

The Catholic Courier And Journal

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Friday, June 12, 1931.

Grandma's Prayer-Book

The weak, dimmed eyes can read no more The prayers on printed paper; The book she loved in her youth is sealed to eyes of age.

"Our Father" pleads her every need; "Hail Mary," tribute sweet; The "Gloria" prides "Three in One" The circle is complete.

38,232 Converts In One Year

Thirty-eight thousand, two hundred and thirty-two people embraced Catholicism last year in this country alone. That's 3,186 a month, 735 a week, 105 a day.

RURAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Protestant churches in six widely different kinds of rural American territory, comprising more than one-third the area of the United States and containing 3,500,000 persons, are exceedingly weak and have relatively few members, according to a survey conducted by the Institute of Social and Religious Research, of New York City.

But in all this confusion there is one institution that is not and never has been at sixes and sevens—the Church. Men who have gone to the Vatican have always lived up to the high hopes that opened the doors of the papacy to them.

Pius XI, with the voice of a Gregory or an Innocent, takes the world to task for its erroneous views on education, marriage, and labor. He makes no truce with opportunism nor compromises with expediency.

The Vatican is never topsy-turvy. Its feet are always firmly planted on solid ground, though its face is turned toward the smiles of heaven.

DISORDERS IN SPAIN

American writers who believe that the tendency in Spain is towards the type of democracy which we enjoy are sadly mistaken. Catholics throughout the world will do well to harken to the voice and action of the Holy Father.

CATHOLIC MOVIE STARS

Another Catholic movie star suddenly decided, about two years ago, that she wanted to get rid of her husband, and this she promptly did, via Reno. She was preparing to marry some other movie hero when her real husband died and saved her the trouble of contracting an adulterous union.

CURRENT COMMENT

A TOPSY-TURVY WORLD

Most papers can abandon their "Believe it or Not" columns because the news items supply us with sufficient astounding contradictions to supply the appetite of the most fastidious seeker after the seemingly impossible.

Men are being sent to prison for possessing a pint of liquor; at the same time governmental sanction is sought for the most flagrant flaunting of God's marriage and procreation laws.

We elected one President because he kept us out of war, and before he had warmed the presidential seat five weeks in his new term he led us into the most terrific conflict of all time.

Another we sent to the White House because he averted famine in post-bellum Europe, and in his administration his fellow-citizens are starving in the presence of full granaries.

The world is in the midst of a slump of an over-supply of food-stuffs; Russia is disrupting economic Europe by dumping its surplus on a demoralized market; grain is rotting in store-houses and during this very period of abundance over two million Chinese have perished of actual hunger.

assume that this book will show a better and finer insight into his life than any other.

"Any public figure who could arouse authors and publishers to issue so many volumes within such a short time after his death was truly a notable, loved personality," the Catholic Book Club of New York comments in its monthly "News Letter."

Many great men die, and have never a book written on the story of their lives. Here are five books on the life of a Norwegian immigrant, of poor and humble parents, poor and humble himself. But he opened, by clean sport genius, the doors to the hearts of humanity.

WHERE TOLERANCE BLOOMS

President Doumergue of France, retiring from office, is paid a glowing tribute by "La Croix," the great Catholic daily newspaper in Paris. President Doumergue is a Protestant. France is a Catholic country from end to end.

The Methodist Church was the chief offender in America in propagating bigotry against a Catholic candidate for President of America in the last election. We hope they learned a lesson of intolerance from France. No one opposed President Doumergue in France because of his religion when he was a candidate for President. He defeated a strong Catholic candidate in a strong Catholic country.

The Irish Free State, likewise preponderantly Catholic, has many Protestant officials holding high office. Religion is not used against them when they are up for election.

South America, nearly one hundred per cent Catholic, has many non-Catholic officeholders. Religion is never used in campaign arguments in any of the countries on that hemisphere. But there is always a kindly, thoughtful respect for the religion of every man.

This is as it should be. America, boastful of its tolerance—a tolerance that is a hypocrisy in many states—can well learn the beauty of real tolerance from Catholic countries. France has set a wonderful example to the world. The Brotherhood of Man means something there; as it does in this land with many millions of kindly, neighborly people.

STANDING UP FOR DECENCY

The Northern Baptists have joined the Presbyterians in denouncing the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America for favoring birth control. The Baptists said they would not be bound by the action of the Council.

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her E. Byrne, of Texas, has been chosen to appear in such a degrading spectacle. His pastoral letter Sunday says that no person wearing any badge or insignia that would indicate any connection with the revue to be held there next week should be permitted to enter the churches on June 14.

Beauty contests are of benefit to no one, except the promoters who reap golden harvests from the lascivious curiosity of men and women. Conducted with some degree of decency at the start some years ago, they, like all things of their kind, have grown bolder with age, and more suggestive and indecent. They should be banished by law, just as evil books and pictures are banished.

FIVE LIVES OF ROCKNE

Five lives of Knute Rockne have been published in two more are being written. The lives published are: "Rockne at Lake Louise," by Warren Brown, and "Rockne at Warren Brown," by Warren Brown. The Rev. J. J. Brown, C.S.C., President of the University, wrote an introductory volume, "Knute Rockne," by Warren Brown. The lives are being written by Warren Brown, Warren Brown, and Warren Brown.

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

Some folks think the Germans didn't suffer enough in the World War. The W. C. T. U. is over there now, trying to get the Germans to drink milk instead of beer.

Two nineteen-year-old boys at the University of Kansas were sentenced to six months each in jail last week and fined \$150 each for possessing and transporting liquor. If all the college boys who possess or transport liquor in America were sentenced to jail for six months each, all the jails, court houses, governors' mansions and idle factory buildings in the country wouldn't hold them.

The dark window: "Everywhere one sees the decline of religious conviction, and the waning influence of the Church," George W. Wickersham, chairman of the Hoover Commission on Law Observance and Law Enforcement, told the Syracuse University graduates this week.

The bright window: "The lure of pleasure, the lure of our times, the pull against Christ on the part of literature, the drama, and other activities of human life—all are trying to draw you away from Christ. Yet you are loyal. You still believe that He is the Son of God, the one God," Cardinal Hayes said in an address the other day. And he said to the Marymount College graduates this week: "There is scarcely a day when I am not called upon to dedicate a new Catholic school."

Bishop Cannon of the Methodist Church puts a high value upon himself. Some time ago he sued the Hearst newspapers for \$5,000,000 for painting him as a philandering Romeo. Now he wants \$500,000 from Congressman George H. Tinkham, "representing a wet Roman Catholic district in Massachusetts"—to use the Bishop's suit from his own furnace—because Mr. Tinkham called him "a shameless violator of the Federal Corrupt Practices Act, a criminal statute." We'll bet the Bishop a brown derby. The Tinkham suit will never be tried. Mr. Tinkham happens to be a Protestant elected year after year by his "wet Roman Catholic constituency. The benevolent Bishop, exuding the special brand of charity he has in his soul, wants the world to know that the "wet Roman Catholics" are sickening a Protestant upon him. When he gets the \$500,000—which he should, if his reputation is worth it—he should be amply fortified for another whirl at the stock market, and for a lengthy course of bigoted barking up and down the political rostrums of the South.

The Tennessee House of Representatives has been trying to impeach Governor H. H. Horton of that State. Eight charges were filed against him, one of the most serious being: "That he was guilty of 'great moral delinquency and gross breach of decorum' for permitting a piano to be placed in the Executive Mansion, after disapproving of the item in an appropriations bill.

Which reminds us of John L. Sullivan. When Theodore Roosevelt was President, John L. went to Washington to ask him to set free a young man who had deserted from the Navy and been sent to prison for it. The young man was the son of a poor widow woman, an old neighbor to John L., and the great fighter was anxious to have him pardoned. So he made a wonderful speech in picturing the good qualities of the boy. "Teddy," more in spirit of mischief than any other reason, asked: "But hasn't he any bad qualities?" John L. hung his head in shame. "I'll have to admit," he said, "that he plays the piano." Which seems to apply to the bad qualities of Governor Horton of Tennessee.

Policemen are hard-boiled. They eat nails for breakfast, and breathe fire when you park your car near a hydrant. They go out every night looking for burglars and wild cats, and they love to pull lions by the tail and wrestle with elephants and pianos. The average person has this view of policemen, especially when he makes a left-hand turn parallel with a sign which tells him not to do it. But policemen have another side. Two New York detectives, Cass and Mara, were paid \$2,500 reward for the capture of a notorious young desperado who had shot and killed a policeman in Nassau county, the father of a large family of children. The reward was a lot of money for these men, dependent upon their meager pay for a living. It was a real fortune for them. But they went to the home of the widow of the murdered policeman and gave it all to her—"For yourself and the children, with our compliments." This is typical of policemen. We dare say, there is no class of men in the country who do more real charity for the poor, for the needy, for the unfortunate—unknown charity, with never a thought of getting their pictures in the papers, or of letting their left hand know what their right hand has done. This is real charity, noble and unselfish, and it deserves the highest commendation.

When You Make Your Will

Always, in every Diocese, there are churches and institutions which have heavy financial burdens, and whose work is handicapped by these burdens. When you make your will, the best way in the world to help these needy ones is to insert a paragraph something like this in the will:

"I give and bequeath to the Rt. Rev. John Francis O'Hern, D.D., Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Rochester, N. Y., or his successor or successors in office, the sum of \$_____ to be used at his or their discretion for the work of the institutions of the Diocese."

If you are interested in some particular church, charity or institution a clause like this may be added: "I am interested particularly in _____"

Bequests, large or small, are a great blessing to religion, and it is highly satisfying to read of them in any will. No Catholic will should be without one or more such bequests.