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Friding, June 19, 1981.

STANDING UP FOR DECINCY

The Northern Raptists have joined the Princy torians in denouncing the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America for favoring birth control. The Baptists The Baptists bedies can be be bound by the action bedies can now be bound by the action plined only by large corporations ended that the New the less; just as it is wround character of to withdraw from the individually make formal and commit to the community acquent and im-large what private enterprise and upon and im-large what private enterprise and upon the North-large what private enterprise and convortistion to

The usify can absomption, so too ifor, the North-is an injustice, a grave will and appropriation to disturbance of right order for a 57,500. larger and higher organization to lecency in the arrogate to fissif functions which lecency in the can be performed emblently by ind patrons of analisi she lower bodies. This is actises; if left a fundamental principle of social id soon wreck balloupphy, unshaken and the for marriage truth today. Of his very nature perican youth. the true aim of all social activity drift towards

the true aim of all social activity drift towards about the social body, but several it is encour-ment of the social body, but several it is encour-to desiroy or absorb them. I presbyter-to desiroy or absorb them. I presbyter-business of select the selected. I presbyter-business of select the selected the fed-business of selection of the selected to the fed-business of selectively second the teach-alone can effectively accompliating Ben Lind-these, directing, watching, atimuterica that they lating and restraining, as crown



Grandma's Prayer-Book

The weak, dimmed eyes can read no more The prayers of printed page; The book she loved in far-off youth Is sealed to eyes of age.

So now her wrinkled fin gers clasp The Rosary, preclous, blest, While we who gaze, see love and joy Upon her face impressed,

It is the prayer-boak of iner heart, Which covers every plasse Of Josus' life, of Mary's years, Of joy, of tears, of praise,

From trembling lips the Einy Cross Its loving leis receiven, Then earnest, preyer of Faith shows forth How firmly, she believen,

"Our Father" pleads her every need; "Hall Mary," tribute sweet; The "Gloria" praises "Three in Ono"---The circle is complete.

The Joyful Mysteries, the sad, The Glorious ones in well, Hold fast her trusting, reverent heart Beneath their wondrous spell.

Near Mary's joys the blism of earth Seems dull; its sorrows light Near Mary's weej its fame grows dim Near Mary's glories bright.

Thus Grandras loves her Rosary blest, Her book of deepent tore, And Angels begy on high the prayers She whispors o'er and co'er.

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

other.

----Fidelis.

"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 personali-ty," the Catholic Book Club of New York comments in its monthly "News Letter." The Book Club regrets that in the three volumes already published so little is told of the man himself, except by indirection. The books are replete with anecdotes of Rockne, with analyses of his football methods, his strategy on the field, and about the men he developed. But the intimate life of the man is not revealed, and the Book Club hopes that the two lives to be published will give us momething more about Rockne's life, character and personality.

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. Millions knew and loyed him, and millions will be glad to read several books on his life, his work, his methods, his sorrows and joys. All of these books, we hope, will picture with sym-pathetic touch the noblest part of his noble life—his simple and unfaciling faith in God, and in the ideals and teachings of God. For it was through the spiritual sunshine that he climbed the heights of glory, and when they lifted his poor broken body from the wrecked airplane that carried him to his death they found his blessed beads entwined around his fingers. We can picture him saying, as he fell-"Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for me, now and at the moment of my death."

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. In England they came over at the rate of more than 1,000 a month. And mind yon, these people were not born Catholics-were not educated in Catholic schools. No, they entered the Church-most of them-in adult life, after considering the subject of religion from every angle, and after the thorough course of study required for such a step. Can this be the Church that teaches all those absurd, superstitious, evil and un-American things which have been so widely circulated? No, for such a church does not exist except in the minds of the malign and gullible.-Catholic Information Society of Narberth,

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 'felatively few members, according to a survey conducted by the Institute of Social and Religious, Research, of New York City.

Four of the areas are of comparatively recent settlement. They are the grazing section, the dry-farming section, the high mountain districts of the Far West and various cut-over lands. The two other areas include the old hilly sections of New England, and many counties on longsettled country of the Middle West.

In the four new areas the average membership of the Protestant church was sixty-eight, against 161 in Roman Catholic churches and 870 in Mormon churches. The average Protestant membership for the individual areas ranged from seventy-three for the dry-farming regions to forty-six in Vermont rural territory. Many of the Protestant churches have less than twenty-five members. Some of them cannot afford much fuel, light or music, and they are doomed to die.

"In the old level areas the abandonment of country churches is progressing at an accelerating speed. In Vermont, the proportion of families to churches has declined a third in fifty years," the report says.

The same conditions can be found in the more populous rural sections of the country. The Catholic Church is holding its own and growing gradually in membership, though it suffers no inconsiderable loss from mixed marriages and the grow-ing religious indifference in America. But the Church is alive, vital, energetic and alert. The average non-Catholic Church in a rural community has a hard time of it. financially and spiritually, and the conditions are getting worse instead of better. The future, as this survey shows, is not bright. Nearly every country village has its tragedy of dead or dying churches, and the percentage of churchless Americans increases year by year. Laxity in law has increased with laxity in religion, and the outlook for religious eyes is not a pleasant one.

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 house 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. And many millions know he speaks the truth authoritatively. His encyclicals force admiration, albeit grudgingly at times, from men who think.

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. When dispatches relating to the destruction of Spain were given to him he retired to pray. It remains for all the faithful to indulge in prayer, that from the crisis in Spain there may come a new land with its age old ideals, a land aligned with modern times as far as needs of its people legitimately go, but a land preserving to the utmost, the respect for religion, to the regards for Catholi-cism, which has ever been known as the glory of old Spain .- Catholic Light, Scranton, Pa.

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. Another movie star whom we once lauded as a fine Catholic, later turned out to be a Catholic in name only -- A priest who knows him quite well told us about a year ago that our hero had not been inside a church for ten years. Those safe and sane thinkers who caution us against singing the praises of the Francis X. Bushmans and the Maurice Costellos evidently know whereof they speak. Right here on the home grounds, for instance, there are two or three_Pittsburgh National League baseball players who are rated as Catholics, but who haven't been to church for so long that they have probably forgotten the Hail Mary .--James Costin in The Pittsburgh Catholic. If we judged New York City by the political editorials in up-State papers, we would feel like relegating it to Sodom or Gomorrah, or at least turning it over to the Wickersham Committee. But Fordham University, a great Catholic institution, conferred degrees on nearly eighteen hundred graduates this week, and Columbia University, presided over by that sterling American, Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, conferred degrees upon 4,936 graduates on Tuesday, and gave certifi-cates and diplomas to 749 others, a total of 5,685. These two educational institutions are but two of many, many others, all doing good work in shaping character, building citizenship, and many of them in training students along spiritual as well as temporal lines. New York is a great and wonderful city, not only in size, but in its goodness and good works, and in its splendid schools and colleges for the youth

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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. Practically every college in the land has its bootleggers. The Volstead law has done that for America. But sending boys to jail for having liquor is about the poorest way we know of to enforce the Prohibition law. It is a pity and strendy But some youths have to be tossed into the arena to appease the bloodthirsty cries of the families who think they can enforce Prohibition with guns or jails.

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 Sy racuse University graduates this week.

The bright wiradow: "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 arn not called upon to dedicate a new Catholic school.'

Bishop Cannon of the Methodist Church puts a high value upon hirnself. Some time ago he sued the Hearst newspapers for \$5,000,000 for painting h im 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 soot from his own furnace—because Mr. Tinkham called him "a shameless violator of the Federal Corrupt Practises 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 "wei 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 sicking a Protestant upon him. When he rets his reputation is worth it-he should be amply fortified for another whirl at the stock market, anr for a lengthy course of bigoted barking up and down the political rostrums of the South.

Cleaned and Sl. Ofn, Texas, has Moth-Proof Sl. Ofn, Texas, has Sprayed Channed, Moth Proof Sprayed knickers, sailor and Shampoord Sector Proof Sprartice Sunday. The B. & B. RUG CO. of silliness is AT NIELSON STREET be recalled, re-

aro when he made a public appeal to all women entrants in an international beauty contest, to be held in Galveston, to refuse to appear in such a degrading spectacle. His pastoral letter Sunday says that no person wearing any hadge 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. Pastors outside Galveston were instructed to advise their congregations to remain away from Galveston on that date.

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 de-gree of decency at the start some years ago, they, like all things of their kind, have grown bolder with age, and more sug-

have grown bolder with age, and more sug-gentive and indecent. They should be ban-ished by law, just as evil books and pic-tures are banished. It should not be necessary for any Blabog to nave to tell his people to dress decently and appropriately before going to Church. They are roing, men and women, to appear before God in the tabernacle, and detenny in dress is illuminative of decency in the adul. "The season of all liness" about not extend from the bathing beach in the altar, and a little thought and care to the altar, and a little thought and care in this matter will save much embarrasstor good Catholic girls and women,

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. It is so strong in its Catholicity that some months ago, after many years of expensive proselyting, the Methodists announced that they were winding up their work and withdrawing from France. They were unable to obtain converts in any number in the country. Their work was fruitless, and costly. 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 intelerance 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. There was no pulpit oratory turned loose upon him there, reeking with bigotry and often packed

with lies. 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

The providence of the providen

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 terriffic 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 splendid scho Chinese have perished of actual hunger. of America.

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 ons is to insert a paragraph something like this in the will:

When You Make Your 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 or 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 of small, are a great bleasing to religion, and it is highly eastying to read of them in any will. No Catholic will should be without one

or more such but bests.

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 or decorum" for permitting a piano to be placed in the Executive Mansion, after disapproving of the item in an appropriations

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," ne said, "that he plays the piarso." 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 whien 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, Casa and Mara, were paid \$2,500 reward for the capture of a no-torious young desperado who had shot and killed a policeman in Nassau county, the father of a large family of calldren. 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 murder ed 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 unfor-tunate 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.