

The Catholic Courier and Journal

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Friday, September 18, 1931

FIFTY YEARS A PRIEST

In the Church of St. Peter & Paul, where he had made his first Holy Communion, received the Sacrament of Confirmation, and celebrated his first solemn Mass...

The beloved Bishop of Rochester, the Rt. Rev. John Francis O'Hern, D.D., was in the sanctuary in mitre and cape; the beloved Archbishop of Viminacium, the Most Rev. Thomas F. Hickey, D.D., preached a sermon that was like golden sunshine for the occasion...

Fifty years at the altar of God is a long period of service. Fifty years of devoted loyalty to his Church and his Creator, visiting the sick, comforting the afflicted, baptizing new children of Christ, consoling the dying, burying the dead, hanging sweet spiritual sustenance to troubled souls...

All things reveal themselves unto his ken; His chart is human life, his books are men. And this the secret in all his art: He sees life wholly, others but in part.

And, because he saw life wholly, because he knew the frailties and weaknesses of humanity, because he loved his fellow-beings for love of God—because of these things, he has made a good priest, sincere, devoted, sympathetic and true. His friends everywhere in the Diocese, and beyond it, will unite in good wishes and congratulations to him, and in prayer that God will bless him for many another year with health, strength, and the will to love and serve humanity and God as devotedly in the future as he has in the fifty golden years that have, we hope, woven for him a crown in Heaven.

NAZARETH COLLEGE

Nazareth College, conducted by the Sisters of St. Joseph, assisted by teachers of notable worth, entered upon its eighth year of life on Tuesday this week. This college was founded for the purpose of giving higher education to girls and young women. It was not founded for pecuniary profit, or to propagate some pet fad, or folly in the field of education. It was founded as all Catholic institutions of learning are founded, for the greater honor and glory of God and for the benefit of humanity, temporal and spiritual. Here children of the most and best, the most practical and the most helpful, may be had. Teachers carefully selected, curriculums tested and proven, and a teaching system that is sound and safe are found in this institution.

Though young in years, Nazareth College already has a high rating as the college of the State. Its work has won commendation, and the Educational Council of the State, the State of New York, and the United States Department of Education, have placed it as one of the most important institutions of the State. The reputation of Nazareth College for its high quality of instruction and for its responsibility to the State and its citizens is well known. Its work is being carried on with a vigor and energy that is inspiring and sustaining.

Rosary Beads

My mother's eyes, like Irish skies, Were blue and sweet and clear; Her hair the shade that nature dyes The woods when winter's near. Her fingers, like the lily pale, Lacked strength for mighty deeds, But graces that will still avail Came from her rosary beads. I mind her when the morning light Lay on her features fair; I mind her when the turf fire bright Shone round her old armchair; And while I knelt, with bended brow, She told of Her who pleads, And joined my hands, and taught me how To count my rosary beads. I mind her when, one morning gray, Before the spring had come, She quietly passed from us away— With pain my lips were dumb, The eyes I closed had always seen Her offspring's wants and needs, And fingers cold still held between Her cross and rosary beads. Oft when I kneel a shrine before Though sacred be the place, They come again those scenes of yore, Of life's sweet dawning grace; And when they speak of souls in bliss And saint who intercedes, I think of her and fondly kiss My own brown rosary beads. —S. M., in the "Salesian Bulletin."

Catholic Action

Catholic Action is a general forward movement of the laity, organized under the standard of the cross, advancing under the leadership of the hierarchy, to apply the decalogue, the gospel and the laws and traditions of the Church to every phase of human life. The personal sanctification of the Christian remains "his foremost and most important duty;" to purify, sanctify, enoble and enrich with grace and virtue his individual soul remains the Christian's fundamental concern. (Acta 1928-20): But the Holy Father explicitly emphasizes that "Catholics of every station have, over and above this, the common duty to exercise a true apostolate," to advance the Kingdom of Christ, to foster Christian morality and culture, and to promote the social welfare of the human race.—The Rt. Rev. Joseph F. Rummel, D.D., Bishop of Omaha, Neb.

DO THEY STICK

Notre Dame University, like other Catholic colleges, has a Prefect of Religion who encourages students to receive Holy Communion daily, or weekly, or monthly at least. The statement has been made frequently that students, suffering from a surplus of religion in school, are lucky if they make their Easter duty after they leave school; in other words, are lucky if they stick to religion at all.

The Prefect of Religion at Notre Dame, the Rev. John F. O'Hara, C.S.P., makes an annual religious survey of the alumni of that institution. He answers the above statement with figures that tell an encouraging story. His latest religious survey shows that students who received Holy Communion weekly, but not daily, while at school, now receive Holy Communion as follows:

Three per cent., of them, daily; twenty-six per cent., daily to weekly; forty-eight per cent., weekly to monthly; nineteen per cent., three to ten times per year; four per cent., once or twice a year. One solitary alumnus reported that he does not receive Holy Communion at all.

Students who received Holy Communion monthly, but not weekly, in school, now receive it as follows:

Two per cent., daily; seven per cent., daily to weekly; fifty-one per cent., weekly to monthly; twenty-eight per cent., three to ten times per year; eight per cent., once or twice a year; four per cent., not at all.

In summarizing his findings, Father O'Hara says: "It is impossible to argue with these facts. The a priori judgment that frequent reception of sacraments during the school years builds the foundation for sound spirituality in later life is justified by the replies of this group of Catholic alumni."

The conclusions show, conclusively, that they do stick; that the pious habits of boyhood and school days remain to bless and strengthen them in the trials and tribulations of the world. Frequent Communion brings about a spiritual union of the soul with Christ, and a spiritual union with Christ means peace of mind and heart; goodness, truth and virtue in life, and the blessing of God upon the individual.

CURRENT COMMENT

JEWISH GIFTS TO CHARITY

Jews of the United States contributed \$56,200,870 to Jewish philanthropies here and abroad and to various non-Jewish causes in the fiscal year ended Aug. 31, 1931, according to a survey made public recently by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency for its annual honor roll of American Jewry.

The figures include only individual gifts of \$50,000 or more and the funds raised by national Jewish religious, educational, philanthropic, health and relief organizations.

The sum of \$30,335,000 was raised for specifically Jewish causes, while \$25,865,870 was given for Jewish and non-Jewish causes in individual benefactions, of which \$20,497,120 was contributed to non-Jewish causes.

This is a record of which any group in America may well be proud. But it is no surprise to well-informed folk to hear of this amazing benevolence of our Jewish friends. They are always the most generous donors to charity, and their institutions are among the best conducted in the land.—New York Catholic News.

NOT AN UNMIXED EVIL

That the depression is not an unmixed evil is indicated by the decrease in the divorce rate. Apparently a goodly number of couples who, according to the record, might now be separated have decided to forego divorce along with other luxuries. A year ago, or two, they had decided that they could not possibly go along together any further. Despite the contract which they had made, and despite the claims and interests of the children and society, husband or wife, or both, had determined to end it all in court. But the depression struck home, quite knocking out of their heads the thought of divorce.

We may ponder the fact of this decrease in divorce with profit. We may recall that our lost prosperity, delightful as it was to contemplate, was certainly responsible for a weakening of the nation's moral fibre. An intense pursuit of pleasure was joined with something like a mania for the accumulation of material goods. Such virtues as self-control, thrift and self-reliance were held in contempt. The present was too delightful to permit thought of tomorrow. And it was treason to question the complete goodness of material prosperity.

Nothing is so disillusioning, so depressing as the discovery that one's idol has feet of clay. Our national idol, it would seem, was Prosperity. We were summoned to worship it by the leaders in business and politics, and by the press. Well, we have come to see how much the thing called Prosperity was worth. And we may learn, by comparison, that the depression is not such a terrible evil after all. As a nation we may re-discover the meaning and value of self-control and self-sacrifice.—Providence Visitor.

THE TIME TO PRAY

A splendid time to pray is right now. There is a depression—pray, and pray zealously for better times, and for the return of prosperity to America. Your children are starting a new year in school; you want them to do good work, to behave well, to be safeguarded from bodily and moral harm—pray, and pray zealously that God will watch over them. You have friends, or dear ones at home who are out of work—pray, and pray earnestly that God will give them strength to make sacrifices, to endure suffering, if necessary, and to come unscathed in mind and soul from the fires of misfortune. Pray now, and pray with sincerity, devotion and perseverance.

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

The gentleman with a bad heart was being operated upon without an anaesthetic. "Can you stand it, Mike?" his pastor asked him, sympathetically. "Sure," said Mike, "if you'll only talk to me. I always sleep when you're talking."

"Religion," shouted the Communist, "is an accursed opiate. It puts men's minds to sleep." "Well," said the Irishman who had been listening to his rantings, "I'll give you a better one than that," and he hit him with a brick.

"What causes hurricanes?" Mrs. Mulcahy asked, looking up from her paper. "Well," said her husband, "a hurricane is the big wind from Ireland, running around the world, looking for a way to get back home again."

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 edifying to read of them in any will. No Catholic will should be without one or more such bequests."

Strange are the vicissitudes of Time. Eleven years ago, in Dublin, Ireland, Patrick Hooper, editor of the Freeman's Journal, was sentenced by British court-martial in Dublin Castle to a year in jail for publishing a photograph of the back of an Irish boy flogged by British soldiers in the Port Bello Barracks. London journalists had a high regard for Mr. Hooper, and they made such an uproar over the sentence that he was released within a fortnight. Sunday last he died, a Senator of the Irish Free State, vice-chairman of that body, and lover and respected all over the land. British brutality developed many a hero and many a statesman in Ireland, and left a record of injustice that no self-respecting nation would like to have con-

Admiring Mahatma Gandhi and imitating him are different things. It cost Lewis Cass Ledyard, twenty years old, of Syosset, L. I., fifty dollars to find this out. The young man, inspired by the writings of Mahatma, and influenced by the excessive heat, appeared on the streets the other day dressed a la Gandhi. The style was more appropriate for slumber than for strolling. A vigilant policeman became unduly vigilant at once. The ghostly apparition, hearing the rush of ominous steps in his rear, leaped into a roadster and stepped on the gas. Four miles away an angry cop passed him in a commandeered car, stopped him with the hand of the law, and shifted gears from highway to courtroom. A startled judge took one look at the Gandhi double and assessed the young gentleman fifty dollars.

The widow of "Tay Pay" O'Connor died recently in a hospital in London. A native of Texas, she went to London on a visit when a young woman. She had a letter of introduction to Justin McCarthy, famous author and historian, and she went to the House of Parliament for the purpose of seeing him. Mr. McCarthy was out of the city for the day, and the young lady felt terribly disappointed. A sympathetic policeman said to her: "We have another Irishman here just as good, and he likes Americans." So he introduced her to "Tay Pay" O'Connor, member of the House of Commons. He did like Americans, one of them, at least, for he fell head over heels in love with the handsome young Texan. There was a rapid courtship and marriage, and for forty-four years they lived happily together. "Tay Pay" passed away in November, 1929, and his wife has joined him now in the sweet sleep of death.

In Utica, N. Y., there is a great national fraternal institution, the Masonic Home, which cares for aged and infirm members of the Masonic Order, and wives and children of deceased members. More than six hundred persons live in the Home, approximately one hundred of them children. On Thursday last week the superintendent of this great institution, William J. Wiley, celebrated his silver jubilee as head of the Home. Messages of congratulation came to him from all parts of the United States. And he is worthy of every one of them. Years ago, when a fund was being raised for a badly needed new Catholic orphan asylum, Mr. Wiley rented the largest theater in the city, sold tickets to his fraternal brothers and presented a delightful vaudeville and variety show, with the well-trained children and other residents of the Masonic Home as the actors. He raised nearly five thousand dollars for the Catholic Orphan asylum, St. John's. The head of the asylum at this time was the beloved Sister Cornelia, a member of the noted Cudahy family, meat packers, of Chicago. Years afterwards she told the writer that Mr. Wiley was "the best friend this asylum has, and one of the best we ever had." When the coal shortage came during the World War, the asylum's supply ran terribly low. Frantically Sister Cornelia called Mr. Wiley on the telephone.

"How much coal have you, Sister?" Mr. Wiley asked.

"About enough to last twenty-four hours," she told him.

That afternoon five carloads of coal from the Masonic Home were delivered to St. John's Orphan Asylum, and it was months afterwards before Sister Cornelia got a bill from Mr. Wiley. Time and again he bought carloads of potatoes and other supplies for St. John's Orphan Asylum, when buying for his own institution, getting rock-bottom prices and waiting many months for the pay for them. Time and again he came to the rescue of the asylum in various emergencies. His advice, friendship, influence and good-will were always at the disposal of the asylum, and what was his was theirs whenever they needed it.

Mr. Wiley loves boxing. Years ago the Utica Knights of Columbus staged several good athletic bills every winter in their big auditorium, and Mr. Wiley always had a front seat.

Years ago the Knights of Columbus had a baseball park next to the Masonic Home, and residents of the Home were admitted free to all games. Mr. Wiley kept the grass of the park cut season after season, and did many other neighborly acts for the Knights. Good will, comradeship, neighborly kindness, civic uprightness, love and respect for all classes of people—these are characteristics of this splendid man. He has been a father and friend to everybody who came in contact with him, and his jubilee will bring him a multitude of good wishes from many people in his fraternity and outside of it.