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MEMBER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

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

Editorials

CATHOLIC EVIDENCE WORK

One of the works of Catholic Evidence that is being officially sponsored by our diocese is the Rochester Catholic Hour.

This authority minute broadcast beginning at 1:30 on Sunday afternoon over Station WHAM. The program consists of several musical numbers and a sermon. If time permits, bits of selected news having a special interest to Catholics are read.

The objectives of the Catholic Hour are very definite. The program is arranged with the needs of two groups of listeners kept in mind. One is the group of Catholics who desire to know more about the religion in which they already believe. The other is a much longer one made up of Protestants who do not know what the Church teaches and who do not believe in the Catholic Religion.

Catholic Evidence work considers that there are many Catholics who would find it to their personal advantage and also to the advantage of their inquiring neighbor to have a fuller and more complete knowledge of their religious beliefs. However, education is not an easy process. It requires time, thought and a persistent effort. For many people the radio has proved a source of more pleasant instruction.

The value of the radio has been recognized in this regard by those in Catholic Evidence work and is being utilized for religious instructions. The talks given over the Catholic Hour seek to give Catholics religious instruction that is accommodated to their intellectual capacity as adults.

The Protestant group is not forgotten. For in these same sermons are embodied the reasons why the Church teaches the doctrine under discussion. Proofs from reason, from the Bible, from the traditions of the living, teaching Church demonstrate the position of the Church in teaching a particular doctrine.

In this way, Protestants can learn not only what the Catholic Church teaches but why she so teaches. Such an open policy should result in many false notions concerning Catholic beliefs being destroyed. It should aid in breaking down prejudice and bigotry and in cultivating peace and harmony between religious groups.

We feel sure that the Rochester Catholic Hour is filling a need of Catholic Evidence work here in our diocese. Although there is no definite way to ascertain the good that such a work is doing, we are of the opinion that the Catholic Hour is a worthwhile enterprise in the field of Catholic Evidence.

AFTER LITVINOFF WHAT?

The results of the conference between Maxim Litvinoff, envoy of the Soviet Union, and our President are being eagerly awaited. Litvinoff comes to America on the invitation of the President to discuss "by frank, friendly conversations, all questions outstanding between our countries."

The President believes that although the difficulties that have prevented the United States from recognizing Russia are serious they are not insoluble. We can readily understand how economical and diplomatic motives could bring about a change of policy in regard to recognition of the Soviet by America. The issue may be a forced one, something like a choice of a lesser evil in place of a greater one. If this be the case, we can easily understand the President's invitation to the Soviet.

No matter what the motives for this conference may be, we cannot forget that the United States must face many responsibilities in the recognition of the Soviet.

The United States is a world power of no mean importance. Russia likewise holds an important place. There is no doubt concerning the extreme positions that these two powers hold in governmental policy and in principles of vital importance. Now, for the United States to give de facto recognition to the Soviet Union will entail one of the heaviest responsibilities on the part of our nation.

Recognition of the de facto existing Soviet government in Russia will be a big help to enable that government to exist de jure. A universal recognition of any government by other nations, plus the lack of opposition to that government on the part of its subjects enables that government to exist by judicial right and not by right of might.

The world at large knows the unjust means the Soviet has used to suppress any counter revolutionary activities on the part of Russians. Can our government recognize a Communist state without recognizing the principles of liberty, justice and equal human rights that are voiced in our constitution? We refer to the private ownership of property, the family and that of the Church. The Soviet has destroyed such rights and has done so in Russia.

The United States recognizes the Soviet, we feel that every citizen of this country who loves the democracy that we now enjoy, will demand that Russia give us guarantees that the activities of the Third International here in America will cease. Likewise we want a treaty to give us the right to deport to Russia all active Communists here. We have no such right now.

If these guarantees are given, time alone can tell when Russia will consider them obsolete. Russia has not lived up to such a guarantee given to China. The reason for this violation is that it is a policy of the Soviet to spread communistic ideas to prepare the ground for a world wide revolution. It is an avowed Soviet hope that ultimately all governments will become communistic. Where will our democracy be if this happens? We must face such a possibility if we recognize the Soviet.

Can we delude ourselves that a lasting benefit can come from trading and helping an industrial nation. The national benefit may be momentary. But the results cannot be permanent. Such trading may prove to be a boomerang for us in the future. If the United States can afford to shoulder these responsibilities and because of existing conditions recognize the Russian government, we will continue to feel that recognition is merely the lesser of two evils.

A HOLY AND WHOLESOME THOUGHT

As these lines are being written the feast of All Souls is a thing of the past and we are well started on the month of November. It is the month when all nature seems to be dying. Flowers are gone, trees stand bare, fields look gaunt and empty. The blue of the skies has faded into grey and the wind grows colder day by day.

How often during these chill November days will we find ourselves reminiscing over the joyful days that have fled—and the loved ones whose voices have been stilled and whose eyes have been closed in the long sleep of death.

Man lives only to remember these treasures which Time robs from him. What a futile, sad remembrance that would be if we had no faith to stir our hearts in the joyful hope of living again with our beloved dead and helping them in a land of exile beyond the grave.

November holds a deep significance for Catholics. It is this month that the church has dedicated to the Poor Souls. She asks us during this month to remember all of her children suffering in Purgatory. It is her teaching that we, by our prayers and good works, can shorten their stay and hasten their advent to heaven.

Upon this doctrine is founded our faith in indulgences. It is likewise the doctrine that led our Holy Father to declare that during this Jubilee Year the ordinary indulgences may be gained only for the Poor Souls.

There is no need to urge our Catholic people to pray for their dead. The doctrine of the church that we can apply our good works to benefit the Souls in Purgatory is in complete harmony with the sentiments of aiding love all of us feel for our dear ones who have gone. But what we do urge is this: Let no one limit his prayers to his own dead, but let each of us pray for those Poor Souls who have no one to remember or pray for them. This will be a real act of charity. It will be applying to the fullest degree the admonition of Sacred Scripture that "it is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins." As the days of this month slip by, we ask our Catholic people to increase their prayers for the Poor Souls so that Almighty God may, through this charity, release a great number of souls from the sufferings of Purgatory and admit them to the blessedness of Heaven.

Current Comment

CATHOLIC CRITICS

Catholics are very severe critics of their own editors and their own papers, but seldom find fault with the secular papers which are coming into their homes and which are seen and read by the youngest members of the family. Yea, they go much farther—they condemn the Catholic editors and writers who make protests against attacks on the Church. Recently, at Baltimore, where the Catholic weekly was protesting against local broadcasts of the Judge Rutherford matter, nine of ten members of a "Holy Name Society" committee found that there was nothing in the Rutherford talks to justify such protest. And this happened just after the judge had stated that Purgatory was a doctrine invented by the priests to increase their revenues!—T. A. Thoma, in The Catholic Daily Tribune.

PRACTICAL CATHOLIC ACTION

Bishop Michael J. Gallagher recently called for a crusade against salacious movies and suggestive advertising by Catholic organizations. Detroit is being literally flooded with obscene books and magazines, retailed in many corner drug stores. If any Catholic organization here has taken action to combat these evils we have not learned of it. In this connection we should commend the League of Catholic Women in Grand Rapids. Its literature committee obtained the removal of a certain obscene magazine from all local news stands. That is practical Catholic Action.—The Michigan Catholic.

HARD TO UNDERSTAND

There must be some economic benefits in destroying food, but it is very difficult to understand them. One unlettered in political economy might think it better to find consumers for the food. The proverb speaks about "casting bread upon the waters," but slaughtering animals and destroying foodstuffs is hardly a parallel.—The New World (Chicago).

Join the Columbus Civic Center club and enjoy its many advantages.

If we have not peace at home, that is, in our souls, we will not find it elsewhere.

Repeat of the 18th Amendment will not mean a license to overindulge.

Diocesan Recordings

With election day a matter of history we can now start trying not to put off early Christmas shopping.

An event that will draw all Catholic groups together in Rochester and for many miles around is the coming football game between two Catholic college teams, Notre Dame B of South Bend, Indiana, and St. Bonaventure's of Olean, to be held Thanksgiving Day afternoon in the Red Wing Stadium. This is not just an ordinary football game for the staging of it marks the inauguration of activities planned to fill the coffers of the Nazareth College Building Fund.

The Sisters of St. Joseph who conduct Nazareth College have gone bravely along with the project of providing a collegiate course and courses for our Catholic girls using facilities and buildings available. Response of Catholic parents to the realization that their daughters are to be exceptionally well trained at Nazareth has caused growth that must be provided for soon. A building fund committee consisting of alumnae has started work and the Thanksgiving Day event is to furnish some idea of how those interested in Catholic higher education will react to a necessary venture.

That the football game will be more than just an ordinary athletic contest is assured by a "brain trust" called together by the Dean of Nazareth College and consisting of daily newspaper sports writers who popped forth ideas a mile a minute the other night; that will give everyone who attends the game full value for money spent.

He probably did not mean it the way it sounds, but a city official is quoted as saying recently: "My definition of horse sense is stable thinking."

Winners and losers in the election Tuesday realize now that many things are said in the heat of a campaign that might better be left unsaid. It is better before giving full expression to an opinion to look ahead to see if we shall regret what is said when events happen to make faces red.

Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus has decided to establish a Circle of the Columbian Squires, junior organization which prepares Catholic boys to be ready to assume the responsibilities of knighthood. In the diocese Elmira Council has already proved the value of this organization for Catholic boys approaching manhood. The ages of Columbian Squires are between 16 and 18. These are the ages when boys have outgrown Boy Scout work and are too young to band with the older Catholic lay organization. Boys joining the Rochester Columbian Squires are assured of facilities for activity unusual and unsurpassed. So interested is the Council Chapter, Rev. Gerald C. Lambert in the formation of this group that he has arranged for the Squires to make use of the Columbus Civic Center gym and swimming pool. The Knights will provide rooms for the boys to meet. A schedule is being worked out for serious meetings so that these boys will be equipped physically, mentally and morally to carry on the Knights plan of Catholic Action in later years.

Writing of the Columbus Civic Center reminds us that the annual campaign for members is just around the corner. Men, women, boys and girls of the community are eligible to join and there are provided advantages for all. The use of the many benefits offered thousands who have already made have proved the need of such an institution. Since the Catholic Courier office has been established in Columbus Civic Center it has been brought home to us ever more increasingly that a great many of our people still do not realize the extent of this institution. We could go on for several columns citing the physical, moral and educational advantages of this twelve story institution, but it is necessary to come in, and make a first hand inspection to fully realize what is offered in this unique educational and social center.

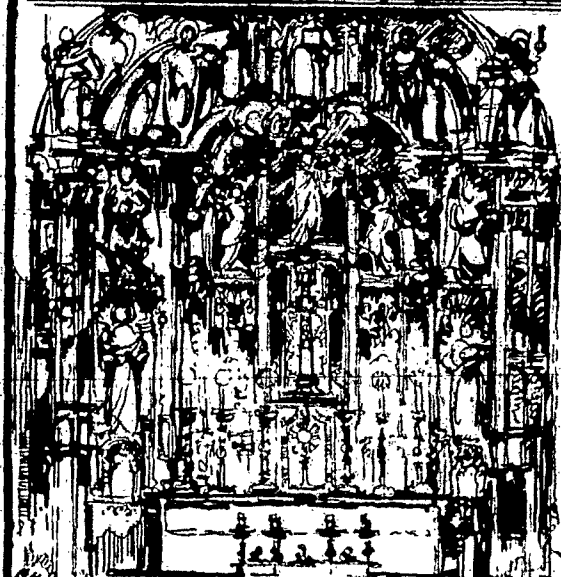
Adding to the inclusion of Niagara University School of Business in Columbus Civic Center the latest opportunity offered for improving the mind is a Catholic Evidence Library. This too must be inspected to realize just what is offered. Questions that have been bothering Catholics and non-Catholics about our Faith may now be answered by a visit to the library. The Church's stand on the vexing problems of the day may be had. Study groups seeking information for their next meeting are urged to visit the library.

Above all the graces and gifts of the Holy Spirit which Christ has given to His friends is that of conquering oneself and suffering willingly for the love of Christ. All faith, ill-usage, opprobrium and calamity.—St. Francis of Assisi.

STRANGE BUT TRUE Catholic Facts But Little Known

By M. J. MURRAY

A SHRINE FOR AVIATORS

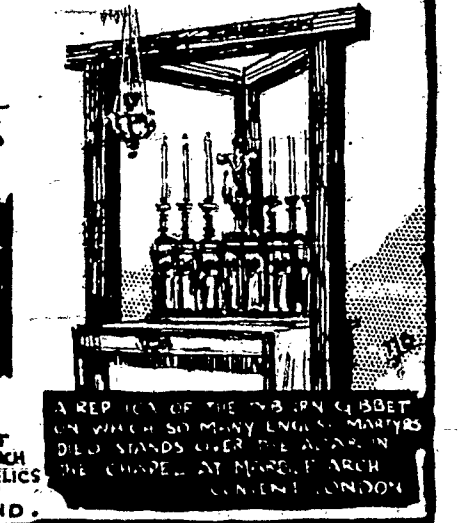


This ALTAR from Mexico reposes in a non-sectarian chapel for aviators at the Mission Inn, Riverside, California. Made of gold and cedar-wood, it was dedicated Dec. 12, 1932



The 1,000 years old church at ARE, in LAPLAND contains a statue of SAINT PETER, wearing a three-cornered black felt hat as worn by CHARLES XII of SWEDEN in the 17th century.

A GIBBET OVER AN ALTAR



The Vow of making a pilgrimage to Compostella to honor the Sepulchre of Saint James is of such importance that only the Pope can dispense from it.

The Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem is in Rome. The whole district was so named after the church had been built to house the relics of the TRUE CROSS BROUGHT BY ST HELENA FROM THE HOLY LAND.

Is There A Hell?

"Well, I don't pretend to know much about God's decrees," said the portly passenger on a railway train, "but just the same it would take a good deal of reasoning to persuade me that God is going to send anyone to hell."

"Why?" asked the priest "Because God would be guilty of revenging Himself, and revenge doesn't harmonize very well with the spirit of Christianity."

"Indeed," said the priest "Then we miserable creatures can insult and outrage His Infinite Majesty as we please, and God is powerless to command our respect!"

Yes, think of what you say when you attribute revenge to the Deity. We mortals are not allowed to take revenge for many reasons. In the first place because we can never fully know the extent of guilt our offending neighbor has in his heart, which is seen by God alone. We are forbidden to take revenge because it implies an act of authority which one individual cannot exercise over another for the simple reason that he doesn't possess it. We are not allowed to take revenge because passion usually blinds our judgment whenever our personal interests are involved. It is forbidden us because God wishes us to imitate the meekness and charity of Christ. For these and many other reasons revenge becomes in us a transgression. But in God, the Supreme Lord and Master, the case is altogether different. Sin is a most grave disorder, for it violates God's eternal law and therefore must be repaired. When sinful man does not repair the offence by voluntary expiation, it must be repaired by compulsory reparation, and God, being the Author of all order, attends to it personally. In Him is perfect knowledge of the fault and all its circumstances. Hence He can exact reparation with perfect justice. In Him is supreme authority. Therefore, He only avenges His right. In Him there is not, nor can there be, blindness of passion. Consequently He judges with perfect equanimity. He punishes the fault because both its deformity and His infinite justice demand it. According to our feeble mode of expression we call divine vengeance what is simply an act of supreme justice, rectifying the evil of sin with the good of punishment.

Do not delude yourself with the idea that God is only good and merciful, for it may expose you to the danger of finding Him only just. There are two kinds of sinners who ought to take this into serious consideration: first, those continually presuming on God's infinite mercy. Let them realize that His very mercy compels Him to punish them, lest there be established in the world the vicious principle that the more merciful He is, the greater the liberty of offending Him with impunity. The other class of sinners is composed of those continually vilifying and persecuting the good because they

suffer in patience. Of course, the latter cannot, must not, seek revenge during the present time of probation. But a day will come when, free from human passions and through pure zeal of justice, they will cry to Heaven for vengeance, and God, Who reserves to Himself the right of revenge, will hear their prayer. He shall then render it clear to everyone that His goodness does not prevent Him from punishing crime, and that to take revenge for the offences committed against His holy law is not incompatible with His infinite justice.

Spiritual Thoughts

Happy is he who has charity for every one—Blessed Egidius of Assisi.

When we are truly abandoned to God's will, we are ready for all that may come to us.—Bossuet.

He who amuses himself with Satan cannot rejoice with Christ.—St. Peter Chrysologus.

A hectic spirit is a great advantage to virtue, therefore happy is he who has received this gift from God.

The most mortified will be the most tenderly cared by the Heart of Jesus.—St. Margaret Mary.

Try to be unnoticed except when called on to come forward in the cause of God and of our neighbor.—Father Clare, S.J.

All our best life, all our spiritual life is nothing but a succession of visitations, visitations from Mary bringing Jesus with her. But nowhere is the similitude so faithful as it is in the Blessed Sacrament. How often when we come near to the Tabernacle a secret fire comes forth, and our hearts burn within us without any apparent cause, cares fall off, tears are dried, doubts melt away, temptations are vanquished, anxieties are allayed, our soul is bathed in quiet, sudden jubilee! Joy, exultation, praise, delight, the sense of forgiveness and the spirit of worship, these are exactly the fruits produced in us as they were in the soul of John the Baptist at the sight of Our Lord.

New Books

A new brochure on Mother Elizabeth Seton, foundress of the Sisters of Charity in America, has just been published by the Paulist Press. The pamphlet is written by the Rev. Joseph B. Code, noted authority on Mother Seton, who has done much in writing and speaking, to promote her Cause. Father Code is the author of "Great American Foundresses." The pamphlet contains bibliographical references on Mother Seton and the prayer of Cardinal Gibbons "to obtain the glorification of Mother Seton."

Back Through the Years

(A Glimpse through the files of the Catholic Courier and Journal)

March 9, 1895 The Very Rev. Dean William J. Seymour, pastor of Holy Family Church, Auburn, died in San Antonio, Texas.

Immaculate Conception Minstrel Club was organized with the following officers: President, William Shea; Vice-President, Albert O'Grady; Secretary, A. Sullivan; Treasurer, Richard Connors.

At the regular meeting of the Police Commissioners, the Rev. T. A. Hendrick and other members of the Committee of One Hundred appeared before the board and asked that the Commissioners suspend the rule prohibiting officers from entering saloons to ascertain whether or not the law was being violated. Father Hendrick said that the officers should be instructed to watch closely all places where liquor is sold to children and to put a stop to the practice.

March 16, 1895 Announcement was made that St. Joseph's Church would be thoroughly renovated and improved.

March 23, 1895 Three successful concerts were held in the City Hall, Cathedral Hall and Immaculate Conception Hall for the orphans' benefit.

Bishop McQuaid appointed the Rev. John J. Hickey of Waterloo, pastor of Holy Family Church, Auburn, to succeed the late Rev. William J. Seymour. The Rev. William H. Harrington, Catholic Chaplain at the State Industrial School was transferred to Waterloo to succeed Father Hickey. The Rev. Thomas F. Hickey of Moravia was recommended to the Board of Managers of the State Industrial School for the appointment as Chaplain.

Solemn pontifical requiem Mass was celebrated by Bishop McQuaid for Madame Carrigan of the Religious of the Sacred Heart who died in Cincinnati.

EVERY PRAYER IS ANSWERED

Every one of us often needs special favors, either in the temporal or spiritual sphere. We may obtain them by addressing ourselves directly to God; but it is a fact of experience that God loves us to have recourse in such circumstances to the various devotions approved by the Church. Often God accords signal extraordinary benefits in return for some particular exercises in honor, perhaps, of the Sacred Heart or His own Blessed Mother or of the Angels or the Saints. And we know by faith that every prayer is answered in some way and that every devotional practice obtains some heavenly benefit.