

Catholic Courier and Journal

Catholic Courier and Journal
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MEMBER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

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"I would make any sacrifice, even to the passing of my ring, pictorial 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 Censors, 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.

Editorials

KEEPING THE STAGE CLEAN — This was summed up by a reviewer in a daily newspaper his impression of a current theatrical production. With great difficulty the critic tried to find something in the presentation worthy of favorable comment. Truthful recording, however, left little room for praise. The reviewer found that "it had numerous sketches of 'blat-out's' and such was emphatically successful in its aim at being smutty."

It is this sort of thing that has closed so many theaters throughout the country. Any movement directed towards reviving a wholesome interest in the stage deserves support from clean minded people. Such a movement is in progress in efforts of the Catholic Little Theater Guild of New York State in which Rochester and Auburn in this diocese are capably represented.

Selecting playlets that entertain without recourse to "smut" and with casts of our Catholic young people, this movement is gaining popularity fast. To observe what is being done in this endeavor to bring the stage back to a normal state of entertainment, it is urged that the tri-city playlet contest in Columbus Civic Center, Monday evening, February 20, be witnessed. Here will be seen the Rochester Civic Players composed of members of the dramatic group of the Foresee Club; the Buffalo Civic Players and the Auburn Little Theater Players all presenting worthwhile entertainment.

It is not only to please themselves that people are urged to witness these playlets, but also to afford encouragement to those who are sacrificing time, talent and money to put over something worthwhile in our community life and to counteract the effect in the community of the type of shows that appeal only to man's lower nature.

CATHOLIC SCOUTING AN INFLUENCE

We wish to congratulate the laymen and priests who cooperated in sponsoring the Catholic Scouting demonstration last Sunday in the Cathedral when about five hundred Catholic Scouts attended Mass and received Holy Communion in a body. It was an inspiring sight. Row upon row, the boys, neat in uniform, their khaki-colored uniforms, their quiet discipline and bright faces strongly suggesting a Crusade for wholesome and Christian boyhood.

Catholic parents are beginning to realize the menace of a large industrial city to the physical and moral welfare of their children, due to the lack of recreational facilities. The disappearance of the vacant lot, the fast frame and peevish neighbors— are driving the children into back alleys and barns for unwholesome recreation. Parents are almost asked to choose between taking chances upon the moral or physical destruction of their children. Longing eyes rest upon parks and the open country; but newspaper headlines are warning them that this also is dangerous. Unless under adult supervision most parents rightly refuse to allow their boys or girls to wander about the country for recreation. How can the children safely recreate?

Catholic Scouting is one answer that more and more Catholic parents are beginning to discover. Scouting has a program that keeps John or Mary busy in their spare time at home, and provides hikes and excursions on holidays. And this is done under the guidance of a Scoutmaster. Scout leaders are chosen for their own moral and mental qualities; this is supplemented by careful training. Scouting solves that urge of the child to "do something," an urge that keeps mothers gray and fathers continually thinking up reasons why John or Mary cannot play with this or that club, or why they cannot go here or there. This urge is given free range in Scouting by having a continuous program and by directing the child's activity into channels that, at the least, are perfectly harmless. Scout leaders have said "Catholic Scouting is a complete answer to mere recreation. Scouting is a combination of education and as such is unique unless governed by Catholic principles and surrounded by a Catholic atmosphere." As in the classroom a Scout is surrounded by the atmosphere and by the example of his Scoutmaster. To one who fully understands Scouting it is frightening to know that in our country there are one thousand Catholics, but only about one-third are in troops under

Catholic suspects. Catholic boys and girls are going to be Scouts; Scouting can be a means of great Christian influence; why not draw the inference and establish Catholic troops for our boys and girls?

DEVIL HATES HOLY WATER — Everytime we go into Church we are accustomed to bless ourselves as we pass the Holy Water font. Repeatedly we do this and may or may not be fully conscious of the act. It is so with many other privileges our religion affords us. The full significance of the act may become automatic with little, if any spiritual benefit.

Catholic evidence work, calling as it does for an explanation of our acts, is bringing to those outside the Faith a grasp of our practices that all of us should have at all times. The Catholic Information Society of Norarboth, Pa., engaged in presenting the reasons for the Faith gives the following exposition of the use of Holy Water in a manner that cannot alone make an impression upon non-Catholics but gives all of us something to think about: "The Devil! Holy Water! Dark Age superstitions, are they not?"

"Hardly, my friend. The Bible relates the fall of Lucifer and the temptations of Christ by the Devil; and Holy Water's use by the Church can be traced back to about the second century—quite a bit earlier than the period which you choose to term the Dark Ages.

"But why water? Why holy? What's the use of it. "The water is ordinary water with a bit of salt in it. Water is symbolic of cleansing. Salt is a symbol of preservation from corruption. This combination has no power of its own, but when blessed by a priest who represents Holy Mother Church, it becomes holy. "To understand this you must recall that Christ while on earth gave to the Apostles and their successors many of His own divine powers to be used only through Him—i. e., the washing away of original sin through Baptism, the forgiveness of actual sin through Confession, the changing of the substance of bread and wine to the substance of His own Divine Body and Blood—and four other sacraments.

"In a similar manner God gave to His Church the right and power to bless in His name inanimate objects which, although powerless in themselves, identify the individual's prayers (when said with faith and devotion) with the prayers of the entire church. "At the entrance of every Catholic Church there is one or more Holy Water Fonts. Within the thresholds of countless bedrooms are also Holy Water Fonts. To the Catholic one of the most common and most powerful forms of prayer is to dip his fingers into the Holy Water, make the Sign of the Cross and thus identify his individual prayers with those of the entire Church for the welfare of his own soul, his neighbor's soul, or the suffering souls in Purgatory.

"A piece of white cloth has in itself no power; but when in the heat of battle it is raised on high it has the power, recognized by all nations, to silence the guns, while emissaries are sent to bargain for peace. If mere cloth has this man-given power, is it not logical to believe that water can be given the power of especial prayer, when blessed by God through His Church?"

"As darkness hates light, as error hates truth, as malignity hates sanctity—so the Devil hates Holy Water."

Current Comment THE CATHOLIC JOURNALIST — It is the mission of Catholic journalism to reclaim the spiritual, to extend the limits of genuine charity. In commenting on events of the day it must maintain a truly Christian tone, which freely acknowledges all the good in friend and foe and wrestles manfully with evil. There is no broad platform than that of Christ's Church, except the broad way that leads to perdition. The Catholic religion and Catholic views are not stereotyped; they are as free as the best American principles and capable of adaption to every age and every race. Wherever a right principle echoes in the heart of a people, there the Catholic view can be no stranger. It is especially in religion, education, and in the field of ethics that we hold an impregnable position, but we should also exert ourselves more generally in the various branches of political and social life.

No one can more authoritatively denounce race suicide or propose a better remedy against divorce or make stronger demands for civic honesty than he who holds the Catholic view on all these questions. For this reason the Catholic Journalist is the securest and should be the boldest as well as the most charitable. In his mission as expounder and defender of the truth, he more than any other should mould the convictions of men according to the principles of truth and right, his cannot be done by looking to the past. The present alone affords the opportunity. Whatever fails to interest a people will not boget conviction, and the interest of every man centers mainly in the present. The Church, though never changing her doctrines, develops externally with the correct thought of the times. Her experience is as nearly perfect as experience can become. In fact, much that we consider new today is only the recurrence of what was old centuries ago. Nevertheless, we live in the present, and while we can never be too well acquainted with the past, we must above all study and explain the present in the light of Catholic truth.

Catholic journalism is one of the chief means to promote the welfare of religion. In this country the Church is left to herself; she has to do her work apart from the State. This relation ought not to deter anyone from utilizing the good functions of both for the benefit of the single subject—man. While the Church must be supreme in her own sphere, she cannot be entirely excluded from influence on the State. Without transgressing the proper limits, she can and must be influential in every act of life, public as well as private. And as journalism dominates the whole field of thought and action, the Catholic journalist can weave the threads of religion and justice, of faith in charity, in the warp and woof of life, and thereby strengthen the fabric of society.—The Southwest Courier (Oklahoma City).

It is about time some one said a word for the business foresight of the average pastor. When times were good no one lost his head, and placed tremendous educational burdens upon his people. Many schools were erected; but—mischievous vision—shows in putting up buildings which fulfilled all ordinary wants without overburdening the people. "Oh, hand, we do not know of any elementary school which cost over \$200,000.

Private are not business men; it has often been said. Well, if they are not, what would you call the bankers and industrial leaders of the country?—The Tablet (Brooklyn).

Diocesan Recordings

Among the six Rochester schools appearing on the list accredited for 1933 by the commission on secondary schools of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools is the name of Aquinas Institute, Catholic high school for boys. Approval by the commission amounts to accrediting the school with all college entrance requirements. This assures all parents sending their boys to Aquinas Institute of a secular scholastic standing when graduated meeting college entrance requirements in addition to a religious training so essential in the development of youth today.

Holy Name Society activities throughout the diocese are recorded in the Bulletin issued by the Rochester Diocesan Holy Name Union and dated February 9 which has been received in this office. Activities of societies in the following parishes are recorded: St. Alphonsus, Auburn; St. Mary's, Auburn; Holy Redeemer, St. Ambrose, SS. Peter and Paul, Immaculate Conception, St. Monica's, St. Francis Assisi, Holy Rosary, St. John Evangelist, Our Lady of Good Counsel and St. Bridget's. In addition to carrying on their spiritual activities each of these societies reports educational and social gatherings well attended by the men of the parish. Commenting on the Holy Name Bulletin, January 2, the Bulletin states "Actions speak louder than words and the sight of so many men thus expressing their belief in God and His Divine Teachings cannot fail to make a lasting impression upon our fellow citizens."

In his column Fore and Aft, Joseph J. Quinn, managing editor of The Southwest Courier, official diocesan weekly for several dioceses in the south and southwest commends the Daily Oklahoman for its announced intention of playing down tragedies. "Walter Harrison," the item states, "gives us his word that self-deduction will not be spread over the two papers."

Continuing the capable editor of The Southwest Courier writes: "Suicide stories make easy reading. They come closer to fiction than anything that happens in actual life. The poor unfortunate who climbs through a skylight and drops down to a crowded street creates a tragedy that is seized upon by the type hounds and read avidly by the eagle-eyed populace. Men gripped by worries, or crowded to the wall, or hovering on the edge of mental distortion, let their wills weaken in the face of such examples and seek solace in guns or poison. Those who win battles between life and voluntary death keep silent. Those who lose have their sorrow sagas sung on the front page.

"But suicide is not the only tragedy that should be played down. Marital infidelity, broken homes, unsavory court room details are works that eat into the moral structure of the nation. The daily newspapers, in chronicling sordid stories, implant the virus for further crimes. Cleaning the press would lessen divorce cases, preserve homes, make our nation stronger. The moral seam of the United States floats to the top of our newspaper columns. It would be far better if it were sunk from sight."

We extend a hearty welcome to the many new readers we are getting through sale of this newspaper in several churches of the diocese. We trust that the introduction will ripen into a life-long friendship. Should any of our new acquaintances know of any way we can increase their friendship for the diocesan newspaper, we should like to hear from them.

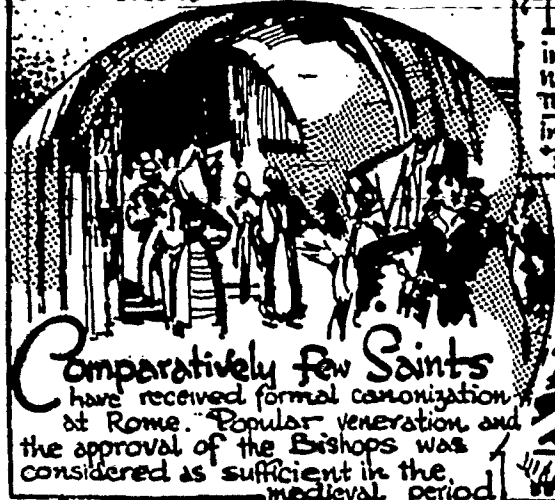
STRANGE BUT TRUE Catholic Facts But Little Known

By M. J. MURRAY



Maria Agnesi (1718-99) a MODERN WOMAN of Milan in the 18th century knew six languages when she was thirteen years; discussed philosophy with the foremost thinkers of her day; wrote valuable ESSAYS on mathematics; was appointed Professor of the University of Bologna by Pope Benedict XIV — and realized her life's ambition in her later years by joining the Blue Nuns in whose order she died.

The progress of the Faith in China has included a purely native religious order: THE DISCIPLES OF OUR LORD, founded in 1927. Their headquarters is "EMMAUS" near Suzhou.



Comparatively few Saints have received formal canonization at Rome. Popular veneration and the approval of the Bishops was considered as sufficient in the medieval period.



ARCHBISHOP REDWOOD OF WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND, WHO WILL BE 95 THIS YEAR WAS BORN A YEAR BEFORE THE CITY OF WELLINGTON WAS FOUNDED!

Back Through the Years

A Glimpse Through the Files of The Catholic Courier and Journal October 15, 1892

The following officers were elected by the Knights of St. George: President, Dominic Kraft; Vice-President, Charles Fischer; Recording Secretary, Joseph Kesseling; Financial Secretary, Joseph Ritter; Treasurer, Louis Helndl, Commander, Henry F. Wegman, First Lieutenant, Fred Bach, Second Lieutenant, C. F. Schuerman.

Bishop McQuaid officiated at the annual Blessing of the Graves at which 20,000 people attended going to Holy Sepulchre Cemetery by railroad and electric cars.

Father Dougherty of Stanley delivered a lecture on Columbus at an entertainment given by the children of St. Mary's School, Auburn.

The Catholic Young Men's Association of St. Joseph's Church celebrated Columbus Day with a musical program. Participating were: Mrs. Meyerling-Rampe, and the Misses Schantz, Otto and Meyerling in instrumental work and Miss Katherine Burns in recitations.

October 22, 1892 Columbus Day commemorative services were reported as conducted

at St. Patrick's Cathedral where the sermon was by the Rev. James E. Hartter at the solemn pontifical Mass celebrated by Bishop McQuaid and at Holy Family Church where the Rev. D. Laurentz, the pastor, delivered the sermon at the Mass celebrated by the Rev. J. A. Miller

At a Columbus celebration of the Catholic Reading Circles held in Cathedral Hall at which Bishop McQuaid was present social solos were given by Miss Katherine Purcell of the Rochester Catholic Reading Circle, Mrs. W. F. Rampe of the Cardinal Newman Reading Circle, Miss Anna Roche of the Immaculate Conception Reading Circle, and Miss Minnie Mahoney of the Catholic "Literary." John D. Coffey of the Catholic "Literary" gave an address on Columbus.

October 29, 1892 Vital Reche, 31 Howell Street, celebrated the 38th anniversary of his birth on October 25, 1892.

Interior improvements were made in St. Francis Church, Phelps.

The Redemptorist Fathers conducted a mission at St. Mary's Church, Dansville.

November 19, 1892 The great fair for the benefit of St. Patrick's Girls' Asylum was conducted in Washington Park. Elaborate decorations added to the attractiveness of the affair. Various societies were represented at booths.

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Communications regarding the conduct of this newspaper, articles and illustrations for publication, should be addressed to The EDITOR, Catholic Courier and Journal

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.

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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