

Catholic Courier and Journal

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MEMBER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

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"I would make any sacrifice, even to the pouring of my blood, for the sake of the 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 Consultants, we have constituted The Catholic Courier and 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 the highest topics of instruction in the teaching 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.

Editorials

Given impetus by the present reigning Holy Father, Catholic Action is being fostered throughout the world. Here in the United States, it is taking form in many organizations and among many individuals. For the members of the Catholic Central Veroin, New York State Branch, and the Catholic Women's Union, New York Section, however, it is not a new story. For over seventy-seven years now the Catholic Central Veroin of America has been carrying on the work of Catholic Action. The New York State branch in close contact with the national body came into being in 1854, when the New York State members at the national convention realized what was being done in the line of Catholic Action. In 1895, the first convention of the New York State Branch, was held in Brooklyn and created the enthusiasm that has carried along down through the years and will be manifested along the weekend at the convention, here in Rochester. A strong unit in the State Branch has been the local Federation. The work here has attracted national attention by reason of the resolutions presented at state and national meetings and the record of work done in opposing the harmful and fostering the good in legislation and social welfare. Meeting monthly the local Federation learns of current problems. During the interim between meetings, the members seek and get information, bring it back and intelligent action is taken.

On Sunday and Monday, Catholics of Rochester will have opportunity of seeing this Catholic Action organization in action. They will hear its greatest exponent, V. P. Kunkel, noted sociologist and since 1908, a day and night worker in his power house of Catholic Action, the Central Bureau of St. Louis. Resolutions adopted by this organization will be presented only after due deliberation and thought by priests and laymen who have studied for years the principles upon which their findings in current problems will be based.

The Catholic Central Veroin, New York State Branch and the Catholic Women's Union, New York Section, whose sessions also will give forth valued thought based on the women's viewpoint, are heartily welcomed to Rochester. Their coming will enrich Catholic thought, their work will be an inspiration to all, especially since they even give up their holidays to advance the cause of Catholic Action.

Rochester is honored this week in the visit here of Mr. Nicola A. CURCUMUSKO Montanai, of Philadelphia, Pa., whose life-work follows along another line of Catholic Action, but highly important, that of bringing back into full vigor the use of Church music as prescribed by the regulations of the Holy See.

To meet Mr. Montanai, one would not learn, at least from him, that he is a composer of note. An accomplished choir director, and one whose work has been recognized by the Supreme Pontiff with knighthood in the order of Saint Sylvester. He is a charming conversationalist and it does not take long, however, to realize that he is gifted and capable of doing the work which he set out to do.

In Rochester the reputation of which as a music center has spread widely, he said, he felt quite at home. Here, he believes the ideals of the Society of St. Gregory to foster the use of Gregorian chant in schools and churches will be received wholeheartedly. His visit will leave an impression upon the diocese destined to advance the cause of Church music into the channels where it rightfully belongs.

At this time of year it is fitting that thought be given to the teachers in our Catholic schools. After the summer vacation during which many of these self-sacrificing men and women have been working hard at summer school work, they are returning to their regular term of teaching our children. Not only is it fitting necessary for material success, but the teaching of the ideas and habits that will lead to the achievement and final reward. It is therefore fitting that these teachers, priests and laymen, be given the opportunity for the work they do. The Catholic newspaper is the Catholic layman's handbook of public affairs.

They give wholeheartedly of their time and energy and get satisfaction from the products turned out on graduation nights.

This week our teachers in the parochial schools are giving up two days remaining of their vacation to attend a well-rounded program designed to be helpful to them. Speakers have been procured who will discuss thoroughly and intently many phases of the grade and secondary schools' curriculum. It will be a time of intensive effort, but filled with valuable information which will not be to the teachers' advantage so much as to their charges when they again step upon the rostrum to instruct those charges.

With all the dangers, sufferings and discomforts of war, there is a thrill to it that inspires warriors on in the face of what might happen to them. Our teachers are in a struggle to keep pure young souls on the difficult but safe pathway to eternal salvation. There is no thrill, but strong wills keep up courage, and give persistence to the struggle that constantly trying on the "warriors", nevertheless must be made if our Catholic children are to get the education that is rightly their privilege by reason of their membership in the One, True, Holy and Apostolic Church.

Current Comment

THE LAITY With the gathering here over the Labor Day week-end of two outstanding lay societies, the New York State Branch Catholic Central Veroin, and Catholic Women's Union and with the opening of the Catholic schools after Labor Day, the following editorial from The Evangelist, Albany diocesan newspaper is particularly timely.

With an instinct that is truly Catholic the laity does not desire the praise of men. It does not want its reward on earth. Rather it hopes that when its probation is over the judgment of God will be: Well done good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.

In the meantime, appreciating its gift of Faith, it makes generous sacrifices in its zeal for the preservation and the spread of the saving knowledge of God's revelation to man.

As a matter of fact, the Catholic laity is unaware of the extent of its participation in the work of the Church. For the most part it sees only the activities of its own parish. It has only a vague idea that it helps to support colleges, seminaries and all the missionary work of the Church. It is unaware that it also contributes to those marvels of economy, the novitiates, convents and training schools of the religious communities of Brothers and Sisters. Then there are our hospitals, orphan asylums and settlements. These and all other activities of the Church, in seasons of adversity as well as of prosperity are likewise maintained in a great measure by the sacrifices of the laity.

Any enumeration of the contributions of the laity to the work of the Church, however brief it might be, would be woefully incomplete if it was confined merely to its material aspect.

The laity's part, which is beyond price, is its moral support of the teaching Church. It never forgets that the Church has a Divine commission to teach the Truths whereby men can be saved. The people in the pews desire to do all that they can to aid in the perpetuation of the Catholic religion, untarnished and without compromise with the spirit of the world.

Then there is the close bond between priests and people that counts in values that escape the capacity of mere man.

In this loyalty there is a large group that deserves to be singled out: It consists of the parents of Catholic school children. It is true that they are aided by their fellow parishioners in the support of their parish schools. But over and above such maintenance they necessarily bear other costs in giving their children a Catholic Education; there are books, uniforms, transportation and other items of expense peculiar to private schools.

However, it is their loyal support of the authorities of our Catholic schools that is of inestimable value. Our consecrated teachers could not insist on the development of Christian standards of character without the co-operation of the parents in the homes. Furthermore, the parents' sacrifices for Catholic education reveal to their children, in an incomparable manner, their conviction of its vital necessity.

Thus we have an explanation, at least in part, of the steady progress of the Church in our country. Furthermore it is this splendid unity of priests and people here that prompts the Vicar of Christ to say, times without number, that he takes consolation and strength from a consideration of the splendid condition of the Church in America.—The Evangelist (Albany).

POPE'S PRESS TRIBUTE One of the highest tributes ever paid to the Catholic press is contained in a quotation which has appeared in The Standard, a Catholic weekly of Dublin, Ireland. The quotation, which the paper states was taken from the remarks of His Holiness Pope Pius XI, to a pilgrimage of Catholic journalists, is as follows:

"You are my voice. I do not say that you make my voice heard, but that you are really my voice itself; for few indeed would be the number of the children of our common Father, who could learn my wishes and thoughts without the aid of the Catholic press."

This is perhaps the most generous tribute ever paid to the Catholic press. The words of the Holy Father evidence the great confidence he reposes in Catholic editors throughout the world. And the Catholic people themselves should realize that they must go to the Catholic press for reliable Catholic news. Only last week a demonstration of this fact was furnished. The daily press in cables from Rome announced that the Congregation of the Sacraments had promulgated a decree prescribing that the Sacrament of Confirmation shall hereafter be administered before the reception of First Holy Communion and that this decree was applicable to the whole world. But this was not true, as the special cable of the N. C. W. C. News Service published in The Catholic News this week shows. The decree makes no change whatever regarding the age at which the Confirmation is to be received, but merely calls for observance of Canon 788 of Canon Law that is explained elsewhere in our news columns. This mix-up in the daily press on this latest Roman decree recalls the erroneous reports that came to the secular newspapers concerning legislation on mixed marriages. In both cases the duty has fallen upon the Catholic press to give the truth.—The Catholic News (New York).

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Diocesan Recordings

In accepting the invitation of Rochester members to convene here the New York State Branch, Catholic Central Veroin, and the Catholic Women's Union Section New York, are coming to a city where both branches of their respective organizations are outstanding in carrying on the work for which the organizations were founded.

The local "Catholic Men's Federation" as the society has been known for years, has for the past few years sounded the keynote of state conventions in well prepared resolutions on timely and vital subjects, presented for the deliberation of the state body.

The writer has known this organization for the past eight years. At every meeting there is presented for discussion questions of the day needing an answer from the Catholic viewpoint and problems to be solved with Christian principles in mind. Current legislation in state and nation has been watched with vigilance. Measures designed to injure the Catholic's standing as such or as an American citizen have been checked. Questions of current interest in the Church have had thorough explanation so that the members could intelligently discuss these subjects with friends.

Years ago, we are told, the Federation sponsored the Windthorst Study circle starting with a more handful and growing in membership to over four hundred men and women who gave of their time and energy in study and discussion of social justice, economics, moral issues, and legislation in the light of Catholic principles.

Memories of the late Father Jacob Staub will crowd around this coming convention, for this kindly, energetic and zealous priest, was present and active at the last convention. He helped lay the foundation for the local branches, and his influence has carried the Rochester societies along to the point where they are outstanding in the state and even in the nation.

Sessions of the convention are open to the public. Catholic people who are interested in Catholic Action will have an excellent opportunity to see it exemplified in its true form at the sessions in Columbus Civic Center and Hotel Seneca.

Questionnaires are being sent out with subscription renewal announcements of your diocesan newspaper seeking information from individual subscribers as to their preference in editorial matter, suggestions for improvement, and requests for cooperation with advertisers. Replies are beginning to come in and we find them interesting and helpful. We'll appreciate every subscriber's comments. Let us know what you think and we shall try to give you full value for your generous cooperation with us.

Words we like to read: "Please send me the paper for another year. I like it very much. I have paid for 1932. I want it renewed again." These words from one of our many pleased subscribers.

Back Through the Years

A Glimpse Through the Files of The Catholic Courier and Journal

March 28, 1891 Plans announced for the building of St. Bernard's Seminary.

April 4, 1891 Certificate of incorporation of the new St. Bernard's Seminary was filed in the County Clerk's Office.

April 11, 1891 At Nazareth Convent, Miss Mary Brennan of Auburn and Miss Frances Dwyer of Rochester were received into the order of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Their names in religion are: Miss Brennan, Sister Mary Anticus; Miss Dwyer, Sister Mary Florence. The latter is a daughter of Michael Dwyer, a well-known member of St. Bridget's parish.

April 18, 1891 Sister Mary Aloysius, Hendrick died in Buffalo.

April 25, 1891 The Holy Family Church East was the most successful held in Auburn. It was estimated that the net proceeds would amount to at least \$4,000.

May 2, 1891 The Catholic Young Men's Association of St. Joseph's Church organized a Literary and Dramatic Section. The club had a library of 1,200 volumes and a reading room with tables filled with choice current literature.

The Rev. R. G. Braun of the archdiocese of St. Paul was the guest of the Rev. D. Laurausis of Holy Family Church.

Dramatic Moments in Catholic Life and History

"The Jeer That Made a Charcoal Burner a Bishop"

By CLETUS J. KOTBEK



"You are Alexander?" inquired, Gregory.

A learned and representative array of ecclesiastics had gathered in the Christian church in Comana, in Pontus, Asia Minor, on a June day in the year 239.

Priests of various ranks from all parts of the district of Comana had come to the city for this important occasion. St. Gregory, from his extraordinary miracles surnamed Thaumaturgus (Wonder-Worker), and one of the great leaders of the Church in the East, had accepted the invitation of the Christians of Comana to help in the selection of a new Bishop. Gregory had come from his own diocese of Neo-Cæsarea, also in Pontus, where he had found only seventeen Christians upon his assumption of the see but which now was overwhelmingly of the new faith. He had arrived yesterday in Comana and the process of examining the various candidates was in progress.

Each man who aspired to the dignity of Bishop of Comana was presenting himself to a group of three ecclesiastics who would pass upon his qualifications and over whom Gregory presided. One by one the candidates made their way forward and the rigorous examination was conducted by Gregory himself.

The long and tedious process went on and on and from Gregory's attitude it was becoming gradually apparent that no acceptable candidate had as yet presented himself to the Wonder-Worker. At length the examination was concluded and one of the attending prelates turned to the chief examiner and said:

"Who is your choice for the city of Comana, Gregory?"

"I have no choice for I do not find any of the candidates acceptable for the post," replied the Saint.

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The EDITOR, Catholic Courier and Journal

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

Business communications of whatsoever nature should be addressed to the Catholic Courier and Journal, Inc., to the attention of the Business Manager.

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DEADLINE Forms close noon of Wednesday preceding publication date.

The hearts of those candidates with high ambitions sank and an audible murmur passed through the throng. Surely, many in the assembly said to themselves, there were very many eminent men in that group, learned and virtuous, whose attainments seemed to have fitted them admirably for the post to which they aspired.

Then from one of the men near the altar there came a deplorable comment.

"If none of these men whose repute is so high in the diocese of Comana is desirable to the learned Gregory, perhaps he would be satisfied with Alexander, the charcoal burner."

A slight titter passed through the assembly. None could mistake the meaning of the jeer and its intended reflection upon the great saint and his inability to find a suitable candidate for the bishopric. Alexander was well-known in the city of Comana. He was a good character to whom people paid no attention as he patiently followed his calling of a charcoal burner.

But Gregory had in the meantime fastened his piercing eyes on the man who had thus mocked him.

"Alexander, the charcoal burner?" he said, a question in his voice. "Who is he?"

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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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