

Catholic Courier and Journal

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I would make any sacrifice, even to the painting of my ring, pectoral cross and rosary, 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, 1932.

Editorials

Within a few days a pilgrimage from the city and Diocese of Rochester will be on its way to the historic Irish city of Dublin, there to attend the great International Eucharistic Congress, June 23 to June 26. Other pilgrimages from all parts of the world will be an assemblage of races, peoples and nations that will give striking testimony to the universality of the Catholic Church, and to the fidelity with which its children have obeyed that divine injunction: "Gone, therefore, teach ye all nations."

The Eucharistic Congress in Dublin will bring back to Ireland many thousands of exiled sons and daughters of Erin, and the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of other exiles. It is unfortunate that the Congress is held in a year when all the world is suffering from grievous financial depression, which will prevent many thousands of pilgrims from attending the Congress and visiting their beloved Ireland. But in spite of the depression there will be large delegations from every continent and every nation—laymen, priests, sisters, bishops, archbishops and Cardinals. America's four Cardinals are booked for attendance at the Congress, and they have been invited to be guests of John McCormack, famous Irish tenor, at his hospitable Irish castle.

Historic Dublin will offer many sights and scenes dear to the hearts of pilgrims. Many will walk with delight upon O'Connell Street, where the Irish Republican army paraded on that fateful Easter Monday in 1916, when a mere handful of patriots, poets and dreamers set out to fight the great empire of Britain—to fight and die for Irish liberty, nearer at hand now than ever before.

Seventy-five golden years ago Reverend Mother Mary Francis Wards and five other Sisters of Mercy came to Rochester and took up the work of God in this city. They came upon invitation of Bishop Timon of Buffalo, of which Diocese Rochester was then a part. From that day to this the members of this religious order have been active and faithful in the performance of all their tasks and duties, and they have been motivated by a Faith that has never faltered. It was most fitting, therefore, that the Diamond Jubilee of the advent of these noble sisters in Rochester should have been celebrated this week with a three-day program of appropriate nature, and that included the reception of fifteen young women postulants into the Order.

THE HOLY NAME RALLY

Next Sunday evening ten thousand or more Holy Name men are expected to attend the Diocesan Holy Name rally to be held in the Rochester Baseball Park on Norton Street. This will be the first rally of the kind ever held in Rochester. It will be a big and impressive event. An address of welcome will be given by the Most Reverend John Francis O'Hern, D.D., Bishop of Rochester. There will be a solemn benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, with the Most Reverend Thomas F. Hickey, D.D., Archbishop of Cincinnati as the celebrant. Every Holy Name man will hold aloft a lighted candle during the benediction and will renew his Holy Name pledge. Ten thousand men holding aloft ten thousand lighted candles and repeating with reverent voices their pledge of loyalty, love and fealty to Almighty God and His Holy Name—what an impressive spectacle that will be!

Current Comment

CHARACTER, ONE OF THE BEST ASSETS TO A MAN'S credit, whether in prosperity or adversity, is character. In periods of ease it gives impetus to initiative and industry. In times of distress it is a guarantee of courage and patience. The impulses to which a man responds when face to face with the practical problems of success or anxiety are, as a rule, far more the result of character than of the deliberation of the moment. Isolated decisions have their own importance—but it is character which determines their nature in the main.

Character is the outcome of repeated and consciously directed acts. Our character is what we have made of ourselves by force of will. Like Rome, it takes more than a day to build it. All the formative influences of disposition, home, environment, give an atmosphere and background to the process, but the real forging of a strong character is personal. Out of the strictest home may come a weak-willed rascal. Out of a den of thieves may come a saint. It is undeniable, however, that the most potent factor in the formation of character is the guiding influence of religion. A wholesome religious atmosphere in the home, with an intelligent understanding of the principles and sanctions of religion, gives a right direction and persevering constancy to self-development. Surveys without number have shown that the lack of religious training has crowded out penal and reform institutions. The social waste has been piled high because that chief character-building factor had been neglected in youth. While the soul of man is of inestimable value in God's sight, character enhances its value by preparing it for the setting it is to occupy in Heaven. A diamond is worth a price even though uncut. But this does not justify leaving it in the rough.

Man's true nobility does not lie in noble lineage or that external strength which wealth or prestige of position bestow. It lies in that engraving and ennobling self-acquisition—character.—The Evangelist, (Albany).

As one famous writer sees it the business depression and its accompanying evils are bringing people back to normal. In times of trouble we may wonder why God permits us to suffer as we do. Dr. Fulton Sheen has a very reasonable explanation. The ills of the world have been brought on by our own complacent attitude. We more than once flattered ourselves that we had reached the peak of material prosperity, and that the spiritual was no longer needed, only to find that the material order too had failed us like our wretched philosophy of progress. Like the man in the Gospel, America filled her barns, tore down her smaller ones to erect still greater ones and then, when the point of repose had apparently been reached, her soul was required of her. We leaned upon the stag of the world and it pierced our hands; we trusted in the power of wealth and it vanished into thin air; we set our faith in economic prosperity and it passed from us to remind us that we were not its owners, but only its trustees. America is now beginning to learn the lesson that the material alone does not suffice and that it takes something more than gold and silver, stocks and bonds, to make an enduring civilization. And so a great many of our fellowmen are seeking about for a solid doctrine by which to live and an unfailing strength by which to endure.

Today churches are crowded, fervent devotions are unusually well attended. We must admit that the depression has been beneficial. It has brought us back to God, the true source of peace and happiness.—The Miraculous Medal.

PERSECUTING CATHOLICS IN MEXICO

There is no way for Catholics in this country to help their persecuted brethren in Mexico, except by prayer. The Catholics in Mexico, with the grace of God, must save themselves; if needs be they must be persecuted for their salvation, which is but a lesson to us in this country where we feel that constitutional rights exempt us from persecution. We may find eventually that these constitutional rights are not all that we have held them to be. We may find, provided we cling to Catholic principles, that we too will be persecuted for our insistence. The challenge has come to the Catholics in Mexico. Eventually it will come to us in this country, though perhaps not in the same form. Nevertheless it will come. In one form or another it will be the same challenge, which now confronts the people of Mexico, namely, the challenge of the World against the Church.—Catholic Record (Louisville, Ky.)

Back Through the Years

A Glimpse Through the Files of The Catholic Courier and Journal
June 21, 1890
The corner stone of the new chapel at Sacred Heart Convent was laid with imposing ceremonies by Bishop McQuaid, who was assisted by the Rev. James P. Kiernan and the Rev. John McGrath. Rt. Rev. Msgr. H. DeBesse was master of ceremonies. The addition to the convent proper was necessitated by the rapidly increasing demand for more rooms for the study of music, elocutionary exercises and a spacious hall. The new buildings were to involve an outlay of about \$30,000.

Rev. Mother Pardow who was formerly in charge of the Academy of the Sacred Heart in this city and was the Mother Superior at Grasse Point at the time attended the ceremonies of the cornerstone laying for the new chapel.
The Knights of St. Peter and Paul elected the following officers: President, Rudolph Vay; Vice-President, Henry Hauser; Corresponding Secretary, Joseph Werner; Financial Secretary, Adam Schmidt; Treasurer, Richard Vay; Finance Committee, Frank Muenoh, George Haselwander, Anthony Rheinshuitt; Executive Board, Roman G. Fell, John Haage, Peter Koerner, Frank Perry, Frank Weiss; Quartermaster, Joseph Ruppert.

June 23, 1890
Patrick Barry, widely known nurseman, died June 24.
The 17th annual commencement exercises of Nazareth Academy took place at Cathedral Hall.

The alumnae of Sacred Heart Academy have organized with the following officers: President, Mrs. K. J. Dowling; Vice-President, Mrs. Kate C. Mahon; Secretary, Miss Emily Gaffney, and Treasurer, Miss Mary Cooper.

The Rochester Catholic Reading Circle of the Cathedral elected the following officers: President, Miss Emma Curran; Secretary, Miss Hanna; Librarian, Miss Emily Gaffney; Treasurer, Miss A. E. McManus.
The Rt. Rev. J. T. McManus, Vicar-General of the Rochester Diocese, Domestic Prelate of the Papal Household and Pastor of St. Francis de Sales Church, Geneva, died.

Wayside Wheat

Thomas F. McNulty, father of "The Old Gray Mare," died recently at his home in Baltimore. His talent for music won him many offers to go on the stage when a boy. But his mother steadfastly refused to let him do this. Years ago he sang "The Old Gray Mare" before a group of Welsh, Scotch and Irish miners in Frostburg, Maryland. His audience promptly ripped a door off the hinges, hoisted Tom upon it and carried him from place to place, where he had to repeat at each place his world-famous song. Now he will sing no more, but his famous composition will live after him for many a long year yet to come.

Links with the golden past are broken every now and then. The recent death of Mary Grant O'Sheridan in an Elgin, Illinois, hospital took from life one who was kin to Richard Brinsley Sheridan, famous Irish author, and to General Philip Sheridan, Civil War hero. Miss O'Sheridan was born in Wisconsin. Her childhood was passed in an Indian settlement. The Indians loved her, and they taught her their legends and folklore, about which she wrote beautiful books and songs. Later in life she studied Gaelic languages and peoples, and wrote of them with authority and with talent.

John McCormack, famous Irish tenor, is a Papal Count. Wearing the rich scarlet costume emblematic of his office, Mr. McCormack recently sang at Benediction in St. Patrick's Church, Rome, where he made an impressive appearance and was heard with great appreciation by a large congregation. The singing of Mr. McCormack was of such excellence, Rome dispatches tell us, that it is like seldom heard in Rome or anywhere else.

"Stick out your chin and go home with a grin," says one of the depression fighters over the Radio. And the hungry children at home will, of course, imitate the father and forget they want something to eat. It's all very simple—over the Radio.
God's preachers are the salt of the earth, the light of the world, and the opponents of the devil.

Dramatic Moments in Catholic Life and History



The seven, one by one, awoke thinking they had slept through the night. One by one the seven young men, all of noble families in the city of Ephesus, Asia Minor, had eagerly admitted the "crime" with which they were charged in their trial before the Emperor Decius. The "crime" was that Christian faith which Decius, in this year of 250, was endeavoring to eradicate. In a most cruel and systematic manner from his Empire. His persecution is unique in that it surpassed in extent and severity every preceding persecution launched by Roman Emperors against the Church. Decius had but recently come to Ephesus, the capital of the preconsular province of Asia, to oversee the enforcement of his laws against the Christians. Among the first to be arrested, according to the legend, was this group of seven young noblemen whose names were Maximianus, Malchus, Martinianus, Dionysius, Joannes, Serapion and Constantinus. This morning, in the hall of justice in the preconsul's palace, Decius had presided at their so-called trial. Now it was finished and the time had arrived for the pronouncement of the sentence. "You refuse," the Emperor finally said, "to pay homage to the gods of the Romans to whose power the past glory of our Empire was due. But I am determined to restore the old confidence in those gods and with it the old grandeur of Rome. You have merited immediate death, yet will I accord you another opportunity because of your youth. Which will you have—your Christian God and death or the Roman gods and life? Go and consider the matter well until I return to Ephesus within the week. Then I will have your answer." So the seven were dismissed to give thought to the Emperor's offer.

The Catholic Paper

I AM the Catholic paper. I gather the news of the world and bring it to your library table; I speak to the home in the evening light of the vine-clad porch or the glow of the reading room. I tell of the altar boy and Pope, of curate and Bishop, of those whose fingers are fresh with holy oils and those whose years are golden with priestly administration.

My congregation is larger than any reached by voice from pulpit or limited by parish confines. To the young I bring inspiration for their coming years; to the old, comfort, solace and stimulation. I chronicle the news of the world's greatest institution and inspire further love for it in the breasts of my readers.

I bring back erring feet into the fold; I answer those whose hearts are yearning to grasp the truths of religion and enter the true portals. I narrate tales of hardship of nun and priest, relate stories of new temples to our God, and tell of sacrifices in far-off lands. With the world before me I gather the news of the Church and bring it to your study.

I live only a week but I speak to thousands of the things that have come to pass in an institution that has outlasted the frailties of the world. No greater mission has any Apostle, for my field grows larger every year, my history richer, my opportunities for good greater.

Receive me into your home and I repay a hundredfold for your willing sacrifice. I am the courier of the world's greatest mother—The Church—for I am the Catholic paper.

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