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Editorial Staff:
Priests of the Diocese,
Maurice F. Sammons, Managing Editor

All communications for publication must be signed
with the name and address of the writer, and must
be in the Courier's office by Tuesday preceding the
date of publication.

Friday, May 8, 1931.

ASCENSION DAY

On Thursday, May fourteenth, our
Holy Mother Church will commemorate in
fitting manner the Ascension of our
Saviour into Heaven. This is a holiday of
obligation, and all Catholics who can possibly
do so are obliged to hear Mass on
that day under pain of mortal sin.
Ascension Day is a feast of great joy.
The labors and sorrows of the Saviour are
at an end. Mankind has been redeemed
from sin, and a Divine sacrifice offered to
God in reparation and expiation. The way
to Heaven has been opened for the faithful.
Calvary's tragedy, glorified by the
Resurrection, has given to the world a new
symbol and sign—the Cross. A new religion
has been established, a new Gospel
preached. The Bread of Life, the new
manna from Heaven, has been established
on earth for all mankind—the great Sacrament
of the Eucharist, the body and blood,
soul and divinity of Jesus Christ. The
greatest Teacher of all time has made
known truths eternal, and now He is going
home to His Father; home to Heaven; triumphant,
victorious, glorious.

Our hearts should be thrilled by the
wonder of it all, and the meaning of it all,
on Ascension Day. We, too, can ascend in
spirit above a world of sin and doubt, if we
but hold fast to the teachings of our
Saviour; if we but follow His footsteps, and
imitate His life of service and of sacrifice,
loving, first of all and most of all the God
who created us and gave us souls immortal
to be happy with Him forever in Heaven,
if we are faithful to Him on earth.

MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday will be Mother's Day. All over
the country tributes will be paid to
mothers, gifts presented to them, and in
thousands of homes and churches prayers
said for them by their loved ones. The
name mother will be exalted. The love of
mothers will be linked with the most tender
sentiments of the heart. This is well.
The boy who truly loves his mother seldom
goes wrong. She is his anchor to goodness
in life, his hope and his ideal.

Motherhood has been idealized by poets
and painters from time immemorial. The
most perfect example of mother in the
world is the Mother of God. Sweet, pure,
good, kind, free from all sin or thought of
sin, her whole life was a halo of glorified
spirituality. Her life is a model for all
womanhood, her home the ideal home of
the ages.

Christ loved His mother, as all dutiful
children should, and He was subject to her
in His tender years. God though He was,
He set an example to the whole world of
filial obedience, respect and love. The
humble home at Nazareth has, therefore,
been the inspiration of all Christendom,
and the word "Mother" has been glorified
and idealized because of Mary and through
Mary.

On Sunday all of us whose mothers are
alive will surely show them some special
consideration, and make them feel the
depth and sincerity of our love. The most
beautiful gift of all for Catholic children to
give their mothers is to receive Holy Com-
munion for them. This we can do, too, for
all mothers who have passed from life,
the beautifully expressing our love and
remembrance of them in ways that will
please our beloved spiritual mother, Mary,
as well as our own mothers.

And though we may not have as first we did
when she was young and had them from our
eyes,
Love is not covered with a chilly lid,
And the remembrance of them never dies.

BACKING UP DR. WALSH

Very little while some glib talker who
is all about Russia comes out
with a lot of rhetoric telling how
the situation in Russia, and how the
Catholic Church has been visited by
the "Reds" and how they have been
persecuted.

A Prayer For Mothers

Lord Jesus, Who so well have known
A Mother's faithful love and care,
Look tenderly upon our own
And grant for them our fervent prayer.
Give Heavenly vision to their eyes
That watch the ways of little feet.
Let Your reflected love arise
To make their words most wise and sweet.
Bless the dear, patient hands that make
Our pathways easier; and bless
Their toil. For Your dear Mother's sake
Fill all their days with blessedness!
Our debt of love we cannot pay
Except Thy Own reward be given.
Surround them with Thy peace, we pray:
Bless them on earth, and crown in Heaven.
—By Alice Pauline Clark.

swallowed, hook, line and sinker, by a
number of people.

It is not so many months ago that the
Rev. Edmund A. Walsh, S.J., Vice President
of Georgetown University, brought to
Rochester the true story of religious conditions
in Russia. It was a terrible indictment
of a brutal government—persecution,
torture, exile, a living death in prison
camps, the firing wall, seizure of churches
all over the land, disfranchisement of all
ministers of religion, the elimination of
God from factories, homes and schools,
and the desecration of God's holy name
everywhere in the country.

The Presbyterian Board of Foreign
Missions has just issued its annual report,
and in a broad sense it stands solidly back
of the story told by Dr. Walsh.

"The situation in Russia and the effect of
the ruthless anti-religious program of the
Soviet Government again form the out-
standing feature of world news in the field
of religion," the report states.

"Will Christianity definitely recede be-
fore atheism in the largest country on the
European Continent? Will one-sixth of the
civilized inhabitants of the globe go perma-
nently pagan? Will the anti-religious im-
petus, going east as well as west, engulf
the first fruits of the harvest of Christian-
ity in China, Korea and Japan? These are
some of the questions which religious
leaders abroad are beginning to ask them-
selves.

"The European churches are thoroughly
roused to the danger of the propaganda
that is sweeping over the Continent from
Russia, carried by radio, poster, pamphlet
and motion picture to the most remote vil-
lage, and finding a ready hearing among
the millions of unemployed (Germany
alone has 4,500,000 out of work now),
many of whom have been idle for a year
or more, and are embittered against so-
ciety and the Church as well as against the
State for their inability to cope with the
world-wide depression.

There is no intimation here of a "free"
religious condition in Russia, or the slight-
est suggestion that there is even the sym-
ptom of a friendly atmosphere in the land.
It is not a question of any one religion,
of any one church, but a question of all
religion, of all faith and belief in God. And
the Soviets are not content that this con-
dition should be confined to their own land
and their own people. They are feeding
their anti-religious poison to idle, discon-
tented and suffering people in every land.
Their battle cry is "Death to God!" The
Christian people of the world should not be
swayed by smooth propagandists, but
should meet and face that condition with
high courage and unflinching loyalty to
God and His truths and ideals.

TO FIGHT OR NOT TO FIGHT

The Supreme Court of the United
States has before it for decision the clear-
cut issue of whether an applicant for
citizenship must take an oath to fight for
the United States, if necessary.

It is the contention of the Government
that every citizen must be willing to bear
arms in defense of the Government in case
of war. An appeal from this contention
is taken to the Supreme Court in the case
of a Canadian woman, Marie Averill Bland
of New York, seeking citizenship. She
nursed wounded American soldiers in
France during the World War, but contends
that the Government has no right to ask
her if she is willing to bear arms in case
of another war. Just why such a ques-
tion should be asked of a woman applic-
ant for citizenship is not clear. It looks
like splitting hairs, or seeking an argu-
ment. And Miss Bland is willing to
give the Government an argument. The
Second Circuit Court of Appeals agrees
with Miss Bland in her contention. Gov-
ernment officials, disgruntled by this view,
have taken the case to the U. S. Supreme
Court.

The Episcopal Church is brought into the
case, because Miss Bland's attorney says
the objection of her client to bearing arms
is upheld by the teachings of her church,
and that a brief had been filed by a num-
ber of Episcopal Bishops supporting her
position. Justice Butler asked whether it
was contended the Episcopal Church
taught that it was wrong for a Christian
to bear arms in defense of the nation.
Justice Sutherland asked whether it was
contended that, should the country be in-
vaded by a foreign army, members of the
Episcopal or any other Church should not
take up arms in defense of the country.

Miss Bland's attorney said it is not a
question of the Episcopal Church that its
members should not bear arms, but that
the church is opposed to war and that in-
dividuals opposed to war because of re-
ligious scruples should be excused from
military service.

Christian Education

"The proper and immediate end of Christian education is to cooperate with
divine grace in forming the true and perfect Christian, that is, to form Christ
Himself in those regenerated by Baptism, according to the emphatic expression
of the Apostle: 'My little children, of whom I am in labour again, until Christ
be formed in you.' For the true Christian must live a supernatural life in
Christ: 'Christ who is your life,' and display it in all his actions: 'That the life
also of Jesus may be made manifest in our mortal flesh.'

"For precisely this reason, Christian education takes in the whole aggregate
of human life, physical and spiritual, intellectual and moral, individual, domes-
tic and social; not with a view of reducing it in any way, but in order to ele-
vate, regulate and perfect it, in accordance with the example and teaching of
Christ."—Encyclical of His Holiness, Pope Pius XI on Christian Education of
Youth.

The outcome of this case will be
watched with a great deal of interest. It
is a pretty well settled question that the
great majority of people are opposed to
war. But it is likewise a pretty settled
question that if war comes every person
should do his full share; in other words,
fight his part. The State has a perfect right
to use coercion in this matter, even to the
extent of standing a "conscientious objector"
up against a firing wall. Physical coercion
in case of war is absolutely essential to the
existence of a Nation; otherwise none of
its rights would be efficacious, and its very
existence would be endangered.

During the Civil War an Irish poet,
Charles G. Halpine, wrote a poem in which
he graciously conceded to the Negro his
right to be killed in battle. America has
quite a few people who are willing to con-
cede that right to the other fellow, but
not to accept it themselves. We doubt if
their attitude will meet a kindly reception
in the Nation. Certainly it will never be
tolerated in time of war. Governments
and peoples have a way of doing harsh
things and of trampling upon individual
views when blood and iron are in the air,
and when the existence of a Nation is im-
periled, or its liberties threatened.

A TEMPERANCE LEADER

Archdeacon Joseph H. Dodson, president
of the Church Temperance Society of the
Protestant Episcopal Church, presu-
mably knows something about temperance,
or he would not be at the head of a
society of this nature. He gave a talk on
"Temperance" in New York City last week
which does not fit in well with the claim
frequently made that the Catholic Church
is the chief and only opponent of the
Eighteenth Amendment. Touching upon
this point, it is proper to remark that the
Catholic Church has never made an official
statement on the Eighteenth Amendment.
She teaches religion, not politics to her
children.

But Archdeacon Dodson did make an
official statement. He will not receive a
congratulatory letter from the Methodist
Board of Temperance and Morals.

"I know of nothing so devastating and
terrible in its economic and social conse-
quences," he said, "as the Volstead Act,
and it should be repealed at once. I am
heartily ashamed of my brother Episcopalian,
Mr. Wickersham, who could so
stultify himself as to try to please every-
body in his report on Prohibition."

He condemned "religious fanatics who
tell you that God is the inspiration of pro-
hibition. I tell you, it is the Devil. If
Jesus Christ came to the earth today as he
did 2,000 years ago, these people would ar-
rest him." He called prohibition enforce-
ment methods "the twentieth century in-
quisition." While England had "cut her
liquor bill and emptied her jails," we, un-
der prohibition, had lost what progress we
had made up until 1920 toward temperance,
and our prisons were overflowing, he said.

BERNARD J. SHAW

To-day we meet a friend whose smile
of greeting warms our hearts. Tomorrow
he is dead, his hands folded, his life's
work ended. For thus suddenly, some-
times, does death take from us the best we
have, the nearest and dearest. It was like
this with Bernard J. Shaw. Just a few
days absent from his place of business;
just a few days missed on the streets by
his friends—then we walk with him into
the mystery of the enfolding mists of
death, there to lose him for all time. God's
call, his sorrow inexpressible, the lot of
those who knew and loved him.

He was "Ben" to his friends. And what
a fine, upstanding man he was; Honest,
affable, kindly; courteous to everybody,
and solicitous; a true Christian gentleman,
with happy smile and sunny nature that
warmed the heart, and made you forget
troubles and cares. He had, in very truth,
a heart of gold, and a soul filled with ideals
of the finest and noblest. Good citizen,
devoted husband and father, faithful son of
Mother Church, true and steadfast in his
friendships, he was one whom it was a joy
to know.

The Lincoln-Alliance Bank long ago dis-
covered his true worth, and made him one
of its ranking officers. He was a pillar of
strength to the institution, and a guaran-
tee in character and ability of its sound-
ness and its dependability. He will be
greatly missed there, as well as in all
places where he was known. His bereaved
wife, five children and brother will have
the sincere sympathy of a multitude of
people. Their loss is great, but he has left
them a model of nobility of character,

and a treasure house of love and remem-
brance. He will not be forgotten by those
who knew and loved him, but will be
counted as one worthy of enduring
thought for long years to come. May his
soul, loyal to God on earth, be happy with
God in Heaven!

BOOK REVIEWS

"Old Errors and New Labels," by the
Rev. Dr. Fulton J. Sheen, Ph.D., D.D.,
LL.D., professor of theology at the Catho-
lic University of America at Washington,
D. C., and published by the Century Co. of
New York, is the choice of the Catholic
Book Club of New York City as the best
book for the month of May. The book is
exceptionally well printed, attractively
bound, and it is worthy of a place in the
best libraries.

"Old Errors and New Labels" is a timely
book. It is a series of essays on subjects
that are very much alive in the
world to-day; for instance: "The Wax
Nose of Scientific Authority," "The Lyric-
ism of Science," "Loyalties Gone Astray,"
"The Soul and the Twichings of Be-
haviorism," "Cosmical Religion," "Educa-
tion and the Deity-Blind," "Making the
Stork a Bootlegger," and others of like
importance.

The essays are delightfully written,
and with plain common sense and logic
that will appeal to the everyday in-
dividual. For instance, in the chapter en-
titled "Making the Stork a Bootlegger" we
find:

"Even though one were to admit that
babies were useless, advocates of birth-
control would have to admit that they
would be good later on to preach birth-
control. Just think what a havoc would
have been wrought among the birth-
control propagandists if the mothers of
those who preach it had practised it!"

"Birth control is the flesh-and-blood
side of Prohibition—an amendment to the
human constitution stating that the en-
thusiasm for new life must not exceed one-
half of one per cent. Both are equally in-
capable of enforcement. There is life in
wine, and men will have it as long as there
is life; there is joy in children, and men
will have them as long as men love to play.
As long as men feel that drinking the
vintage of God's creation is not a sin, there
will be bootleggers; and as long as men
feel that children are the real wine of life,
there will be storks—and to call the storks
bootleggers will not ease the situation any
more than to call the wine peddler a boot-
legger."

The editors of the Catholic Book Club
are enthusiastic over this book by Dr.
Sheen, as indeed they have a right to be.
They praise his style, they delight in his
thought, and they like his logic. In com-
mending the book to readers they have
this to say:

"Reviewers struggle to fit the proper
adjective to Dr. Sheen's style. They say
he is epigrammatic and that he is paradoxical,
like Chesterton; that he is trenchant
and stimulating. One need not be a re-
viewer to reach these appraisals. They
leap from every page, and cannot be ig-
nored.

"The important matter is the agility of
the mind that makes one paradoxical and
trenchant. Dr. Sheen has this agility, and
he has also the sharpness of a well-
focused mind, that, like a sharp eye, sees
matters in hard, defined outlines. More
than that, he has a mind that leaps from
the substances of things, that is, their un-
obvious essentials, to the surfaces of
things, that is, their appearances, their
masquerades, their dramatics. And beyond
that, he can dress up his own deeper es-
sentials in vivid costume and throw about
them the distant blue of romance and the
rich red of emotion.

"However, our purpose is not to
sprinkle colors about. It is merely that of
stating that we think Dr. Sheen has writ-
ten a compelling book in his 'Old Errors
and New Labels.'"

The book may be ordered through local
dealers, and the price is the modest one of
\$2.00 per copy. Readers of it may be sure
of a literary treat, as well as of sound
Christian logic in the treatment of sub-
jects that are on the sky-line of the world
of thought to-day.

J. Thomas Heflin, ex-Senator of Ala-
bama, is booming Governor White of
Alabama for Democratic nominee for
President in 1932. Mr. Heflin, Canon's
lame leg well enough for him to run? Or
maybe Tom could be coaxed to take it him-
self.

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

All sons are not like their fathers. The
late Thomas Fortune Ryan of New York
City left an estate of many millions of
dollars, and not a bequest to charity. His
son, John Barry Ryan, gave Cardinal
Hayes a check the other day for \$110,000
for the Catholic Charities of New York.
This is the largest donation ever made to
the Charities, and it comes in a year when
it will be thrice welcome and appreciated
in like manner.

Catholic papers sometimes receive
mighty fine compliments for their work.
The Tablet of London, England, for in-
stance, has just been sued for libel by a
lady birth control propagandist. We con-
sider that a real tribute to the merits of
the paper. By the way, what has hap-
pened to all the suits Bishop Cannon
threatened to bring against Catholic
papers several months ago? Have the
threats faded into dreams?

Uncle Sam got a left-handed wallop
back of his right ear this week from
General Sir Arthur Currie, Commander of
the Canadian Corps in the World War, and
principal of McGill University, Canada.
This gentleman says he is "sick and tired
reading" how a "certain country" rescued
Ireland from the bloody claws of the Brit-
ish lion, how it rescued Egypt and is now
about to rescue India. He thinks it is high
time this "certain country" was told to
mind its own condemned business. Which
reminds us of the hostler of a village hotel
in the good old days when horses stood if
they were hitched. This hostler rushed
out of the hotel barn one day in a tower-
ing rage, peeled off his coat, vest and outer
shirt, threw the garments in a heap in the
middle of the highway, jumped up and
down, ran his fingers wildly through his
hair and yelled: "Come on out, you son of
a sea cook—come on out and I'll skin ye
alive!" The proprietor of the hotel looked
calmly across the road at his protege, and
remarked to some friends: "Johnny seems
to be vexed about something!"

The Irish are logical as well as senti-
mental. A copy of "The Saturday Record
and Clare Journal," published at Ennis, is
before us. Two attractive advertisements,
one on each side of the title at the top of
the front page, seem to have a mystic
meaning. One advertisement is for head-
stones and monuments; the other is for
"Brown Label Whiskey." Other adver-
tisements remind us of America—Ford
cars, reduced in price; California Syrup
of Figs; Willys-Knight, Overland and
Dodge cars at bargains. The news is inter-
esting, too. Two boys, eight and ten years
old, threw stones at birds, but missed all
the birds, and the stones broke fifty-one
window lights in a Protestant Church.
The boys were arrested and fined five
shillings each. Michael Dillon of Inch-
cronan, Crusheen, appealed from a judg-
ment obtained against him by his brother-
in-law Michael Kennedy. Dillon said Ken-
nedy was to give him a horse when he
married Kennedy's sister, but sold the
horse and gave him the money instead,
then sued him for it years afterwards.
The judge said he was sorry, but there
was no mention of the horse in the mar-
riage deed, so the judgment was confirmed.
Patrick Foody was arrested for driving an
auto around a corner at the terrific speed
of twenty-five miles an hour, and also for
failing to blow his horn. He was fined ten
shillings for the speed, five shilling for not
having a license, and the charge for not
blowing the horn was dismissed. Sympa-
thetic notices of funerals and deaths are
given, and eight thousand people attended
the funeral of a young priest in Blantyre,
Protestants joining Catholics in mourning
his loss. Much space is given to markets,
some to styles and much to sports.

CURRENT COMMENT

LEAKAGE

There is no doubt that the number of
Catholics who, for one reason or another,
have fallen away from the Church is large
and is continually increasing. Many Catho-
lics, poorly instructed in the doctrines of
their holy religion, have lapsed in the prac-
tice of their faith when separated from the
influences of their younger days. Others
have lapsed because of mixed marriages
while others have been unable to with-
stand the impact of agnostic or atheistic
teachings.—Providence Visitor.

THE PEOPLE'S GENEROSITY

The generosity of Irish Catholics
towards the works of religion and charity
can always be depended upon. Our people
are open-handed in a high degree. Only
an open-handed people could have built out
of their poverty the churches, orphanages,
hospitals, etc., with which during the past
century the ravages of the three previous
centuries of persecution were repaired. Re-
ligion has never appealed in vain to the
Irish Catholic. Always it has received the
most generous support even in times of
depression and hardship.—The Congress
News, Dublin, Ireland.