General Business News

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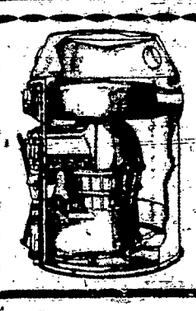

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St. Patrick's Cathedral Radio Hour

(Continued from Page Two)

fested by the Son of God toward the souls of men? Who is so cold-hearted to spurn the love of the Saviour when now in this mystic sacrifice of the Altar He begs only a little return of the great love He has shown for men? Who can afford, whether good or bad, to reject the only means which will propitiate Him in time or eternity for sin? Risky indeed is the attitude of the human race for the most part which thinks that it can stand alone upon the weakness of human nature. Human nature will never rectify the injustice of original sin, nor its consequence; human nature can never satisfy the debt due the offended Majesty of God for its personal rebellion. There is only one gesture of safety which must be adopted by all, and that is to throw self upon the mercy of God and beg Him to strengthen the weak, so confirm the strong and synchronize the human heart with the divine heart of God in the holy sacrifice of the Mass, where love is eager to meet love and produce an unified spiritual harmony.

This Infinite Remedy.

Oh! my dear friends, would that you might see this infinite remedy which is in your midst and think it not as many, a panacea but rather a specific treatment which will cure the modern apathy of souls. Surely the creatures of earth need more to day this spiritual pique than at any other time in the history of mankind. Can one with mediocre talent and keen observation reflect upon these sane thoughts and deny the need of individual and collective reparation? Oh! I know that the heart of man is not essentially evil, that it longs to be freed from the present bondage of sorrow and distress; but it seeks not a moral corrective, but every other kind of a will-o-the-wisp suggestive which will rescue it from destruction about as much as a single straw will rescue a drowning man.

The modern heart recognizes its deficiency spiritually. It senses a consciousness of sin. It desires redemption. But it is unable to extricate itself from the vortex of materialism simply and solely because it has invited a curse due to its obstinate and perversive rejection of the very means which Jesus Christ, the Son of God, proposed as the unique spiritual medicament.

God will make the heart of man love Him, through Jesus Christ. Our Lord, if it becomes necessary to degrade man to the level of an animal. And surely He knows that man's tendency this hour is to that plane. It grieved Him exceedingly to see His image reduced in the ancient dispensation to the point of where, like an animal, man walked on all fours and ate the grass of the field. But a few examples of this type soon sent the sense of man from animal proclivities to a recognition of the lofty dignity which was the desire of the Almighty. Back to the altar of sacrifice he went, and there in humble reparation and petition he begged God to spare. And unless the children of this generation awaken to a regenerated spiritual sense of duty to God and man, there will be loosed from the antipodes a horde of barbarians far more ferocious than any which are recorded in the annals of history.

It is high time that the desecration of the image of God in man, the soul, is rescued from the threatening packs and their rancid philosophy. Too long have the Christian nations of the earth slept and reposed, whilst the anti-Christs of religion have had their sway. And unless one reads incorrectly the signs of the times, if they who occupy the seats of the mighty issue not their flats for a spiritual regeneration along the intended lines established by the Son of God, there awaits mankind a destruction the equal of which has not, nor ever will be, seen again.

Christ was rejected once by thousands on Calvary's heights when He instituted the bloody sacrifice of the New Law. God permitted His Son to be degraded once out of love for man. But He will not allow Him to be subjected to the insults of ungrateful hearts anew without demanding a toll which will be paid not by vicarious sacrifice, but in the actual blood of the nefarious victims themselves.

But why tempt God? Why evoke His anger? There is no need if we will pacify Him in His sacrifice of love, disarm His justice and beg His favor and mercy. Too long have we not known Him as He is in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. Too long has our ingratitude been like a scorching wind which dries up the fountain of divine mercy, the stream of grace, the dew of Heaven.

May we set up a truce with God. May starvation or inundation be stricken from the terms. May the God of sacrifice, who seeks only peace from the creatures, whom He made, obtain His objective in the peaceful way which He asks. And as of old, when blood cried to heaven for vengeance, and vengeance could have been sent, it was staved off by the sacrifice of man in recognition of the Omnipotence of God. May God say to us: "Look upon the rainbow, and bless Him that formed it; it is very beautiful in its brightness. It encompasseth the heaven about with the circle of the glory; the hands of the Most High have displayed it." Clouds of life may appear in the offing, but my bow of peace, the sacrifice of the Mass, shall dissipate them and God shall remember through the offering of His only loved Son every living soul of flesh which is on earth.

Oh! how quickly time rolls by
Scarce begun—ere dismissals nigh,
But what care I for time or men
If God alone is brought to ken.
A pleasure indeed it is to send
God's love bequeathed to men.
How you ask! On altar shrine
Neath Eucharistic species divine.
Ah! if you've a heart of gold
Or forsooth one that's cold,
In either case may I opine
That you'll react to love divine.
Then when life's hour is almost o'er
And dimly appear eternal shores,
May the Eucharistic God gently guide
The soul He loved unto His side.
Amen.

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CATHOLIC LEAKAGE

By the Rev. George Vogt, Rochester, N. Y.
(From The Commonweal, New York City)

To the Editor: May I have my little say on the question of the leakage? And may I also pay The Commonweal the same delicate compliment paid by "Sacerdos Senex" by saying that I first read about Dr. O'Brien's paper in your magazine?

By reason of clerical appointments and preference my work in the priesthood has been chiefly with the education of the young. In classroom and recreation I have attempted to impregnate their lives with the faith of Holy Mother Church. I flatter myself that I know something about children, and that my interest in them is returned by their confidence and trust in me. It is especially at recreation that they make me their confidant, tell me their troubles and incidentally reveal the effects of religious training upon their hearts and minds. And this brings me to what I consider one of the sources of the leakage from the Church. It is the teaching of religion by means of the catechism method.

I am not arguing from theory but from actual concrete results. This conviction has been the result of years of observation and contact: the catechism method of teaching religion is a tragic failure. You may justify the use of the catechism by qualifying your methods; but the ordinary result of using the catechism is the road of least resistance—just make the children learn the answers by heart. Let that suffice. If you notice your young men and women wavering in their faith and perhaps falling away, repeat the old adage that "what is good enough for me is good enough for them." Many salve their consciences by saying that they are all good boys and girls and that all say their prayers. No doubt they say their prayers, but will they continue to say them when they come up against the world, with its deadening atmosphere of paganism and unbelief? And how inadequate are the questions and answers of a catechism to a modern flesh-and-blood boy or girl! In the ages of faith, when the culture of the world was Christian, and belief the ordinary possession of men, the object of a religious education was to arm the children against heresy and false interpretation of religion; in those days a catechism may have sufficed. Today the world no longer argues over shades of meanings. It denies the substance. The million of our time is unbelief. If faith is to survive, it must be planted like the mustard seed in tiny hearts; it must be nourished until it becomes a mighty tree and can stand naked the storms which certainly will assail it.

How Children Learn

The catechism is an appeal directed at the intellect. The child's growth is not by way of his intellect; he does not reason and analyze until he has reached the secondary schools. The child's faith is a combination of imagination, heart, will and activity. What is over and above these four faculties, he casts overboard. Besides, the child lives only for the day. He takes his childish food for heart and mind as it is presented to him; he does not remember intellectual appeals or formulae; only the imagination remembers broad, sweeping outlines. To feed him on catechism answers, difficult theological formulae, which often the priest himself cannot fully understand or explain, and to expect that this is going to feed the plant of faith in his heart, and nourish the heart and imagination, and make him love his religion, is just ignorance and stupidity. Do we feed the child on theorems of geometry and ask him to retain them for future use? Do we give the tender babe strong meat and ask nature to retain it for him until such a time as he can digest it? Nature answers that query in a very emphatic way. And as Nature settles these questions for the body, it also answers them for the soul. If we do not give the child proper food, properly vitalized with imagination, nature just rejects it as fast as you present it. The mustard seeds lie on top of the soil and cannot get a start. The day comes when the lad reaches maturity and faces life. The little growth, artificial in nature and possessing no roots to support the branches in the storms of temptation which modern life is sure to present, withers up and dies. And there are few who seem to understand why.

It Is Tragedy

"From their fruits you shall know them." From my contact with the children of today, I know the practical result of the system of teaching religion by catechism. It is tragedy; tragedy in method and often tragedy in result. In every branch of learning we are careful to appeal to the child as a child. When it comes to religion, the most important subject of them all, we go to the opposite extreme and teach them as though they were theologians. The catechism is an outline of theology; it is the intellectual framework of faith. But essential as theology is, theology is not religion, any more than the bones of the human skeleton, essential as they are to man, are the man. A child learns to love his mother who is flesh and blood, life and love. But it would be an odd child who loved a skeleton and stretched out its arms toward it in fond welcome. We are asking our children to love a skeleton, the catechism. Many have answered by rejecting it and what it attempted to implant, the Faith. Are we going to persevere in this stupid system? Let us aim at teaching religion, rather than the catechism.

Commandery and Auxiliary to Hold Valentine Party

St. Boniface Commandery, No. 11, and Ladies Auxiliary, No. 47, will hold a costume Valentine party Monday evening, February 8th, at St. Boniface Hall, Whalin Street. Cards and prizes will be provided for those not wishing to take part in the dance program. Admission tickets at 25c each may be obtained from all members.

The committee in charge of the party is as follows: Jacob J. Hall, chairman; Mrs. Martin Wahl, vice chairman; Mrs. Eugene J. Grivet, secretary.

Refreshments will be served.

Edward Murphy, Ex-Senator's Son, Is Dead in Troy

Troy, Jan. 22—Edward Murphy, 61 years old, son of the late U. S. Senator Murphy of this city, died on Wednesday last week from the effects of injuries received several weeks ago in an automobile accident while on his way to Saratoga Springs, to attend the funeral of a friend. Mr. Murphy was a corporation lawyer of note, and was active in politics. He is survived by his wife, and by one daughter, Mrs. William Ziegler of New York City.

Radio for Northwest Missions

Winnipeg, Jan. 22.—Radio Station CKY has organized a weekly broadcasting service by which urgent messages and important news are transmitted free of charge to missionaries of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate scattered throughout the Great Northwest Territory of Canada. The service assures the missionaries of connection with their Ordinaries.

Musa Caravan Will Celebrate Its Anniversary

Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the establishment of Musa Caravan, Order of the Alhambra, the local Caravan will hold an "Open House" meeting on Thursday evening, January 28th and the annual dinner dance of the Caravan on Monday evening, February 8th, both events to take place at Hotel Rochester.

For the meeting, Grand Commander Daniel J. O'Mara has asked Dom C. Manning, first grand commander of Musa Caravan in charge of bringing the original officers and members to the meeting. A special program of entertainment will be provided.

The original officers were: Grand Commander Manning; Vice-Grand Commander Joseph P. Mahoney; Grand Chamberlain Angelo Newman (deceased); Scribe of the Exchequer Dr. Walter B. O'Neill; Grand Scribe Louis J. Molesworth; Historiographer Dr. Philip Conboy (deceased); Master of the Oasis George Magee; Master of the Wanderers John J. Haggerty; Captain of the Bodyguard Oswald B. Hughes; Seneschal of the Tower, Nicholas J. Kuhn; and Sentinel of the Desert, Edward J. Hanlon.

The dinner dance which will also be a part of the anniversary celebration will be in charge of Master of the Oasis Daniel E. Sheehan. He will be assisted by George J. Lowe, Oliver C. Finch, Norman O'Brien and James Ryan. Special novelties will be introduced in keeping with this period of the occasion. Max Smith and his orchestra will furnish music.

Tickets for the dinner dance may be obtained from Oliver C. Finch at 515 Clinton Ave. North.

Father Delattre Dies

Tunis, Tunisia, Jan. 22.—Father Delattre, internationally known French archaeologist and archpriest of the Cathedral at Carthage, died on January 13 at the age of 71.

He directed extensive archaeological researches at Carthage and founded the Lavigerie Museum there. In 1915 Mrs. William Moore of Massachusetts contributed substantially to finance his excavation work.

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