

The Catholic Courier And Journal

Official Paper of the Diocese of Rochester... Published at 117 Andrews St., every Friday by THE CATHOLIC COURIER AND JOURNAL, Inc.

Courier Established 1889 Journal Established 1889... Subscribers to the N. C. W. C. News Service...

SUBSCRIPTION RATES Payable in Advance One Year, one year \$2.50 Foreign, one year 3.00

Mails are closed on the Catholic Courier and Journal... Advertising rates gladly furnished on application.

Editorial Board: 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 office by Tuesday preceding the date of publication.

Friday, October 16, 1931. ARE MEXICANS DEVOUT?

Many Americans are doubtful sometimes of the sincerity of the religion of the Mexican people. It is hard for us to understand how the people of a country so predominantly Catholic permit a handful of atheistic rulers to persecute the Church so grievously.

It was somewhat in this frame of mind that Dr. James J. Walsh, widely known author, writer and lecturer, and member of the Fordham University faculty, went into Mexico recently. He was invited to read a paper before the third Pan-American Medical Congress in Mexico City.

The hotel clerk directed him to the Holy Family Church, where there is a special Mass for English-speaking people in the crypt of the church at nine o'clock every Sunday.

The church was crowded at both Masses. All the seats were taken, and there were many people standing at the sides and back of both the nave and the crossing.

The congregation was beautifully democratic. Beside us there sat a bare-footed Indian, and we saw many more of them coming out of the church. On the other side of us sat a senator with the look of one whose family had come over to America in the early days of the Spanish conquest.

There was no doubt at all about the devotion of the people who were present. It was easy to see that they were there to worship and not for any conventional reason.

There was railing after railing full of communicants at both Masses as well as after Mass. We saw a large number going to confession during Mass. Confessionals in Mexico are not shut in like our own. On the contrary, they are almost as little privacy about confession as the proverbial dog has. Even the confessor's seat is not enclosed in front, though there are a back and sides to the confessional with the usual grille. The women go to confession at the side. Many of the men and boys kneel at the feet of the confessor. One small boy, who if he had knelt down would have required the confessor to lean over rather far, stood up beside the priest and leaned against his shoulder and made his confession that way. There was a touch of fatherliness about it that made confession something quite different from the usual affair in which it is touched. It touched the heart of a Catholic heart. Conventionally, confession is a reverence for the sacrament of forgiveness as the Lord founded it.

Mrs. Diehl told the Council that if the mothers of the world combine they can soon put an end to trashy, suggestive and evil films, and force producers to give cleaner and better entertainment. She is right. The International Council will do a great work, and a needed work, if it will follow up her recommendations in a vigorous and effective way. When you hit the box office, the dirt will fly to the breeze and away. And so before.

The Man With a Smile

The man who fares forth with a smile on his face is sure of a welcome in every throng. His smile is his passport. It gives him a place in hearts that have suffered, in souls that are strong. His smile is his countessign. With it he shows no feeling unkindly inhabits his breast. His smile is the white flag of peace which he knows will win at last what is truest and best.

The man who fares forth with a word on his tongue of kindness, of comfort, of helpful intent—that man will bring sunshine no cloud may eclipse; That man will give gladness with sadness unbent.

And people will watch for his coming and reach the right hand of friendship. For, sick of the strife, We hail the high hope of the comrade whose speech gives strength to our souls in the trenches of life.

The man who fares forth among men with the light of Christ and His Word, in his spirit and face—that man will be looked for in many a dark night. His presence be longed for in many a sad place. Alas, there be those to whom life is a road which burdened with care, they must walk mile by mile. Thank God for the man who can lighten their load! Thank God for the fine friendly man with a smile!

found a handful of people. Then he visited the Episcopal Cathedral, reaching there just as the sermon ended. He counted the congregation—forty-one persons, twelve of them men. Next he visited the Mexican National Church, formerly a Catholic Church, but confiscated by the Government for the purpose of establishing a National Church that would draw all people to its fold. There were so few at the service that Dr. Walsh wondered why one was held at all.

By this time it was noon, and Dr. Walsh visited the Mexican Cathedral, the largest church on the American continent. Here five Masses were being said at the same time, with crowds at each. "There was devotion in their faces," Dr. Walsh writes—simple-hearted devotion, intent on following the tragedy of Calvary as re-enacted in the Mass. He was told that Masses succeed one another in every church in Mexico City on Sundays from six in the morning until noon, and that the last Mass in the great Cathedral begins about one o'clock. On week-days he found good crowds at Mass every morning, much better than in New York city. Daily communicants are numerous.

"The most wonderful element in it all," Dr. Walsh writes, "is the thorough-going democracy of the crowd who come to Mass. Some of them are in rags, and some of them are without shoes, while many dress in a way indicating that they are among the better-to-do classes of Mexico City, but they all feel equal before the Lord and they all worship together. To see the motley group that gathered at the Communion rail was enough to make one feel that here was a brotherhood of hearts under the Fatherhood of God."

It is good to read these things, and good to know them. Dr. Walsh is a dependable writer, a keen observer, true student of human nature. Believing what he writes, all of us will have a finer and better understanding of the sincerity and devoutness of the Mexican people, and a keener sympathy with them in the sufferings and persecutions they are enduring for their Faith. They are, in very truth, our good brothers in Christ, and we should aid them and help them in every possible way. Such Faith as theirs is bound to live, endure and triumph. In God's own good time peace will surely come to this hospitable and kindly land.

WOMEN AND FILMS

At a recent meeting of the International Council of Women in Rome, Italy, serious discussion was given to motion pictures, and to the best means of putting an end to the trash that is being foisted upon the public by many producers. Mrs. Ambrose N. Diehl of New York City, chairman of the standing committee on motion pictures for the National Council of Women in the United States, recommended that these demands be made upon film producers:

"Respect for religion and the home. "Treatment of crime in such fashion as to discourage its imitation. "Accuracy in the portrayal of racial and national customs and cultures. "Presentation of women with true proportionate stress on the great virtues which motivate her life—mother-love, devotion to family, sacrifice for her loved ones, desire to complement and strengthen her mate, forcful contribution to business, civic and social progress—instead of the present false projection of woman solely in the role of sex protagonist."

Mrs. Diehl told the Council that if the mothers of the world combine they can soon put an end to trashy, suggestive and evil films, and force producers to give cleaner and better entertainment. She is right. The International Council will do a great work, and a needed work, if it will follow up her recommendations in a vigorous and effective way. When you hit the box office, the dirt will fly to the breeze and away. And so before.

Catholic Truth Unchangeable

Those who condemn the Catholic Church for not changing her doctrines should condemn the professors of mathematics for not changing the multiplication table. TRUTH IS UNCHANGEABLE.

The multiplication table was formulated centuries ago, and no educated person ever accused it of not being "up-to-date." So the truths of the Catholic Church were formulated centuries ago, but no educated person ever accused them of not being "up-to-date."

THE OLDEST UNIVERSITY IN AMERICA IS THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF ST. MARK, LIMA, PERU, BEGUN IN 1551

OUR DRY CONSTITUTION

Lovers of the dry Constitution of our beloved country should be cheered by the fact that during the eleven years the Eighteenth Amendment has been in force 681,342 persons were arrested, and a multitude of these sent to jail. We see a great future in this wonderful work—the building the idle and keep them off the charity ployment of guards to keep the villains in jail, the employment of spies to watch the guards, the employment of inspectors to watch the spies, and the mobilization of dries to watch the inspectors. In fact, there is a possibility that this may become America's greatest industry. It may even be the cure for depression—the solution of all troubles, with alcohol removed from the solution.

Last year was the first the Department of Justice had charge of Prohibition enforcement. There is disappointment in the fact that only 66,189 persons were arrested during the year for violating the law, but there is joy in the fact that 59,086 of these were convicted. There were 30,108 jail sentences. Figuring two thousand to a jail, this should mean at least fifteen new jails. If this splendid average is kept up, every state in the Union should soon have enough new jails to provide jobs for its unemployed. And if not jobs, why not let the idle and keep them off the charity list? Modern jails have motion pictures, base-ball teams, scientific plumbing, trade school, sympathetic visitors, and in several of them home-brew plants have been discovered. All the comforts of home, in fact, and then some.

Add to this all the fellows who die of disappointment after drinking denatured alcohol, and the number of undertakers, pallbearers, hack drivers and clergymen employed in logical sequence and charitable commiseration, and one gets a sublime idea of the blessing of Prohibition for free America. Let us look at it from a business point of view if we cannot look at it from the spiritual, the ethical or the grape juice point. It has its merits, even if they are in jail.

ATHLETES FOR CHRIST

Blessing a new recreation building at the College of the Sacred Heart, New York City, the other day, his Eminence Patrick Cardinal Hayes said to the young lady students:

"You girls ought to be athletes for Christ, and this gymnasium will help you."

This is a striking expression. Every school boy and girl ought to be athletes for Christ. Ready to enter contests for Him. Ready to run races and take the hurdles for Him. Ready, and glad of the privilege, to be champions for Him. Strong in the Faith, well-trained in essentials of religion, well-schooled in prayer, sacrifice and suffering for Him—athletes of the finest and best. What a beautiful thought for all who are eager to enter great contests in the race of life, in struggles for achievement, in competitive skill for success!

"A well-balanced girl should be physically sound, but most of all she should be spiritually cultured," the Cardinal told the girls at the College. Not athletes who give all thought and effort to development of the body, but athletes who train the body and care well for it because it is the home of the soul. It is well to impress this upon our youth. Hard muscles are little better than a hard head, unless there is an inspiring motive back of them.

Our own beloved Bishop is a great champion of clean sports. Baseball, bowling, football, gymnastics—these he has praised again and again, as helpmates in the building of sound and clean bodies, to

be tenements of sound and clean minds. Athletes for Christ! That's what we all should be—ready to enter every contest for His love, keen and eager to compete for Him and to win for Him, with an immortal prize as the goal!

COMPULSORY EDUCATION

There is food for thought in the statement recently made by the Rev. Francis J. Lane, Catholic chaplain of the Elmira State Reformatory, that compulsory education for boys of fourteen or fifteen years of age is bad. It tends to make truants out of boys, he said, and truancy is the first step towards a life of crime. Father Lane, with hundreds of examples around him of boys gone wrong, contends that it is useless to force a boy to go to school when he is old enough and strong enough to go to work, and wants to go to work. Forcing him into school causes resentment, says Father Lane, and this results in truancy.

"The truant hides from the law in speakeasies and speakeasies furnish a splendid opportunity for a young man to go wrong because there is always someone to show a youth how to make easy money," he pointed out.

Many a father, confronted by this problem, has placed his sons at hard work, and by kindly advice has convinced them that an education is a mighty good thing. Many boys love mechanics rather than books, and it would seem most ill advised to compel them to stick to books.

Father Lane is the friend and confidant of hundreds of boys in the Elmira Reformatory. He should show whereof he speaks, and his words should carry weight with educators.

"I am going to teach a class of boys this year," an eager Slater said to a thirteen-year-old lad just before school opened. "Tell me how I can get them to do good work and make friends of them."

The boy, looking as serious as the Statue of Liberty, said: "Well, Sister, don't scold them too much, and please don't spoil all their good times by giving them too much home work. Gosh sakes, Sister, every boy likes to play and do things."

An education, hammered in, is liable to leave bumps that will disfigure a boy's character. Diplomats are needed at school as well as at the court of St. James.

CURRENT COMMENT

ENFORCING PROHIBITION

A summary of the Prohibition Bureau's first year under the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice shows statistically the results of a vigorous effort to enforce the law. Agents of the bureau arrested 62,902 alleged violators of the Volstead act. They seized 21,373 distilleries and stills. They confiscated 38,158,431 gallons of beer, spirits, wine and mash. They prosecuted 59,805 cases in the courts and succeeded in obtaining convictions in as many as 85.9 per cent of them.

Unfortunately for the unremitting efforts of the bureau, these towering figures do not mean that the Eighteenth Amendment was any more nearly enforced at the close of the fiscal year than at any previous time since its enactment. Year after year the Government has published figures of this sort, without achieving appreciable success in shutting down the sources of illicit liquor. In the eleven years since prohibition became the law of the land, the Government has actually arrested no fewer than 681,342 persons. It has seized 300,913 distilleries and stills. It has confiscated 291,042,414 gallons of beer, spirits, wine and mash. But it has not prevented the country from being flooded

with the inexpensive liquor. As rapidly as one source of supply of an illegal traffic has been closed, a new source has welled up to take its place.

The difficulty lies in the demonstrated fact that local sentiment in many populous communities is opposed to strict enforcement. The Government was able to obtain convictions in 85.9 per cent of the cases which it prosecuted during the last fiscal year. It owes this success, however, to the fact that it obtains convictions primarily by means of "bargain-day" arrangements, which permit violators of the law to escape with nominal penalties. As the present report of the bureau shows, the average fine imposed last year was \$154 and the average jail sentence a few months. The principal pays the fine. One of his agents goes to jail. It is easily enough arranged, and considerably less expensive than the system of high license fees which prevailed in New York and other States before the war.—The New York Times.

AN EMINENT GERMAN

The death of Father Cathrein, S.J., the eminent German scholar, will evoke keen memories in any Catholic who has ever made a study of social problems. In 1890 Father Cathrein's classic on "Socialism" was first printed. If Marx's "Capital" was the Bible of Socialism, then Father Cathrein's "Socialism" was the Bible of Social Reform. Anyone who ever studied it was exceptionally well grounded in the fundamentals of Socialism, because it not only supplied a thorough study of its history and beliefs, but gave a dispassionate expose of its fallacies. Even Liberals and Protestants of Germany conceded it was the one work which no Socialist could successfully answer and the one weapon which saved Germany from going over to Socialism.

Father Cathrein's notable work has been translated into Spanish, French, English, Italian, Polish, Flemish, Bohemian and Hungarian, showing how influential it was. The English edition, translated by Father Victor Gettelmann, S.J., is a magnificent work and is supplemented by Pope Leo's Encyclical on Labor. Many editions of the book have been printed.

The author's "Moral Philosophy" is also well known for its accuracy, clearness and thoroughness.

This scholarly and humble priest's fine work has had a tremendous influence, and to think over forty years ago he was diagnosing the social problems which are so complex and prominent today.—The Brooklyn Tablet.

A NOTABLE CONVENTION

The eleventh annual convention of the National Council of Catholic Men, held in Rochester this week, was a notable convention. It brought distinguished lay and clerical visitors to the city, gave to our Catholic men new ideas and ideals on organization, on action, on accomplishment, and opened new pathways for lay co-operation with the Church. City and Diocese were highly honored by the presence of such visitors as the Most Reverend John T. McNicholas, O.P., S.T.M., Arch-bishop of Cincinnati; the Right Reverend Joseph Schrembs, D.D., Bishop of Cleveland; the Right Reverend Joseph Francis Rummel, D.D., Bishop of Omaha, and many other notable leaders and workers for religion and for God.

All of the sessions were not only most interesting, but were helpful and inspiring. The addresses and discussions were along practical lines, and there was keen interest in everything that was said and done at the convention. Much good is bound to come from this—better unity, better work, better action, and a keener desire to sacrifice and to serve for country and for God. The banquet on Monday evening was one of the largest and best ever held at a national convention of the Council, and everything about it was inspirational.

The Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems, held at the conclusion of the laymen's convention, and connected with it in spirit and in ideals, gave a splendid finish to all of the proceedings. The talks by Drs. John A. Ryan, J. E. Hagerly, Francis J. Haas, R. A. McGowan, our own Judge Philip H. Donnelly and others were exceptionally timely and practical, and the men at the Conference showed their ability to grasp and discuss with intelligence and vision the serious problems of the day.

Conventions of this nature have a broadening influence upon all who are participants or listeners, and to crown it all the delegates and visitors went home inspired by the wonderfully beautiful and appealing motion pictures of the Mass, sponsored and approved by Bishop O'Hern, and made to perfection by the Eastman Kodak Company officials. Nothing like them or equal to them have ever before been thrown upon the screen, and they were an artistic blessing upon all who saw them.

Frederick J. Mix, general chairman of the Convention Committee, and all of his co-workers are to be congratulated upon the success of the convention, its warm hospitality and its excellence in all parts. And special congratulations are due our beloved Right Reverend Bishop, John Francis O'Hern, the Chairman of the convention, for his more than active and generous part in making it the great success it was.

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 \_\_\_\_\_"

Requests, 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.