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"I would make any sacrifice, even to the parting of my ring, pectoral cross and soutane, in order to support a Catholic newspaper." - Pope Pius X

"With prudent counsel from men of good judgment and of experience in business affairs, and with the approval of the Diocesan Board of Consultors, we have constituted The Catholic Courier & Journal as the official Catholic newspaper for the Diocese of Rochester. We ask God's blessing on the undertaking, that it may serve to bring to our people timely information on religious topics, instruction in the doctrines of the Catholic Faith, messages of an official nature from the authorities of the Diocese, and we would urge all to be numbered among its subscribers."

MOST REV. JOHN FRANCIS O'HERN, D.D. Bishop of Rochester. March 15, 1929.

THE HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

Many hundreds of people saw and inspected the new Holy Family School, opened to the public for the first time last Sunday. They were amazed at its size, surprised at its completeness, delighted with its equipment, and inspired by all that it possesses and offers for the benefit of the more than eight hundred children who will be educated within its walls.

The erection of this school is no small undertaking. The maintenance and operation of it will be no small undertaking. The initial monetary cost is tremendous. The continual monetary cost will likewise be tremendous. For many years the beloved pastor of Holy Family Church, the Reverend Joseph E. Gefell, has been gathering a fund for this school. He has been studying and planning for the school. He has been visualizing the completed building in his mind. It has been part of his life, his work, his ideals. Few people will ever realize what thought, what care, what planning, what sacrifices, what love and solicitude are embodied within the walls of this school.

And what is the purpose of all this? Not parish pride, not material ambition, not anything that is connected entirely with the evanescent things of life or time. The purpose back of all this may be expressed in one word—religion. The spirit of the Church is back of this school, and the spirit of God. The desire to give all the children of the Holy Family parish an education that will make them not only better men and women, better citizens and better Americans, but better children of God, is back of this school. For Father Gefell, in hearty harmony with the spirit of the Church, knows that no education is complete that leaves out God. An education without God is like a body without a soul.

Hence this magnificent school has been erected, not only for the cause of sound Christian education, but for the betterment and advancement of religion. Here service of humanity, truth, justice, righteousness, morality and religion. The immortal souls of the children attending this school will be safeguarded, not marred or scarred. The building itself, and all that it represents, is a monument to the generosity of the people of the Holy Family parish, as well as to the zeal and capability of the pastor of that parish. It has been erected at no expense to the city, and it will save the city and the taxpayers many thousands of dollars each year. But most of all, and best of all, it will be a safe and sound Christian school for the education of children whose feet will be trained to walk in the pathways of God.

Father Gefell and his people will be congratulated, deeply and sincerely, on the splendid school they have erected, and the hopes and prayers of many people will encompass that school like roses from the flower gardens of God. May it always be what Father Gefell has determined it shall be—one of the best and most fruitful in the cause of Catholic education in the land.

A RECORD OF SERVICE

Fifty-six years as a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph is a brief statement of the record of Sister M. Bernadette Busby whose funeral took place Friday. Over

half a century, it means, however, that this devoted nun gave of her knowledge, strength and energy to the care and education of children in the parochial schools in Canandaigua, Auburn, Brockport and Rochester. For the last fourteen years the parochial school children of Holy Rosary School in Lexington Avenue received the benefit of her guidance and interest in their futures, spiritual and temporal.

Across the pages of the newspapers of the day, there is no great spread of eulogy. Across the characters of the boys and girls who sat at St. M. Bernadette's feet in the classroom, however, there is a "front-page story" of achievement. Her memory will long linger in the minds of those throughout the diocese, many now to manhood and womanhood grown, upon whom this good Sister lavished her attentions without recompense of a temporal nature. May her soul rest in peace, and her reward be great in Heaven.

Catholic laymen sacrificing comfort and sleep to keep vigil before the Blessed Sacrament are accomplishing much of a spiritual nature for themselves and are setting an excellent example for others.

THIRTY YEARS A PASTOR

Thirty years ago, young in years and in experience, the Reverend Thomas F. Connors took charge of the newly organized parish of the Blessed Sacrament in the southeastern section of the city. It was his first parish. The territory was sparsely settled. Residences were few and far apart. The parish looked like a little country village, isolated and conservative. Many families told the new pastor they would contribute something towards the new church, but would continue to attend other churches of which they had long been faithful attendants. Others told him they saw no need of a church or school in that section of the city. The enthusiasm for the new parish was largely centered in the heart of the new pastor. But he was not discouraged. He had youth. He had courage. He had faith. And he had the unflinching soul of a true priest. So he went ahead with his work, prayerfully and with perseverance and sound common sense.

Last week the thirtieth anniversary of this parish was celebrated. Father Connors, its founder, is still its pastor. But the picture is different now. Thirty years of hard labor; thirty years of unceasing effort; thirty years of sacrifice and of service, always loyal; thirty years writing with patient hand the story of Faith unflinching and of fidelity unbroken—and now we have one of the largest and finest parishes in the Diocese of Rochester. A beautiful church, the second in thirty years, spacious, attractive, and an ideal house of prayer; a splendid modern parochial school, the second in thirty years, large, well-lighted, complete in every detail, and with several hundred happy children in attendance; a fine rectory for the priests, an excellent convent for the Sisters, an appreciated parking station, and ample ground for future developments—these tell better than words what Father Connors and his people have accomplished in thirty years. Some dozen pieces of property were purchased in all, at an approximate cost of \$125,000, and the buildings cost close to a half-million dollars.

But this is only the temporal part of the story. The spiritual part is finer and better—many sons of the parish ordained to the priesthood; many daughters of the parish members of various Sisterhoods of the Church; many youths of the parish students in seminaries, preparing for the priesthood; church societies large in membership, active and energetic; and a splendid congregation of loyal, devoted and deeply religious people.

This, in brief, is the story of the work of the Reverend Thomas F. Connors, thirty years pastor of the Blessed Sacrament parish. Many congratulations came to him on his anniversary. Many prayers were said for him. Many good wishes, like blossoming flowers, brought the fragrance of fine friendship to his soul. But best of all to him must have been that thought and feeling that he did God's work faithfully and well, humbly and devotedly, during the thirty years of his pastorate in the Blessed Sacrament parish. All who know him will wish him God's best blessing, and many more years of fruitful and inspiring labor in the vineyard where he took up his pastoral work thirty happy years ago.

Catholic organizations will be greatly benefited in the work they are doing, if they will keep the "Catholic Courier and Journal" informed of their coming activities.

CONVERTS IN CHINA

China is overrun with bandits. China is overwhelmed by famine, and China is torn apart by internecine warfare. Reds and Communists, sworn enemies of Christians, are everywhere. By fire and sword have they shown their hatred of things religious. Daily and weekly the missionaries have to flee for their lives, and many a one of them has given his blood for the cause and won a martyr's crown.

Yet missionaries are not deserting their posts. Statistics just issued by the Apostolic Delegation in Peking show that in the past two years there have been 48,947 adult converts baptized in China, besides many thousands of children. There were tens of thousands other baptisms administered to converts dying of famine, and many millions of Holy Communions were distributed to the faithful in China.

God Bless You

God bless you! Words are empty things— We speak and think not of our sayings— But in this phrase forever rings The higher tenderness of praying. It means so much - it means that I Would have no tears or frets distress you, Nor have your heart timid to a sigh. God bless you!

This trifling of blessed words Holds all my wishes, oldest, newest. The fairest deeds that can be wrought. The holiest greeting, and the truest: "Ti, more than wishing joy and well!" That kindly fortune may crown you, That you may have success and health. God bless you!

God bless you! Why, it means so much, I almost whisper as I say it. I dream that unseen fingers touch My hands in answer as I pray it. May all it means to all mankind In all its wondrousness possess you. Through sun and cloud and calm and wind. God bless you!

Ecclesiastical divisions have increased during the two years from ninety-seven to one hundred and seven, and fourteen new territories have been erected under the jurisdiction of native Chinese bishops. Every new mission is founding its own seminary, and applicants for the priesthood are being recruited everywhere. Students in preparatory seminaries have increased from 1,463 to 1,547; in the minor seminaries, from 2,715 to 3,118, and in the major seminaries, from 291 to 1,021. Catholics last year numbered 2,190,892 in China. This year they number 2,530,843.

Thus, in spite of famine, fire and sword; in spite of the Reds and the Communists, the work of the Church forges ahead. The Marines of the Church—the Missionaries—are in the front ranks. Men and women, priests, brothers and sisters, facing dangers of every kind, are continuing their work, having faith in God while they are working for God. We in America, where religion is unhampered and splendid harmony exists among all people, have little understanding of what it costs to carry the Cross into China. It would be well if we gave more thought to this work, more encouragement, more prayers and material help. For the Chinese, in spite of the distorted opinions many Americans have of them, are a noble and splendid people, cultured, home-loving, kindly and sincere. They are well worthy of our interest, and there are many millions of immortal souls there hungering for the Faith that is all too slowly reaching them.

Notices of societies, appearing in the official Catholic paper, bring to the attention of the Catholic people of the diocese the wide variety of activities being engaged in by our laymen and laywomen.

MEET ADVERSITY WITH FAITH

Faith in Divine Providence is needed during the period of world-wide economic depression through which we are passing, the Administrative Committee of the National Catholic Welfare Conference emphasized in a statement made last week. This committee, headed by Most Rev. Edward J. Hanna, D. D., archbishop of San Francisco, emphasizes the value of prayer in the statement which follows: "The long-continued crisis through which we are passing should make all the more evident the need of the supernatural. Only the man of faith can recognize the hand of God upon the world. The man without faith, helpless and bewildered, has no explanation.

While making every effort of which we are capable to restore confidence and to set in motion the wheels of industry on the basis of Christian justice, there is need of a universal chorus of humble supplication that will ascend to the throne of God. Man must humble himself before his Creator; he must acknowledge the Divine sovereignty and human dependence. If we could succeed in uniting all groups in prayer, if the nations would recognize the need of prayer, and would earnestly implore God's mercy and God's help, the world-crisis, by a magic touch, would end.

There is another great duty incumbent upon all of us. It is to pray that God will enlighten all exercising civil authority, of whatever rank or condition, from the lowest to the highest, to do what is best, according to Divine Wisdom, for our country."

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

The double crossing of Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh, when he paid \$50,000 ransom for his kidnapped son, is a splendid example of the kind of honor that exists among thieves.

The baseball season is open. Babe Ruth knocked out two home runs, and the boy next door broke three windows, all on the same day.

Governor Harry F. Byrd of Virginia announces that he is in favor of a popular referendum on the Eighteenth Amendment. Now the Cannons will be turned on him!

The British used to have DeValera on the run. Now he has them on the frying pan.

CURRENT COMMENT

CHAIN PRAYERS

Business is booming—in chain prayers. Unfortunately it is neither love for God nor faith in His Providence which has built the circulation of these anonymous things. It is brought about by the threat of "bad luck" to the one who breaks the chain and the promise of "good luck" to those who fulfill the ever present requirement of extending the chain,—of sending copies to others.

Catholics who are well informed about their religion know what to do with these chains. They break them. They neither say the prayers nor send them to others. They know that such compositions with their threats and promises do not ring true; that they do not fit in with the image engraven in their hearts—the picture of the Good Shepherd—or perhaps it is that of their crucified Redeemer, praying for them—amid the torments of the Cross. They know that God loves them and that He seeks their love, not service fear.

Catholics know that compliance with the terms of a chain prayer is a superstitious practice which indicates a lack of confidence in the Goodness of God as are all other similar practices such as consulting fortune tellers, seeking communication with the dead through mediums, using the ouija boards, or even giving thought to the evil effects to follow from the breaking of a mirror or the chance wandering of a black cat.—The Evangelist (Albany).

MIXED MARRIAGES

Many of those who are looking for trouble in the "Mixed Marriage" decree recently issued at Rome, are not careful to distinguish between dispensation and the marriage which follows. Some of them seem to have never heard that there are impediments which render the marriage contract null, and others which make the contract illegal, but not invalid. The impediment of marriage between a baptized non-Catholic and a Catholic does not nullify the contract. The impediment between a Catholic and an unbaptized person renders the marriage invalid. That impediment must be removed before it is possible to contract a real marriage. In the one case the ceremony is illegal; in the other it is invalid, that is, it has no force at all. There may be other laws which render a marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic invalid, but there is a question here of dispensations from the impediments of "mixed religion."—The Catholic Transcript.

LEARN TO FORGET

A good memory is a blessing, but if it is too good, it is not a blessing. There are things we ought to remember, and other things that it is our duty to forget.

Train your mind to forget all cross words, all gossip, and slander, all unkind looks, and the invitation you did not get. Forget the seeming carelessness of those who love you; they are sometimes too busy or too troubled to do all you desire.

Forget unpleasant things: By carrying them in your mind, you make it a chamber of horrors. Do not allow the wreckage of a month or a year to fill your mind with mental junk.

Train your memory for good things only, and train your forgettosity for things which do you harm. Bad memories hurt us. Memories of good things build us up.—Catholic Sentinel, Portland, Oregon.

EDUCATING YOUTH

The indignation voiced by Magistrate Ford at the putrid flood of filthy magazines will be shared by all good citizens. This is the day of the panderer and New York is his playground. We spend millions trying to educate youth, and then permit the disseminators of literary vileness to undo a great part of what has been accomplished.

Magistrate Ford has referred the case to the Court of Special Sessions. We sincerely hope that the prosecution of this matter will be carried on by the very best available legal talent. This is a vital case. It is as important to the public as would be a movement to bar decayed meat or a poisoned water supply.—The Tablet

"Perfect and true happiness cannot be had in this life. Since happiness is a perfect and sufficient good it excludes every evil and fulfills every desire. But in this life every evil cannot be excluded. This present life is subject to many unavoidable evils; ignorance on the part of the intellect; to inordinate affection on the part of the appetite, and to many sufferings on the part of the body. Neither can the desire for good be satisfied in this life. Man naturally desires the good which he has to be abiding. But the goods of the present life pass away; life itself, which because of our natural shrinking from death, we desire to have and to hold abidingly, passes away."—St. Thomas Aquinas.

Truth is the golden coin with God's image stamped upon it, that circulates among men of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues; its standard value never changes or depreciates.—Cardinal Gibbons.

We know a man who washes his chin when he goes to church, and his whole face when he goes to a vaudeville show.

Back Through the Years

A Glimpse Through the Files of The Catholic Courier and Journal

November 2, 1889

The Rev. John McGrath who was ordained in September preached his first sermon in the Cathedral.

A meeting of the congregation of the Cathedral was held at Cathedral Hall. Rev. J. P. Kiernan called the meeting for the purpose of discussing means to pay off the debt of \$5,000 on the Cathedral Hall. William C. Barry was made chairman and D. E. Murphy, secretary.

November 9, 1889

On Wednesday, November 9th, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the advent of the Sisters of St. Joseph into the Flower City and also the silver jubilee of St. Mary's Boys' Orphan Asylum was celebrated. Among those present were Reverends J. P. Kiernan, J. E. Hartley, J. McGrath, J. G. Van Ness, Jas. F. O'Hara, William Gleason, M. J. Hargather, T. C. Murphy and Joseph Leary. Also present were Supervisor Joseph Carberry, Patrick Cox, Thomas McCormick and James Fee. Thomas Leahy delivered the address.

The first number of the programme "Auld Lang Syne" was rendered by former pupils. "A dialogue," "Whose Turn," was given by E. Rogers, T. Haney and C. Merriman. P. Lang sang "You'll Find It Don't Pay"; W. Zember made a speech and D. Dooley rendered a violin solo.

The second part of the programme opened with a chorus "Where Do the Old Years Go?" J. Hurley recited "Obeying Orders." The Junior pupils gave "Kindergarten Song," Masters F. Sloan and R. Aylsworth rendered a dialogue, entitled "Black on One Side" while twenty-one boys gave a gun drill in true, military style. T. Nagle sang "The Old Homestead."

November 16th, 1889

At a meeting of the Ladies' Aid Society of the Cathedral the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. A. J. Kirley, Vice-President Miss L. Gaffney, Secretary Miss L. D. Rigney and Treasurer Miss J. Cox. The report of last year shows that much was done in a quiet way by the Society. From donations received, proceeds of entertainments and other sources, \$641.62 was realized. This entire sum was expended for dry-goods, shoes, etc. for the poor. In all 94 families were cared for during the winter.

November 23rd, 1889

Very Rev. Monsignor DeRegge, chancellor of the diocese, returned from Europe on Monday last, greatly improved in health.

The choir of the Holy Redeemer Church gave a dramatic entertainment in Germania Hall Wednesday night.

November 30th, 1889

Thanksgiving was appropriately observed at St. Mary's Boys' Orphan Asylum. Rev. James O'Connor accompanied by the following committee of ladies visited the institution: Mrs. R. H. Quinn, Mrs. E. A. Mahar, Mrs. P. J. Joyce, Misses M. and A. Howe, J. O'Connor, L. O'Connor, L. McKearney, and A. Owens.

On Tuesday evening the Young Men's Catholic Association held a meeting at its rooms in Cathedral Hall. After the regular business meeting a debate was had on the question, "Whether prohibition or high license is the best preventive of intemperance."

The pupils of St. Mary's parochial school gave an entertainment for the benefit of themselves and their friends.

The pupils of St. Michael's School gave a musical and dramatic entertainment Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Germania Hall.

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If the return of manuscripts or pictures is desired, they must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but the Editor does not hold himself responsible for such communications.

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