

The Catholic Courier and Journal

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Friday, October 23, 1931.

REV. FRANCIS A. KELLEY

Gentle sleep, and rest unbroken until Judgment Day, are the lot now of the Rev. Francis A. Kelley, Chaplain of the Twenty-Seventh Division during the World War.

The Twenty-Seventh Division took part in many battles. It suffered many casualties. It endured many hardships. It made many heroic sacrifices.

No wonder his boys loved him. No wonder their mothers at home loved him, and still love him. No wonder he made him the first National Chaplain ever elected by the American Legion.

Shortly after the Twenty-Seventh Division had returned from France the writer had the privilege of hearing Father Kelley address a great mass meeting of citizens. Many of his boys were in that audience.

Wonderful help has been given to the Missions of the Church, Home and Foreign, by the good people of the Diocese of Rochester, chiefly through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Prayer To Madonna of The Poor

Mary, with thy big blue cloak Cover up this tolling folk, Change their leaden thoughts to gold, Quiet them with manifold Magic dreams—the mystery Of most high heavenly poetry, Descending from thy Son and thee.

Let them find a refuge under Thy sweet Mantle from the thunder, From the monsters of the flood, Who hate all beauty and all good; In the lightning from thine eyes Show us the road to Paradise, Open to us the starry skies.

Mother of God and man, whose art Can touch with fire the lowliest heart, The mighty from their seats cast down, But crown the humble with thy crown; Madonna, pray thy Son to give The Bread of Heaven by which we live, From this world's vain shows fugitive! —Wiltred Childs, in Ave Maria.

Thousands filled the church—St. Bernard's in Cohoes, where he was baptized, where he made his first Communion, where he was confirmed, and where he said his first solemn high Mass.

FOR THE MISSIONS

Collections will be taken up in all churches of the Diocese of Rochester on Sunday for the Missions. Last Sunday was Mission Sunday throughout the world.

Missions everywhere in the world have been hard hit by the depression. Many of the best and most generous friends of the Missions have been impoverished by business failures or other causes.

In China terrible floods, gaunt famine, and bloody war have added to the needs of Missions and to the sacrifices and sufferings of the workers. They need our good help.

Within the last decade, says the Catholic Missions magazine, Catholic America has become mission minded. The ceaseless efforts of mission organizations and societies, the many interesting lectures of missionaries returned from their fields, and above all the official recognition on the part of the authorities of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, have had marvelous results.

Wonderful help has been given to the Missions of the Church, Home and Foreign, by the good people of the Diocese of Rochester, chiefly through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, of which the Rev. Leo C. Mooney, with offices in the Columbus Civic Center, is the Diocesan Director.

BISHOP CANNON

A Federal grand jury in the District of Columbia has indicted Bishop James Cannon, Jr., of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, on charges of conspiracy to violate willfully the Federal Corrupt Practices Act.

In Mission Lands

More than 1,525 Orphanages, providing homes, care, sustenance and education for some 82,000 children, are being maintained in various parts of the world in Mission lands by devoted sisters of the various Religious Orders.

This is merely a plot to discredit me, a prosecution by a Roman Catholic District Attorney, acting under orders of his priest. I am not surprised at anything the Roman Catholic District Attorney in Washington does.

We are not concerned at this time about the innocence or guilt of the Bishop. That is for a jury of his peers to decide. But when he says he has been indicted by a Catholic District Attorney, acting under orders of his priest, he is an unmitigated scoundrel.

The Roman Catholic District Attorney of the District of Columbia did not present the Cannon case to the Grand Jury. He turned it over to his first assistant, a Protestant. Why? Because he knew the caliber and character of the man with whom he had to deal.

We doubt if any priest ever mentioned the Cannon case to the District Attorney. But if any priest did speak about it, he would say something like this to Leo A. Rover, District Attorney: "Leo, be very careful in this case. Watch your step. Be absolutely fair."

That's how a priest would have talked to Leo Rover, if he talked to him about the Cannon case at all. For there is not and never has been a Roman Catholic conspiracy against this old scoundrel. There is not and never has been a desire on the part of our people to persecute him.

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

CURRENT COMMENT

CATHOLIC ACTION—A BEGINNING

The response to papal encyclicals is generally slow. At the time of their issue, a flare of publicity illumines the world. And then, slowly, very slowly, does the teaching permeate the body of the faithful.

The trends and the philosophy of Catholic action are well described in the diocesan papers of the United States. These papers are trying to set forth the ideas of Pope Pius XI and the more or less apt application of them in the news they carry.

A beginning of an understanding of Catholic Action may be had then through the diocesan press, and perhaps the best beginning in Catholic Action should be made by persuading fellow Catholics to take the first step in participating in and co-operating with the work of the apostolic hierarchy by reading the official organs which they desire to have read.—The Monitor, San Francisco.

JEWISH INFLUENCE

"This Store will be Closed Saturday because of Religious Holiday." Such a notice by a number of merchants of the Jewish faith was published in the Louisville daily press, Saturday was Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year.

There are some ten thousand Jews in Louisville, some eighty to one hundred thousand Catholics; but Jews as a body exert more influence in some ways than do Catholics as such. Why? Some say Jews "stick together in business" but that is not nearly as true as some imagine; even if it were wholly true it would not account for the merchants of twelve or fifteen thousand in a city of three hundred twenty thousand closing their stores to observe their particular Holiday.

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

The worst that could happen to Al Capone—and we tremble at the thought—is the prospect of having a certain Bishop as his roommate, if the two should become guests of the Government.

We are the first nation in the history of the world to go to the poorhouse in an automobile, Will Rogers says. Well, you can get there a lot quicker with a car, and speed is important when you are hungry.

Potatoes have dropped to fifteen cents a bushel in Michigan, Father Coughlin tells us over the radio. We know some excellent pastors whose collections have dropped worse than that.

THOMAS A. EDISON

A great man died when Thomas Alva Edison closed his eyes in his last earthly sleep at dawn on Sunday morning. He began life as a poor boy. He died with name and fame greater than kings or presidents; died, known and beloved the world over, and mourned as a friend of humanity.

Thomas A. Edison invented the incandescent electric lamp, the motion picture camera, the phonograph, and has to his credit more than eleven hundred inventions relating chiefly to electricity and its uses. No complete list of his patents has ever been published, so numerous are they. But all of them are useful, helpful to the world and beneficial to humanity. He was called the "Electric Wizard." In every truth he was that. Whenever we use electricity for any purpose we are using Edison's genius.

Pope Pius XI had great admiration for him, and sincere interest in his work. During his illness the Holy Father cabled twice, inquiring for his health and expressing sympathy to his family. This same feeling was reciprocated throughout the world among the leaders of all nations. To them Edison was supreme, a type, an ideal, a colossus. He represented progress, advancement, achievement, even magic and mystery. There were times in his life when he was sharply criticized for his views on religion. But we are assured by those who knew and loved him best that he was never an atheist. He never sought to ridicule or belittle religion as some pseudo-scientists have done. Rather, he had respect for religion, and for its good influence upon mankind. Like many another American boy, undoubtedly, he knew not God in his childhood, and walked life's long pathway with puzzled soul groping for light, for understanding. "He was perplexed by his inability to find proof of immortality," his personal physician and long-time friend tells us.

It can be truly said that Edison transformed the world, the manner of living of the people, business methods, business helps, and that he added immeasurably to the comforts and conveniences of homes, shops and all other places. He gave us quick and glorious light, and brought that great business mystery, electricity, into easy and practical use for all the world. His inventions provided work and industries for many thousands of people, and from the day of his first invention to his death he was anxious to produce things that would be helpful and beneficial to the human race. In this sense he was a great benefactor. His kindly soul, his fertile brain, his great accomplishments, his untiring energy, and the combined practicality of his life's work—these brought him near and dear to humanity. His loss will be felt. His memory will be treasured. His work will remain as a blessing for long years to come.

CHRIST THE KING

Sunday is the feast of Christ the King. Pope Pius XI established this feast, which falls always on the last Sunday of October, that the world might not forget its one real King, its one true and faithful King—the King who loves all His subjects and rewards their loyalty.

There would have been no World War, no world depression, no widespread suffering, sorrow and hunger, if the world had been faithful and true to Christ the King and His teachings. Lure of pleasure, lure of leisure, lure of sin and frivolity, disinclination to make sacrifices for God and for the things of God, greed, selfishness—these and other things have brought miseries untold upon the world. In our land we see rapid disintegration of religious beliefs, we see churches scrambling wildly for social life, for welfare works, for politics, for anything that will tend to give them a semblance of unity and hope, but getting farther and further away from God and from the spirit of His teachings. We see atheistic professors sneering at the name of God in college and high school class rooms, and tolerating religion with a questioning shrug of the shoulder. We see a nation-wide saturnalia of crime, so that long ago we became the leading nation of the world in the great art of murder.

These, and other things, exist because our people have forgotten their only King Christ, our Saviour and our Redeemer. This feast is to remind us of Him, lest we, too, may forget; to warm our love for Him, lest our hearts grow cold; to give us an opportunity to bring our tributes of service and faith to His feet, and pledge anew to Him our fealty and our future. Let us, then, kneel reverently at His feet when at Mass Sunday morning, lift our hearts and souls to Him in petitioning prayer, and ask Him to bless us, our families, our beloved country and our Church. Our Nation and its people need Him now, and He will not fail us if we ask Him for our daily bread, and to deliver us from the evils that surround us.

Maude Adams is coming back on the stage, we are told. A lovable and delightful actress, with the soul of a real artist, and starring only in plays that are clean and wholesome. It is thirteen years since she retired, and she left a void that has never been filled.