

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions



Reenthronement

By REV. CLARENCE SEIDEL, C. SS. R.

Editor's Note: For 300 years the picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was venerated in the Church of St. Matthew in Rome. Numerous votive offerings placed before it spoke eloquently of the many favors obtained through Mary's intercession.

The night of oblivion was over; its darkening shadows had concealed the Picture for 68 years. Years they were in which Perpetual Help—that Picture whose glory once bridged a triplet of centuries—was not spoken of, nor even thought of; it lay like a thing of death, unhonored and unsung.

Upon presenting the Pope's official approbation of their mission, they were welcomed with brotherly affection and listened to with intense interest.

was San Alfonso's. Little did the Superior of the Augustinians realize during those years that he was the possessor of a Treasure more valuable than richest gold or brightest pearl.

With a sense of mingled reverence and awe they proceeded to take down the Picture. It was a little dusty—but that was all. Its well-preserved condition, after almost 400 years, was most surprising.

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CATHOLIC COURIER

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

Mother of Good Counsel

Sweet Counsellor of ages, O counsel me true, While life lies before me, though hid from my view.

Teach thou my soul on which road it must tread To reach safe the Goal when my life's course is sped,

To reach safe the Heavens where thou wilt be seen Enhroed in thy glory, my Mother and Queen.

—Daniel Ehaman, C. SS. R.

ment. These injuries made repair imperative; so a most skillful artist was summoned to do the work.

Picture Restored

Realizing the great honor conferred upon him, the artist—Novodny was his name—addressed himself to his task with all the care and ability he could command.

But to take up again the thread of our narrative. The two Redemptorists, hapless than words can tell, with their Treasure under their arms turned their steps homeward.

Redemptorists Happy

In the possession of their adopted Madonna the Redemptorists of San Alfonso's were indeed happy. They could do naught now but await the day of the Picture's Reenthronement.

The sun shone bright in its dome of blue; the breezes, gently wafted from the sea, spread health and life throughout the city; and even the feathered folk were chanting their celestial Queen. Nature and man had joined hands in their endeavor on the day of Reenthronement one long to be remembered and revered.

The procession was to pass were cheerfully festooned for the occasion. Homes were decorated with bunting and streamers of every hue and flowers hung from the windows.

Miracles Take Place A little lad of scarcely four summers had been suffering for over three weeks from a severe attack of gastric fever, accompanied by meningitis, and was in such a critical condition that the doctors despaired of his life.

Rochester Diocesan Council of the National Council of Catholic Women

Office 1020 Columbus Civic Center

At the first Regional Conference of the National Council of Catholic Women, attended by delegates and representatives from the fourteen dioceses within the Provinces of San Francisco and Portland, held with the approval of the Most Reverend Edward J. Hanna, Archbishop of San Francisco, and Most Reverend John J. Mitty, Co-adjutor Archbishop, under the auspices of the San Francisco Archdiocesan Council of the N. C. C. W., in San Francisco, for three days in February last, His Excellency, Most Reverend Joseph F. Hummel, Bishop of Omaha, delivered an address from which we take pleasure in quoting the following excerpts, as a Chart and Compass for Catholic Action.

"The Greatest Need of the modern world is not the massing of human genius or material resources, but the massing of the forces of faith and the concentration of spiritual power, the setting up of a counteraction to the multiple influences of materialism and irreligion.

"This dechristianized age can be reclaimed for Christ for Christian principles for Christian ideals, for Christian civilization; but it must be accomplished by welding together into a mighty unit, under the grace of God, all Christian forces, spiritual, intellectual and moral, to energize all the functions of individual and collective human life.

"It is not claimed that the N. C. C. W. presents the only program for Catholic Action in America. There are many organizations and movements sponsored by diocesan, regional and national groups, or even by individual bishops which do not come directly within the purview of the Conference.

No less astounding was the second miracle. (Here we quote the words of an anonymous work of 1876 from which we have also taken the above account) "There lay in a certain house an eight-year old girl, whose tibia (the larger bone in the lower leg) was so paralyzed that she could not move save with the greatest difficulty and with much pain.

The procession over, the Picture was carried into San Alfonso's church, all decked out in splendid colors and scented with the perfumes of the fairest flowers. And as hearts beat with heavenly joy and lips whispered pious prayers, the sacred Picture of Perpetual Help, so long deprived of its legitimate throne, was raised above the high altar of San Alfonso's church. There the Mother of God had willed to be; and Redemptorists, like obedient children, had merely done a Mother's bidding and were happy.

Among the visitors that came from all parts of Italy was the most holy Sovereign Pontiff himself, Pope Pius IX. That great client of Mary was anxious to see her miraculous Picture on its new throne. He stood there admiring its attractive beauty for a long time, and then turning to the most Rev. Fr. Nicholas Mauron, C. SS. R., he exclaimed: "O how beautiful it is! I certainly prefer it to the copy you gave me."

The highest of all divine works is to co-operate with God in the salvation of souls.—St. Dionysius.

through the ministry of their three hundred thousand priests, inspired by the apostolic leadership of their sixteen hundred bishops, all acting in conformity with the mind of the Church. In this meaning of Catholicism forces every child of the Church is called upon to contribute its share in prayer, service, sacrifice and education towards the one supreme end—to restore all things in Christ and to Christ, to reconquer the world for Christ and to reclaim for humanity the all but lost treasures of Christian civilization and culture.

"Catholic Action may consist of the simplest individual acts, faithfully, constantly and courageously performed, whereby the cause of religion and morality is served. But in order to make Catholic Action effective it must be organized and properly directed. Catholic fundamental aims and principles are as universal as the Church, but the determination of specific objectives and methods grows out of the conditions and needs of the country, the state, the diocese. Such determination devolves upon the hierarchy of each jurisdiction, severally and collectively, by reason of their apostolic office and by direct wish of the Holy See.

"For More Than thirteen years it has been our outstanding Catholic force. Even a summary enumeration of its achievements would be beyond the scope of the present consideration, but the citation of a few concrete instances of Conference activity during the past year will bear witness to its indispensable utility.

"The Conference marshaled Catholic opposition to the iniquitous efforts to legalize human sterilization and relax the laws which prohibit the distribution of birth control literature and instruments; it sponsored the formulation of Catholic principles for international peace and facilitated Catholic representation at the Peace and Disarmament Conferences in the persons of the president of the Women's Council, Miss Hawks, and her companion, Miss Gamble. It promoted principles of social reconstruction, for which the Holy Father pleads in his 'Quadragesimo Anno' encyclical, by organizing conferences of industrial relations and rural life in different parts of the country; during the present economic crisis members of the Conference staff have participated with distinction in governmental and other conferences, organized to propose, study and analyze remedial measures; through the Press Department, the Conference has arranged for the speedy transmission and distribution of papal communications to the secular and religious press throughout the country by broadening its news and feature service; both the Council of Catholic Men and the Council of Catholic Women have extended their influence, which today reaches out to over three thousand affiliated organizations whose members are banded together under the pledge of upholding, applying and promoting Catholic principles and ideals.

"Catholic Action is primarily the duty and task of the laity. It is the participation and cooperation of the laity in the apostolate of the hierarchy. Therefore, the program of the N. C. C. W. C. is a program for the laity of the United States, a summons to Catholic Americans of every station and condition of life to join the colors of Catholic Action, to sense its obligation and realize its opportunity to promote the cause of Christ."

ON HOARDING

"I declare from this sight— Advantageous for vision, That I see someone right Before this division, Who has not heeded my warning, rigid, Issued to all without pretense, frigid, What can I mean? Did someone hum? No, Joan— to the basket— Deposit your gum!"

SODAL TALK

My news this week is gathered here, there and everywhere. Sacred Heart Parish Sodality is starting a Sodality choral club. The number of Sodality Glee-Club members we have three in the city at present.

Sacred Heart Sodality is also busy preparing for the reception of the new members in June. Probation meetings are moving on apace, and the warning is:—Admittance only for active Sodality; no one else need apply. From the eighth grade alone there are twenty-nine applicants.

Have you seen the latest? It is a Sodality newspaper published by the Sodality of St. Peter and Paul, daily, and is it clever? As Clara Lu 'n' Em would say, "Now I ask you to ask me." And if you did ask me I should say it is very well done. I never saw so much compressed into four mimeographed sheets as the Sodality under the direction of Miss Margaret Brennan crammed into their paper. There are even drawings and jokes. The picture of the Sodality treasurer intrigues me. I never saw such a "Ritz" drawing. One would think by the huge bags of money on the table before her that she was one of these hunted hoarders or the famous person who broke the bank of Monte Carlo. Seriously, however, I think the Sodality is to be congratulated on being the pioneer editors of a Parish Sodality Paper. By the way, the Sodality themselves are going to help name it. At present it is the paper of the Nameless Name, but only for a short time.

Three Sodality had general Communion Sunday last Sunday, Blessed Sacrament, Sacred Heart and St. Peter and Paul. The Glee Club at Blessed Sacrament, dressed in their seraph blue caps and gowns sang the hymns at Mass. It was a beautiful sight, and I am sure it is not sinful pride to say that it makes you feel so proud to be a Sodality.

We received some splendid news from Holy Ghost Sodality. At the last meeting, Father Vogt, from St. Andrew's Seminary was the guest speaker. His topic was Catholic Action and his theme centered on the teaching of Catholicism to the children by means of stories.

The Sodality is going back to the gay nineties, or is it farther back to the annals of time? I shall leave that little historical question to you, but what I want to tell you is that the Holy Ghost Sodality is going to have a quilling party. Why? To make a quilt to raise money to defray the expenses of the annual Sodality picnic. Won't they have a

Looking forward to the Reenthronement of the Picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, the Sodality is planning a prayer hour of Holy Spirit singing. It is a beautiful thing, and we know that there will be many who will be able to attend. We are especially wishing that our members will be able to attend. We are especially wishing that our members will be able to attend.

Speaking of the Union of the Central Council, we should mention that we would think it a wonderful thing if all thought were turned to the coming convention. This convention seems to be a very important one and exciting at the present moment. The plans and ideas will be taken up at the Union of the Central Council at each of the meetings. We are sure that the members will be able to attend. We are especially wishing that our members will be able to attend.

PHONE CHANGES: Joseph A. Murphy, 108 ORCHARD AVE.

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