# The Catholic Courier

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## DESCRIPTION RATES

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Friday, June 8, 1981.

#### THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

The Dailed States Supreme Court this week handed down a decision upholding the freedom of the Press in a strong way. The action developed out of a law enacted by the State of Minnesota, popularily known as the "press gag law." This law made it possible for politicians and office holders to punish newspapers for severe criticians of their acts. Chief Justice Hughes said the law virtually amounted to censorship of the press in Minnesota, and that if papers published anything false, scarrifous or harmful, the injured persons should have recourse to the libel laws.

The decision of the Supreme Court is an important one. The press of America is losing its editorial vigor rapidly enough without aiding the deterioration by law. The commercialism of the age, the terrific cost of publishing a newspaper, and numerons other handkaps that tend to keep a paper subject to overshadowing financial and business interests; have seriously in wife the prestige and independence of many newspapers. It would be a lamentable thing if the laws of any State, or of the Nation, should complete this job. America needs a free people. We want no Mussolini here, saying: "If you publish this or that, we will stop publication of your paper and send you to jail." The Supreme Court of the land is wise in deciding this. It may prevent a revolution from doing the same thing later on.

## THE KEY TO HAPPINESS

Time is a great palliative. A little more than seven hundred years ago St. Francis of Assisi sent five Franciscan priests into Morocco to evangelize the Moors. They were promptly put to death. A few weeks ago Pope Pius XI sent a medal to the Caid el Glaoui, Pasha of Marrakech, the largest city in Morocco, and one of the most powerful rulers in this ancient land. The medal was an expression of appreciation of his kindness and charity to the missionaries in Morocco, in accepting the gift, the Pasha said

"There are those among men who hold the key to peace and happiness, but there are, alas, those who hold the key to disulon and untrappiness. You missionaries, wherever you work for the glory of God, carry the keys of peace and happiness. I number you among my greatest

I give my hearty thanks to the great. Pope of Rome for the very precious gift with which he has been pleased to honor me. I send him my best wishes for his happiness. I may not pray for him; he is so far above all religions and so near to God. It is he who must deign to pray for

Morocco is inhabited chiefly by Moors, Arabs, Berbers, Negroes and Jews. Centuries ago the swords of these barbaric peoples struck terror to the hearts of many Christian peoples, and drank deeply of human blood. Not so long ago they gave the best soldiers of France and Spain memorable and triumphant battle. The movies have pictured them to Americans at trightfully lawage and warlike. One hardly looks, therefore, for poetic and beautiful throught from their chief ruler; for such a striking expression—"you missions as the server you work for the glory of God, except the keys of peace and hap-

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## The Restless Dead

Pray, who are these, my comrade?
I hear the muffled heat
Of drums that roll in rhythm
For eager marching feet;
I see the happy children
With faces tanned and brown
God's little saints of heaven.
That once the guns moved down.

Look, comrades, see the banners!

Men fear less to forget

The fields in desolation,

The ground hlood-soaked and wet.

How beautiful the poppies;

They never bloomed so fair,

The finest of our regiment

War took in harvest there.

Pray, who are these, my comrade?
Each wears a golden star,
They seem so grave and gentle.
And yet have travelled far.
Are they the loving mothers
Who gave their sons for peace—
Fine manhood of our country
With hopes that wars might cease?

Hark to the sound, my comrade,
That stirs amidst the trees.
It is the voices of the dead,
They speak to such as these.
Abroad, at home, in: every land
The young, the old, the gray
Must bear the message of the dead
On this Memorial Day.

"So long as greed or dust shall live Within the hearts of men Ye cannot hope for wars to cease, But rather come again. Until we know each little lad, Clutched to a mother's breast, May rever know what we have known. Then only shall we rest."

-By CHARLES BANGROFT.

of the Franciscans. Thus does the blood of martyrs soften and make fruitful the soil of even the most barbaric peoples, and draw from their hearts sentiments of love, and from their lips poetic and beautiful thought, spoken in gratitude and in appreciation.

#### SPAIN'S NEW PRESIDENT

Great concern is naturally felt over the future of the Church in Spain. Much depends, of course, upon the spiritual and political character of the men who are at the head of the new Republican government in that ancient kingdom. A Spanish writer, Clair Price, in an article in the Magazine supplement of the Sunday New York Times of May thirty-first, paints a happy and comforting picture of the Pro-visional President of the Republic, Don Niceto Alcala Zamora. Here we have no Communist, no hostile foe of the Church. but a veteran politician, a dependable and strikingly eloquent lawyer, and a sincerely plous and religious man, devoted to his Church in an unusual degree.

President Zamora appears to have great power. He is the man who abruptly ordered King Alfonso XIII of Spain to leave his throne and quit the country a few short weeks ago. His orders were obeyed. Clair Price calls him "the best of present-day Spanish orators, and a pillar of personal and political respectability."

"He is as kindly," the writer says, "as

"He is as kindly," the writer says, "as only an Andalusian can be."

President Zamora spent three and one-

President Zamora spent three and one-half months in jail as a political prisoner of the Spanish monarchy. While in prison "he extended exactly the same deference to the criminals who swept out his cell as he extended to the prison director himself." When he was being taken to prison his love for his Church was shown in a striking way, according to Clair Price:

"Remote from the grandlosity of men on horseback, Senor Zamora is very much the pedestrian President, the successful lawrer who retains all his native kindliness and little of his naive wit, the paragon of bourgeois respectability, the family man devoted above everything else to his six chikiren, and like all Andalusians a faithful son of the Church. Wiren two Madrid policemen were taking him to jall in a taxicab last December, he asked them to stop at his parish church on the way-the same church to which you may see him walking, top-hatted and fail-coated, every Sunday morning from his house in the Pasco de Martines Champos and, leaving them to walt at the curb, he went in alone to hear Mass before continuing his ride to jall,

The sincere religious character of the Spanish people is shown in a remarkable way in the above paragraph. One can imagine American policemen permitting a prisoner to enter a church alone to hear Mass, while they waited outside at the curb for him to return!

"Senor Zamora's roots," the writer further says, "go down into the history of a family which has always been devoted to the Church and to Spanish Liberalism, a combination which is not a contradiction in terms, whatever may be lightly assumed to the contrary."

He is fifty-four years old, and for the past twenty-five years has been active in politics. Many honors have been showered upon him during this time, and he has shown substantial qualities as a leader and as a statesman.

There are heartening qualities in this description of Senor Zamora, and one cannot help but feel that the Church will have in him a strong and vigorous friend, with a heart wasmed by love and devotion, and a soul free from the contaminating poison of Communism. The regretable destruction of Church property during the first days of the revolution will be amply recompelised, we believe, and there should hit as repetition of it with a man like Senor Zamora directing the destinies of a land Catholic is heart and in history, and plous mough to permit a prisoner to go to the plant he seem to just it.

## We Live In a Critical Period

We live in a critical period. There are about 2,263,592 pupils in the parish schools, and at least an equal number of Catholic children in non-Catholic schools. Of every twenty Catholic children who will go to school next September, ten will be found in the public, or in some other non-Catholic school. Of the ten who come to us, only five will stay with us long enough to finish the eighth grade. This means that only five out of twenty Catholic children will receive that Catholic training which the Church enjoins, and which, ordinarily, can be had only in the Catholic school. Evidently the battle for the Catholic school, and for the right of every Catholic child to a place therein, has not been won. It has only begun.—Rev. Paul L. Blakely, S. J., Associate Editor of "America."

#### OUR NEW SERIAL

This week we commence publication of a splendid serial story—"Stairs of Sand," by Anna M. Regan, a Rochester writer who is well known among our people. Each week, for twenty-two weeks we will publish one chapter of this story. We recommend it heartily to our readers. It is written with good insight into human nature. The dialogue is bright, sparkling at times, and clever. There is heart interest, and action interest that will please and entertain all who read it. It is a story, we believe, well worthy of publication in book form, and we hope to see this accomplished later on.

"Stairs of Sand" has a clean and wholesome atmosphere that will delight its readers. We offer it to our subscribers with the firm belief that it will be carefully read, well liked and well appreciated. Begin this week, and do not miss one chapter of it.

### PRESBYTERIANS AND MARRIAGE

One can almost believe that the Presbyterians of America have been reading and profiting by the encyclical of Pope Pius XI on "Christian Marriage," so cleancut, out-spoken and determined has been their action on marriage and their hostility to birth control at the recent general assembly of their church in Pittsburgh. Not in our lifetime has a more vigorous Christian pronouncement on marriage been made by any Protestant Church in America. It is heartening to read it, and a pleasure to commend it. Here are some extracts of that pronouncement:

"The Scriptum emphasize the need of spiritual compatibility in marriage and feach that believer should marry "in the Lord." Therefore the children of believers should be trained to realize the probable ovils that result when they are "mequivocally yoked together with unbelievers," and should avoid such alliances. The lack of harmony on the part of parents in the training of their children when they differ in the essentials of the falth, has proved decisive and tends to destroy the happiness of a truly Christian home.

"Marriage is a life-long and spiritual commadeship. Ideally there can be no rupture of this relationship. Jesus teaches that no divorce is justified between those whom God hath joined together. This strict ideal is the only one that does full justice to the best Christian conscience. The Church affirms this standard of Jesus as its rule of faith and practice."

Grudgingly does the General Assembly agree that divorce may be obtained on grounds of adultery or wilful desertion, but that "these causes of divorce must be looked upon as concessions to the hardness of men's hearts and to their moral and spiritual shortcomings." Then the Assembly says:

"Mutual forbearance, self-discipline and the spirit of accommodation are needed by husband and wife, not alone to preserve the home, but to avoid that general deterioration of society and the lowering of the moral tone of its individuals, which follows the lamentable prevalence of divorce

"Whatever the practice of the world or the law of the State, the Church summens its ministers and people to look upon marriage as a coveriant for life, cautions them against the considerations of divorce and urges them to seek the guidance of the holy spirit for the solution of americal problems."

"The General Assembly condemns "hasty" marriages, urges uniform marriage laws for the States to safeguard against fraud, compulsion or force; warns against marriages within the "prohibited degrees of consanguinity"; asks that marriage licenses should be published in advance of marriage, and that all marriages be performed with dignity and solemnity.

The failure of the Church, the General Assembly says, to inculcate in the present generation the divine principles that sanctify marriage and educate it in regard to the spiritual qualities necessary for a successful Christian home is obvious. "It has culminated in a sex stampede and a practical acceptance of a pagan standard of life and living on a hitherto unprecedented

We are witnessing a recrudescense of paganism, with Hollywood blazing the way and Nevada prostituing its Statehood and pandering to the weaknesses of human nature for thirty pieces of silver, the report

These are noble words, bravely spoken in the face of the general trend of morality and of marriage downward in America. They are all the more significant because the special commissioners of the Presbyterian Church, appointed to make a report on marriage and birth control, some time

ago unanimously favored birth control. In the face of the determined attitude of the General Assembly, these special commissionors wisels are paid over

while the General Assembly at Pittsburgh was taking the above action, the General Assembly of the Southern Presbyterian Church in the United States, in session at Montreal, North Carolina, voted to sever relations with the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, as a protest against the advocacy of birth control by that Council. The action of the Federal Council of Churches brought "shame and indignation" to Christian people, one preacher declared, and another one said he could "prove that the Federal Council is not a Christian organization."

All of which is soul-stirring to everybody who is interested in the preservation of the sanctity of marriage in America, and in the safeguarding of American youth from further moral contamination in these times of dissolute thought, action and living.

#### DARK DAYS IN ITALY

The hostile attitude of Premier Mussolini of Italy towards the Church is no new thing. Two years ago, while the Concordat between Italy and the Church was in legislative channels, and not yet signed, Mussolini made a boastful speech that was most offensive to Pope Pius XI, and that brought swift reproof from the Supreme Pontiff. In keeping with his overwhelming desire to restore Italy to the glory and power of ancient Rome—with himself as a new Caesar—he declared that the Christian religion, while born in Palestine, was made Catholic in Rome, and that without Rome it might have "flickered out like one of the many sects which flourished in that land."

"Heretical and worse than heretical" are such utterances, Pope Pius declared. According to Mussolini, the Church was not divine, but came a poor, struggling thing to Rome, to be nursed by the wolves like Remus and Romulus, and to be made great by the blood and the spirit of the ancient Caesars: Forgettul was ne of the fact that no hostility on earth was so bitter, so brutal, so murderous towards the Church as the very ancestors about which he boasted, and that the Caesars and their satellites put forth every power of the Roman empire to crush the Church and wipe it off the face of the earth. The catacombs and the arenas, red with the blood of many thousands of Christians, are the best evidences of the "welcome" Rome gave to the Church of God in ancient days.

And now, it seems, that same spirit is to be revived in part; that same hostility, attempted domination and attempted persecution. How serious is the situation may be judged not so much by news dispatches, or by quick opinions formed by long-distance judgment, as by the views of the one man best qualified in all the world to tell of the conditions:

"Abandon yourselves to Hosannas now," Pope Pius told the College of Chaplains of Immigrants on Wednesday evening this week, "but crucifixion will come indeed."

And crucifixion has come already. By one secret order, by underhanded and dishonorable methods, by act and spirit in gross violation of the treaty between Italy and the Vatican, the great Catholic Action Society of Italy has been crushed, disbanded, broken up, many of its leaders arrested, and some of its leaders already fated to be sent into exile as enemies of the State and the Nation. Preliminary to this—and following, no doubt, a secret and cowardly order—Catholic clubs were attacked by mobs, employes of the Vatican assaulted in the streets of Rome, pictures of the Pontiff torn from walls and trampled upon, and many other disgraceful acts performed—all of them, of course, designed to strike terror into peaceful Catholic hearts, and to impress upon tranquil minds the fact that the iron heel of despotism is ready to move, to crush, to destroy.

Let there be no mistake about the meaning of all this. Mussolini is determined to be supreme in Italy, cost what it may. The Church, the people, the right or the wrong, the justice or the injustice of it all—these are as nothing to him. Concordats, treaties—what are they to a new Caesar who revels in the glories of the past and sits among the ghosts of the great? He would be of them and like them, and his Fascists are the resurrected armies of the Caesars of old, ready to carry the glories of a new Italy to uttermost bounds of the earth.

Imperialism is his dream and his manis—imperialism over the State, over the individual, over the body and over the soul. He resents the peaceful, high-minded

## WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

France has sent Texas Guinan back home, bag, baggage and dancing troupe, refusing to allow her to land. But we shouldn't be discouraged. Let's try Al. Capone or Tom Heslin on them next.

The American people are getting finicky. In Los Angeles, Cal., a gentleman confined to jail on the charge of murdering a political boss, ran for District Attorney and was defeated. What is the use of going to jail if the people won't stand by you?

Fame, fickle with all of us, comes sometimes by unique routes. In Chicago a dog has been named "Calvin Coolidge" for four reasons—he is unusually intelligent, he loves children, he never barks, and he doesn't choose to run.

Even a "fool" has rights that must be respected. Reversing a previous decision that testimony of an atheist was invalid because of his non-belief in divine punishment, the Alabama Court of Appeals recently held that "though to say 'there is no God' proves one a fool, yet it does not deprive him of his heritage as a citizen, nor of his standing."

Two lives of Knute Rockne have just been published, and a third is in course of preparation. One life is by Delos W. Lovelace, entitled "Rockne of Notre Dame," published by G. P. Putnam's Sons of New York. The other is by Warren Brown, entitled "Rockne," published by Reilly & Lee Co. of Chicago. Father Cavanaugh, expresident of Notre Dame, is writing a third life, which will undoubtedly be the most complete of all, and the most intimate.

"The lives of great men all remind us We can make our lives sublime, And, departing, leave behind us Footsteps on the sands of time."

The growth of Catholic educational institutions is amazing. The other day Cardinal Dougherty of Philadelphia dedicated a two-million dollar group of buildings at La Salle College, Philadelphia. The same week St. Thomas College, St. Paul, Minn, broke ground for a milliondollar group of buildings, and Notre Dame University is erecting more than a million dollars worth. These are but a few of the widespread building activities in Catholic higher educational circles. The list of new parochial schools would run into the hundreds of millions, if it were possible to get a complete one for America. What sacrifices we make, what zeal we show, what enthusiasm we provide for Catholic education everywhere in the land!

teachings of the Church; the teachings of Christ; the teachings that are for the good of all humanity. His quick attempt to absorb the Church when he thought the Pope would not dare speak out while the Concordat was yet unsigned shows the character and the caliber of the man, as far as religion is concerned, as far as truth and right are concerned. The Catholic Action Society does not fit into his scheme of things, into his dream of things; nor does the Pope, or the Church. How far he will dare go against these remains to be seen. He is shrewd, he is far-seeing at times, and he has done many great and good things for Italy and her people. But as power grows upon him, ambition grows, too, and he seems to be forgetting the graves of the fallen Caesars, the doom of the once all-powerful Napoleon-the fate of all men who would seek to dominate, unjustly, a nation of a people.

That the Pope says "crucifixion will come indeed" is a terrifying thought. An aroused Fascist rabble, with an irresponsible and vain-glorious leader, is capable of any crime against civilization, religion or humanity. The commencement of the persecution is but an inkling of its mappedout schedule. News of arrests is barred, prohibited. No newspaper in all Italy dare publish one line, one word, of the steps that may be taken, the brutal acts that may be perpetrated, the crimes that may be committed under Mussolini's domination in Italy. That is a terrifying thought. A whole people, a great people, a truly noble people, held under the colossal hand of one man!

"One of the saddest days of my life, Pope Pius said of the day a tyrannical hand reached out to crush a society dedicated to the betterment and uplift of humanity, and to the promotion of religion. But we may be sure that notwithstanding the sadness, notwithstanding the threatened crucifixion, Pope Pius will stand firmly for the right, for truth, for justice, for religion and for God. He will stand even to the death. For he is inspired by the principles of Jesus Christ, and by the neroism of a great line of Pontiffs, some of them Saints and Martyrs, from St. Peter down through all the ages of Christianity. And whatever happens-whatever of persecution, of terrorism, of brutalities and of murders—there is consolation in this fact, that when Mussolini's ashes are blending with the ashes of forgotten Caesars the Church will be teaching peace, truth, justice, charity, love and service of humanity and love and service of God. For man dies, but Jesus Christ will be with His Church "ail days even to the consummation of the world."