

The Catholic Courier And Journal

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Friday, May 1, 1931

THE BOOK OF OUR LIVES

"The great book read by our non-Catholic friends is the book of our lives," the Rt. Rev. William J. Hafey, D.D., Bishop of Raleigh, N. C., told the Knights of Columbus in Brooklyn the other day.

Bishop Hafey was speaking about the South, and about the terrible antagonism to the Church that has manifested in the South. This antagonism, he says, was caused by the lies and slanders of Bigots.

"The Southern people are not bearing down on our churches or insulting us in the streets. They are very much interested in going to our churches and in sending their children to our schools."

This same viewpoint applies to the North, and to the East and the West. But it will not apply in the country unless the book of our lives is clean, wholesome, inspiring, thoroughly Christian and thoroughly patriotic.

A NOVENA FOR VOCATIONS

Beginning to-day, and ending on the tenth of May, a Diocesan-wide Novena for the promotion of religious vocations will be held in all churches of the Diocese.

By way of pleasure, of profit and of passion the world seeks to draw the youth of the land away from God. It is most fitting, therefore, that by prayers, petitions, good example and words of wisdom and of enlightenment, the Church should seek to keep them with God.

East, West, North and South—aye, and right here at home—the cry always is for more workers, more soldiers of the Cross, more priests to bring the truths of Christ into homes and hearts, more Sisters to care for the sick and aged, to comfort the afflicted, to train the young, and keep in perpetual bloom the flowers of Faith and of sacrifice in the gardens of God.

DR. JOHN G. COYLE

Dr. John G. Coyle, a prominent orator, writer, scholar, and a man, a devout champion of clean government, and of strong and honest politics, died last night in his sleep and in the fullness of his days.

To the Queen of the Rosary

Garlands let us wreath for thee, Heaven's Queen! Roses pink and red and white, Leafage green,

Roses pink, nor red, nor white, For thy joyous mysteries; Mingled grief and glory these Tell a truth thy heart's pure joy

Crimson roses typify Hearts that bleed and pierced He. These O Queen of Sorrowing, For thy heart that ever mourns

Roses pure as mountain snow! Mary, thy bright stories show! Roses white as ocean foam For thy blissful coming home!

America. Holy Name Societies, Communion breakfasts, historical and educational societies, patriotic organizations, fraternities—and most of all the Knights of Columbus—these were inspired by his presence, always magnetic, by his oratory, always uplifting, and by the message of faith, service and sacrifice he left always with his audiences.

Dr. Coyle walked hand-in-hand with the heroic pioneers of America. He was one of them and with them. He sat by their firesides, and drew from their dauntless souls the spirit that emboldens truth, virtue, patriotism and loyalty upon the horizon of life.

Who that heard him can ever forget him? Who that knew him can ever cease to remember him? Who that walked and worked with him in the shadows and sunshine of the past can ever pass his grave without a tear or a prayer? No one.

A MENTALLY VIRTUOUS CHAIRMAN

Chairman Fess of the Republican National Committee, waving the black flag of wrath, is perched upon a pinnacle of righteous indignation. He is suffering excruciating internal indignation because Joutet Shouse, head of the Publicity Bureau of the National Democratic Committee, charged the Republican National Committee with buying ten million copies for distribution to voters, of a magazine "that made reference to the religious affiliations" of John J. Raskob, Chairman of the National Democratic party.

We are not concerned with political arguments, as such. We have no means of knowing whether Mr. Shouse's charge is true, or whether it is a skyrocket prouetling in the field of fancy. But we have vivid recollections of times when Senator Fess did not suffer so severely from virtuous backfire. We remember a certain occasion, when the Washington sun was setting like a tired hen behind the horizon, and the autumn flowers were blooming in the Hoover garden.

We have vivid recollection, too, of the time when Robert H. Louis, Executive Director of the National Republican Committee, and still holding the job—ordered

Catholicity Loves Light

The Catholic Church loves education. Her greatest conquests have been in countries with a high degree of education, such as the United States, and her GREATEST GAINS IN COUNTRIES IN WHICH THERE IS COMPULSORY EDUCATION. Where there is no compulsory education, she has made gains only in proportion to the ability of the people to become enlightened. IGNORANCE HAS ALWAYS HANDICAPPED the progress of THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST ARCHITECT, BRAMANTE, WAS A CATHOLIC

thousands of copies of that unwashed sheet of bigotry, the Fellowship Forum, sent into Nebraska to help beat Senator Norris, a friend of Al. Smith, in his race for re-election.

Remembering these, and other things disgraceful to America's sense of fair play, and inimical to the American spirit of tolerance and good will, we are fain to confess that we will weep not with Senator Fess on the present sad occasion.

PACIFISM AND THE CHURCHES

A group of Protestant religious leaders recently sent questionnaires to fifty-three thousand ministers, asking them to go on record as to whether they are in favor of or against all future wars. These questionnaires were not sent to the Jews, Lutherans, Southern Baptists, Southern Methodists and Catholics.

Eight questions were asked; 19,327 answers were received, but not all of these answered the eight questions. A summary of the answers shows:

That 12,709 ministers are in favor of the United States immediately entering the League of Nations, and that 3,090 are against it.

That 2,574 ministers favor military training in public schools, and 16,018 against it.

That 15,449 favor an immediate reduction of armament by the United States, even if other countries are not willing to do likewise, and that 2,702 are opposed to this.

That 12,017 ministers are opposed to America protecting the lives and property of her citizens in other lands by force, favoring pacific means instead, and that 3,899 are in favor of force.

That 12,076 ministers are in favor of the churches of America refusing to sanction or support any future war, while 4,723 are against this action by the churches.

That 10,427 ministers pledged themselves as individuals not to sanction any future war and not to participate as an armed combatant, and that 5,801 declined to make this pledge.

That 8,700 said they could conscientiously serve as army chaplains on active duty in future wars, while 6,628 said they could not so serve.

That 8,316 declared themselves willing to support a future war of defense, while 7,130 said they would not sanction such a war.

This covers the list of questions asked, and the answers received. A total of 33,673 ministers did not answer any part of the questionnaires sent to them. It is fair to assume that most ministers who are opposed to war, even to the extent of defying, or threatening to defy, the Government in case of war, answered the questionnaires. Men who champion reforms are usually willing to go on record for such reforms, while men who are fairly well satisfied with existing conditions usually refuse to be drawn into discussion on these conditions. It is fair to assume, therefore, that the great majority of the 33,673 ministers who did not answer the questionnaires would be willing to support the Government wholeheartedly in case of war.

While Catholic priests were not included in this canvass, we believe there is no question whatever but that a great majority of them are absolutely opposed to war, and are emphatically in favor of every peaceful measure necessary to avoid war. But we believe likewise that, almost without exception, the Catholic priests of America would stand solidly behind this Government in every just war, and would give their lives, if necessary, in defense of the Government. The position of the Church, as outlined by dependable theologians, is that the State not only has the right, but that it is the duty of the State to safeguard and protect its citizens, their property and their lives, and that, logically, it has the right to use force and coercion in doing this, and in safeguarding its own interests from menace or violation abroad or at home.

Father Duffy, chaplain of the famous Sixty-ninth "Fighting Irish" Regiment of New York City during the World War—and a chaplain who saw more of real war than any other chaplain in America said this of war:

"War, at its best, is a dirty, rotten business. It kills everything that is fine and beautiful in human nature, and brings out everything that is low, brutal and bestial. Don't let anybody talk to you about the glory of war. It has no glory. But remember this: As long as Nations and peoples are grasping and tyrannical, as long as they are selfish and brutal, war will be a necessity if civilization and Christianity are to be safeguarded and protected. And remember this: That the surest and best way to avoid war is to be prepared for it, ready to protect ourselves and ready to fight for our rights. The lives of many thousands of splendid American boys were needlessly sacrificed in the World War because this Government was not ready for war when we entered it."

Pope Pius XI, alarmed by conditions in Europe, recently issued a solemn warning to the nations against another war. He expressed the opinion that any nations engaging in another war would be committing suicide.

The Catholic Church, we believe, will always be one of the strongest champions of peace, and one of the firmest opponents of war. But you will never catch the Church or her priests, or any group of them, telling this Nation, or any other Nation: "We will not support you in war, we will not serve you in conflict, we will not fight for our homeland in defense of our lives and our liberties." That, in time of war, would be punished as treason.

The surest and best way—and the only lasting way—to avoid war is to implant the teachings and ideals of Jesus Christ in the hearts of peoples and nations. And, on top of that, to be ready to defend those principles and ideals, if other peoples and nations ignore them, or seek to trample them under foot.

MARY'S MONTH

The month of May is dedicated by our Holy Mother Church to the Blessed Mother of God. May is Mary's month. In all churches throughout the land May devotions will be held, recitation of the beads and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Millions of voices will be lifted in that beautiful prayer: "Hail, Mary, full of Grace." Millions of hearts will throb with Mary's heart in loving gratitude to Almighty God. The lure of the world for others, but for us, each will say with Father Ryan:

"But dead by dead I tell The rosary of my years; From a cross to a cross they lead; 'tis well! And they're best with a blessing of tears."

Always, from the Rosary, our thoughts go back to Jesus in the little home at Bethlehem; to the Mother who cared for Him, nurtured Him, sheltered Him; and to Calvary where Divine lips, moist with blood, said to the beloved St. John, symbolic of the whole human race: "Behold thy Mother!" Not His Mother alone, but ours—the perfect Mother, the beautiful Mother and good.

And so, all through this month of May, sweet with its blossoming plants and flowers, radiant with the verdure of revived life, our prayers to Mary will mingle with the fragrance of blossoms and rise to God like a cloud of incense burning with faith and love. And all of us will think, like the poet, Denis A. McCarthy:

"What is clearer, what is clearer, than the children's voices singing, As they come with banners waving, as they come with banners waving, Where the waking birds are breaking and the tender grass is springing In Our Lady's month of Beauty, in our Lady's month of May!"

"Bishop Cannon will fight probe," daily papers tell us in big headlines, in connection with the attempt of the Nye Senatorial Committee to get the Rt. Reverend Politician to tell what he did with \$65,000 turned over to him to help fight Al Smith in the late Presidential election. By "fighting," we presume the papers mean that Cannon will blow up again.

Our beloved country is being purged gradually of its undesirable citizens—408 persons were killed by poisoned alcohol last Winter, according to statistics given out by the U. S. Bureau of Industrial Alcohol. Estimating the number of persons who drink the American at \$2,000 a year, these men take only 152,016 years to poison them off and leave our fair land without a blemish upon its virtuous bosom.

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

"AE" Russell, Irish poet, writer and lecturer, sails early in May for Canada, after having spent several months in America. He was accorded a splendid reception here, and welcomed in many cities with great enthusiasm. The Irish Theater promoters gave him a farewell reception in New York City the other day, and it was a happy event. "AE" likes America, but will be glad to get back home, where the hearts and hills are always sunny and warm.

Judge C. M. Egan of Hoboken sentenced a man to three years in prison and to pay a fine of \$1,000 for possessing indecent motion pictures. The Judge expressed regret that he couldn't sentence the culprit to the electric chair. Well and good for this fellow, but what about the motion picture theaters that are showing rotten films to men, women and children every week in the year? What about the despicably dirty plays in legitimate theaters? Who is sending these promoters to Jail?

The late Nicholas Longworth, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and long active in the public life of America, had many Catholic connections and was a steadfast friend of the Church himself, though not a member. Nearly two-score years ago Mr. Longworth's aunt, Mrs. Belamy Storer, whose husband was U. S. Ambassador to Austria-Hungary, became a convert to the Church. She was baptized on June 26, 1892, by Bishop John J. Keane, rector of the Catholic University at Washington. Four years later her husband was received into the Church. Clara Longworth, sister of Nicholas, was married thirty years ago to Count Jacques de Chambrun, with the late Archbishop John Ireland of St. Paul, Minn., officiating. Their marriage has been a very happy one, and the Countess and her husband are still alive. Speaker Longworth was a benefactor of many Catholic institutions and was one of three men who gave the organ to the Church of the Holy Angels, near the Longworth mansion at Rockwood, O.

CURRENT COMMENT

WHAT YOU ARE COUNTS

There is nothing so sickening and insufferable as the snobbery that arises from the fact that one should have arrived in this country several shiploads or generations before some one else. The late Knute Rockne was born in Norway. But for all that he was not one whit inferior to anyone born on the sacred soil of New England. The American is not made by his place of birth, but by his spirit and character. Americanism is not a question of where a man was born, but what he is.—The Witness, Dubuque.

SATISFIED WITH CALENDAR

The Seventh Day Adventists have filed a petition with the League of Nations in which they register a protest against the much-talked-of calendar reform. Our Adventist brethren seem to be very much satisfied with the Gregorian calendar and are reluctant for any change looking to what they term "a desecration of the Sabbath Day." We are glad that our Adventist brethren took it upon themselves to protest rather than the Catholic Church. If the Catholic Church had protested the scoffers of this modern world would say "Catholics are opposed to the forward march of science."—Pittsburgh Catholic.

THE "GO-GIVERS"

Emerson has said: "See how the mass of men worry themselves into nameless graves, while here and there a generous soul forgets himself into immortality." A noble thought, finely put, but Jesus thought it first, when He said: "It is a more blessed thing to give than to receive." All truly great men of history remain enshrined in the heart of humanity not because they were "Go-Getters," but because they were "Go-Givers." They took little from the world, and left it much. They made the world a better place to live in. They did not get, they gave; and in giving, gained immortality.—Westerv Waterman, St. Louis.

QUESTIONABLE PROSPERITY

A contractor who had been visiting in Russia on business gave an interview in Denver this week and declared that he saw no starvation in the land of the Soviets, but found the people better off than they were under the czars. He thinks the five-year plan is going to prove a success.

Granting these things for the sake of argument, nevertheless we declare that people who are not permitted freedom of religion are slaves of the worst sort. The contractor does not have a word to say about the religious situation. Maybe he does not think that it is important. There are millions of us who would rather undergo any other hardship than be deprived of the right to worship God in the way our conscience dictates. We can see no meaning to the type of prosperity that ends at the grave.—Denver Catholic Register.