes that "whatsoever things are true, whatsoever modest, whatsoever just, whatsoever holy, whatsoever lovely, whatsoever of good fame, if there be any virtue, if any praise in discipline, think on these things."

—Rev. James A. Wallace Reeves, of Seton Hill College for Women.

THE OLDEST UNIVERSITY ON THE AMERICAN CONTINENT IS THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF ST. MARK, PERU, FOUNDED IN 1551.

sued a solemn warning to all Americans to flee from the bandit-infested regions, Bishop O'Shea of Kanchow and more than a score of workers, priests and Sisters, remained in the heart of the worst region of all, facing torture and death every day of their lives for many months.

What are the results? During these three terrible years in China Catholic mission districts have increased from sixty-six to ninety-six; churches and chapels from 11,560 to 12,262, and the number of native Bishops has been doubled. The Catholic population in China is now approximately 2,500,000. This is small, of course, in proportion to the total population of this great nation. But it is an aggressive part of the Church, because thousands of these Catholics work zealously for new converts every day of the year. And they get them by the thousands, which is one reason why the Church is carrying on in China with spirit, with martyr-zeal, and with amazing success in the face of the most frightful difficulties.

WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR WILL

Bequests to churches and to Catholic charities are not as common among our people as they should be. Even among many wealthy Catholics there is a strange reluctance to include their churches and the charities of the Church in their wills. This is especially true in smaller cities and villages. It is inspiring to read of bequests of this nature in the larger cities, even among poorer people.

One trouble, we believe, is that our Catholic charities do not advertise themselves as they should—do not make known to our people, and to the public in general, the splendid record of their charity. There is the very worthy feeling, of course, that all of their charity should be done quietly and without ostentation; that it should be done for love of God and not for praise of men. But it takes a tremendous lot of money these days to maintain and operate a hospital, asylum or home, and it will do no harm whatever to the spirit of charity to let our people know the extent and worth of the work that is being done in our charitable institutions. The same applies to our good non-Catholic friends. They should "sell" our institutions to them, that they may know and appreciate their work.

In a neighboring city not long ago a Catholic lawyer was drawing the will of an aged non-Catholic whose soul was a well-spring of genuine charity. He had a large estate. He bequeathed one hundred thousand dollars each to several non-Catholic institutions, and smaller amounts to several welfare organizations. "Would you like to include some of the Catholic charities in these bequests?" the lawyer asked. "I know nothing about any of them," the aged man said, troubled. The lawyer told him of their work, and when the aged man died, and his will was probated, four Catholic institutions were amazed to learn they had received generous bequests from a man they had never seen or heard of.

In some cities our Catholic institutions have what is called an annual "visitation" or "donation" day. The institutions are open to the public on these days, and all newspapers carry cordial announcements, inviting the public to visit and inspect the institutions and their work. The results are most gratifying, and the institutions are kept close to the hearts of all the people.

Many of our poorer people have a feeling that small bequests are not welcome. This is not true. Every bequest, small or large, is most welcome to any church or any charity. Every bequest is a reminder to other people to do likewise—a sort of an advance agent urging that other bequests be made. Good examples are contagious.

In Bayonne, N. J., the other day a charitable Irishman died. He had only a small estate, but he left bequests of one hundred dollars each to the Propagation of the Faith Society of Newark; the Catholic Foreign Missionary Society; Our Lady of Victory, at Lackawanna, N. Y.; Our Colored Visitor, of New York City; St. Francis Hospital, of Jersey City; St. Vincent de Paul Society, of Bayonne; St. Vincent de Paul Society, of Hudson County; the Holy Name Federation, of Hudson County. He bequeathed personal effects to the Holy Name Mission of New York; his books to St. Mary's School of Bayonne; his gold watch to the Christmas Kiddes Committee of Bayonne. His name was John J. Hickley, and he set a good example to all Catholics in the making of his will.

Bequests of this nature are a great inspiration, as well as a substantial help, to the recipients. An overworked pastor, always short of funds for his church and school, and the good Sisters in charge of hospitals or homes, are cheered and en-

couraged beyond measure when some good friend leaves them a bequest, expressive of the love and appreciation felt for the recipients. A bequest of this kind is like a hand extended from Heaven to strengthen and cheer weary workers. We should have more of them for all of our churches and all of our charities.

A THEISTS IN COLLEGES

The undergraduate newspaper of the University of Toronto, in a recent issue made the startling statement that a majority of the students at the university are practical atheists, and that atheism is general at the school. Said the editorial:

"A practical atheist is one who to all intents and purposes in his daily living and attitude toward the concept of God, denies the existence of a deity. This latter attitude, we maintain, is that of the majority of the students of this university, whether these students realize it or not, and despite the fact that they do not admit it."

The article caused a furore. Harry S. Nixon, Progressive leader in Parliament, demanded that a full-time minister of education should look after government institutions of learning. He also announced that he proposes to have an investigation made of the atheism charges. The university officials held a meeting to determine what disciplinary action they would take against the editor of the paper, and the Students' Administrative Council voted to suspend publication of the paper for the remainder of the school year.

It would be unjust to render an opinion about the truth of this charge without knowing the atmosphere and religious spirit of the school. But we do know that atheism is a growing evil in American colleges, and it is fair to assume that the editor of the Toronto University paper knew whereof he wrote. Atheism in college is a logical result of lack of religion in the homes and lives of millions of our people. Statistics show that, more and more the American people are falling away from churches in startling numbers. Politics and piety in the pulpits of hundreds of so-called evangelical churches are partly responsible for this. Lack of definite religious truths and teachings, and the tendency to fill young minds with the thought that they can love God by loving trees and flowers and Nature, are also partly responsible for this. The spiritual condition of millions of our youth is a pitifully tragic condition.

Again and again it seems necessary to impress upon the minds of our Catholic parents the grave danger into which they place their boys and girls when they send them to colleges devoid of religion. There is not the slightest doubt but what an appalling number of our youth have lost their faith entirely because of the anti-religious atmosphere of these schools, or have grown calloused and indifferent to it. There are just two ways in life—one, the right way; the other, the wrong. There is no middle course. That is a myth. And a college afflicted with atheism is not the right place for any boy or girl created and trained to love and serve God.

CURRENT COMMENT

SAYS YOU, MRS. SANGER

Birth Control is degrading to decent womanhood. The Pope's message was to save womanhood that degradation. Mrs. Margaret Sanger is still spouting about the blessings that will accrue to the world from her pet panacea. She has no patience with those who think differently. When the Pope issued his encyclical on Marriage she dismissed the entire treatise with the momentous words, "It is an insult to womanhood." Where the insult comes in she did not deign to enlighten us. Not to get too slangy, but who could resist the retort: "Says you, Mrs. Sanger, Says You!"—The Evangelist, Albany, N. Y.

HOPEFUL CONDITIONS AHEAD

The people of the United States may reasonably expect an improvement in business conditions before June 1st. Every-thing points to it. The shelves of the nation will have to be replenished. Construction of new buildings will have to be carried on. Railroad equipment will have to be augmented and replaced. As we have stated repeatedly, it requires much to feed, clothe, house and amuse one hundred and twenty-five millions of people. The pessimists who see nothing ahead but unemployment and business depression will suddenly witness a new lease of business life replacing the commercial stagnation that has affected the country as a whole for the past thirteen months.

A similar improvement will also be evident in Europe. It is not improbable that thousands of Americans will go to Europe this summer and leave millions of dollars in France, England, Germany and Italy. The amount of money spent annually in the old world by easy-going Americans is staggering. It is impossible even to estimate it. That European merchants profit from this trade is readily admitted. Last year these nations suffered as the number of tourists was cut down. The steamship companies are most optimistic for 1931 and offer the present bookings for summer sailings as the proof. Prosperity and depression are generally a state of mind. If the Euyers can be convinced that business will improve it is more than likely that the depositors who have seventy-three billions of dollars in American banks will spend a part of it. In such an event business will slowly climb to new heights and the spirit of gloom will be dissipated by the bright clouds of business prosperity.—Catholic Union & Times, Buffalo, N. Y.

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

Now that Mahatma Ghandi and the English have shaken hands, there may be a chance for Bishop Cannon to take the stump for Al. Smith yet.

The city of Detroit closed a number of speakeasies that were located near public schools. The heart of the city is sound, or Detroit would have closed the schools and let the speakeasies flourish.

"The Catholic religion continues to be the only force of appreciable resistance to the elements of family and social dislocation," says the Most Reverend Martin S. Gillet, Master General of the Dominicans, who recently visited America, coming here from Paris. He praises the splendid parochial schools of America, and says many good things about this country.

Pope Pius XI was presented with a beautiful Irish carpet last week, a rare work of art, expressly woven for the Supreme Pontiff. The Pope was delighted with the gift, and gave instructions to have the carpet placed in his private library, where he spends the greater part of the day and grants private audiences.

Bishop Ginisty of Verdun, France, recently invited Pope Pius XI to visit the Verdun Cathedral, consecrated in 1147 by Pope Eugene III, accompanied by St. Bernard and eighteen Cardinals. Replying to the invitation, Pope Pius smiled broadly, and said: "Nothing is impossible now and if I come to France I shall be happy to see Verdun, the city that is celebrated everywhere." Some of us may live to see the Pope visit America yet.

Keen political writers are agreed that Al. Smith's hat is in the ring for Presidential nomination in 1932. Al's hat has never been out of the ring, in the estimation of Americans who do not want to see this country dominated by bigotry and intolerance. Holland, with a preponderantly Protestant population, elects Catholics to the highest offices. South America republics, with preponderantly Catholic populations, elect Protestants to the highest offices, and no man's religion is questioned. The Irish Free State, bitterly persecuted for nearly seven hundred years because of its adherence to the ancient Faith, elects Protestants to its high offices. There are many other fine examples of Christian tolerance: America, proudly acclaimed as the home of oppressed peoples of all the world, should be the last nation in the world to draw the religious line against any candidate. Millions of Americans of all creeds are determined to fight this hated enemy to honest Americanism, and their hearts and eyes turn automatically towards Al. Smith for 1932. Al's hat, brushed clean, newly blocked, resting a little to one side, certainly is in the ring. Watch it.

Senator J. Thomas Heflin of Alabama, his voice raised like that of a lonesome dog, sang his farewell song to the U. S. Senate this week, and passed into innocuous desuetude. His final song was in keeping with his public life—a wall to prevent the hoisting of a special pennant with a cross upon it on American ships when religious services are in progress on the ships; a wall to prevent American citizens from receiving decorations from foreign governments, stopping the Pope from making Knights of St. Gregory out of Rochester laymen, etc., and a wall that he had been defeated for re-election by the power of the Pope in a State that had ninety-nine non-Catholic voters to every Catholic, and demanding a recount of ballots. And thus he died in public life. Qualified now for the ash can of the Kluxers and for the dump cart of the bigots, he goes forth to the battle of bombast discredited by his own state, discredited by honest men. He wrote his name and his deeds in the dirt of intolerance, and the decent people of his state swept him and the dirt into political discard. He belongs to America no more than a coyote belongs to the prairie, and his disreputable howl will be heard only in souls empty of Christian faith and devoid of Christian kindness and charity.