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MEMBER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

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Editorials

GREETINGS, RUSSIA

We, as a nation, have recognized the Soviet. Having existed for sixteen years unrecognized by the United States, the Soviet now finds itself recognized as the established form of government of the Russian people by America. During these sixteen years we had but three months of less formal expressions of policy relative to Soviet recognition. All three were opposed to recognition. It took only thirty-eight days to reverse that policy and as a result diplomatic relations and communications now exist between Russia and the United States.

Regarding this new status the President says "I trust that the relations now established between our peoples may forever remain normal and friendly, and that our nations henceforth may cooperate for their mutual benefit and for the preservation of the peace of the world."

These are weighty words voicing as they do a trust and a hope that is great and significant. We are inclined to believe that by reading between the lines we can account for our government's sudden decision to recognize the Soviet. We read economic, social and diplomatic reasons there that would warrant the United States to recognize a government that upholds principles so contrary to our own.

We congratulate our President for winning from M. Litvinoff the concession of freedom of religious worship for Americans resident in Russia. This guarantee assures Americans a freedom that Russians do not now enjoy despite the fact that the Russian representative quoted extensively from Russian law to show that religious freedom now exists in Russia.

Surely M. Litvinoff does not take us for a group of moribund. We would like to remind him of a few laws he failed to quote that nullify completely any Soviet law that pretends to grant freedom of worship to its people.

We do hope that our government will insist that this concession and guarantee be respected by the Soviet. That when Americans do go to Russia they will be unhampered in the celebration of religious services by Russian red tape that may seek to nullify the concession given us.

THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

How devoted and reverent are the children of the Church to Mary the Mother of God. Through the centuries they have shown an eagerness to seize upon each new devotion instituted in her honor and to use each new sacramental dedicated to her.

It is no wonder then that when the Miraculous Medal was approved by the Church over a hundred years ago to be worn in Mary's honor, it was universally received with generous enthusiasm. Its use has, in the course of years, proved so efficacious, that even today we find this sacramental ever growing in popularity among Catholic people.

It was Our Lady herself who, in a vision to Venerable Catherine Labouré, ordered the Miraculous Medal to be struck. This young girl, a postulant in the Community of the Sisters of Charity, was chosen by God to be the instrument through which He would give the Miraculous Medal to the world.

On November 27, 1830, Sister Catherine beheld the Blessed Virgin in vision, radiant with light and in her hands a globe, whilst brilliant rays descended from rings on the fingers that supported the globe. The young postulant understood that these rays were symbols of the graces people would obtain if they prayed for them.

Suddenly a semi-oval arch bearing the inscription "O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee" appeared around the upper portion of the apparition. An interior voice instructed Catherine "to have a medal struck after this model: those who wear it will receive great graces."

Later on, the medal was struck and devotion to Mary through its use was spread by the Sisters of Charity. From the beginning of the new devotion it was evident that the new medal was something out of the ordinary. Through its use wonderful favors, both spiritual and corporal, were recorded.

The apparitions of the Blessed Virgin to Blessed Catherine and the appearance of the Medal bearing the invocation in honor of her Immaculate Conception came several years before the Church defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. It does seem as if the Immaculate Medal was a powerful means to introduce to the Immaculate Conception. The fact is now that effective advertising is an art, or at least a skilled accomplishment. The masters in this field are adept in the elements of psychology. Clever publicity can create success for wretchedly inferior stuff. Bibles that are authentically worthless may succeed in spite of poor publicity if they do succeed, it is because of the art of advertising.

The apparitions of Sister Catherine was recognized by the Holy See on May 28 of this year. The medal was struck on May 28 of this year. The medal was struck on May 28 of this year.

anniversary of the last apparition of Our Lady to Blessed Catherine.

We too join with the Sisters "in making every effort to show our Blessed Mother all the love and gratitude that fills our hearts," by giving honor on this occasion to the humble Sister of Charity who was so highly honored by the Queen of Heaven.

We feel sure that those who are privileged in making the Triduum in the little hospital chapel dedicated to Mary will reap the reward of her promise to Blessed Catherine "Come to the foot of this altar, here graces will be shed on all those who ask for them, the rich and the poor alike."

DR. MACHEN AND THE MODERNISTS

To one who reads the magazine articles on religion by representatives of the Protestant Church, or reads their sermons recorded in the newspapers, or listens to them over the radio, it appears that within the Protestant Church there is a sharp and bitter criticism of Protestantism itself. Fundamentalists and Modernists within the churches are as far removed from each other as is the Protestant from the Catholic Church.

The most recent condemnation of this existing condition has come from none other than the president of the Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Dr. J. Gresham Machen, who last Sunday was a guest preacher in Rochester. Here is a man who is in a position to know the situation as it exists in his own Presbyterian Church. Not only does he know it, but he has the insight to know where the modernistic tendencies of indifferentism and syncretism are leading.

It was Dr. Machen who demanded the resignation of Mrs. Pearl Buck, novelist, from her position of Chinese missionary on the ground that she was holding unorthodox beliefs. Mrs. Buck, representing the Presbyterian Church, made the statements that a Creed was unnecessary for the understanding of Christ and that, after all, it made no difference whether He lived or not; whether He had a body or not; whether He had a time to be born in history and a time to die, according to Mrs. Pearl Buck, this is no matter for concern today.

Knowing the danger of such indications of indifference, and recognizing the growing tendency to unite conflicting beliefs, the fundamentalists of the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church demanded a public rebuke, if not a heresy trial, for Mrs. Buck. Their demand was repudiated by the Assembly by a vote of 621 to 120.

There can be only one conclusion: the "hardshell" of Presbyterianism is softening under the disintegrating powers of materialism and indifferentism within itself.

Catholics can well ponder over Dr. Machen's lament over this condition which, as he says, and, of course, he is right, is more or less dominant in most of the larger Protestant churches today. To quote him: "It is a strange thing," he says, "that we find presented to us today, in the name of Christianity, that non-doctrinal paganism, that confidence in man and in his religious experience, which from the beginning has been the deadliest enemy of the Christian religion."

We fear the good Doctor has analyzed the situation too well. In his denunciation of modernism within the Protestant Church he proves too much. To our mind he has unhorsed himself and laid his own position of fundamental Protestantism open to attack.

The reader of history knows that all Protestantism comes from man: Luther, Calvin, Henry VIII, Knox, Wesley, Huss and other lesser lights. The confidence of the entire Protestant world rests on the religious experience of these men which found itself expressed concretely in that misnamed secession from the Catholic Church called the Reformation.

We can agree with Dr. Machen when he says that in the beginning Christianity was not a life as distinguished from a doctrine, or a life that had doctrine as its changing symbolic expression but—just the other way around—it was a life founded on a doctrine.

But we know the Doctor will hardly dare go the necessary step further with us when we say that it was a life founded on several doctrines, all divinely revealed by the Son of God, and placed for safe keeping within His divinely founded Church. And it was this Church, the Rock of Peter and the Rock of Ages, that He gave the sanction of infallibility in the teaching of these doctrines on which men are to build their faith and moral life.

It is the infallibility of the Catholic Church that makes for her unity in doctrine. Protestantism with its doctrine of private judgment never has and never can claim infallibility and without it how can it ever hope to control its beliefs.

Current Comment

THE WORLD OVER

Some societies discuss everything from art to Hindustan except the Catholic Press. But they expect the Catholic paper to report and promote their programs.—Michigan Catholic, Detroit.

ANOTHER STATUE OF CHRIST

Another of the statues of Christ the King which are being erected at various vantage points throughout the world, such as the heights of the Andes, is reported from England, where a statue of Christ the King is to be placed on top of a 100-foot tower at Corpus Christi Church on the shore of the English Channel.

When completed the tower, surmounted by its statue, will be a landmark for ships far down the Channel. A new Angelus bell is being installed in the tower and the church itself is being remodeled and redoubled in size.—Cleveland Universe-Bulletin.

CLEVER PUBLICITY

Whatever may have been true in the past, the fact is now that effective advertising is an art, or at least a skilled accomplishment. The masters in this field are adept in the elements of psychology. Clever publicity can create success for wretchedly inferior stuff. Bibles that are authentically worthless may succeed in spite of poor publicity if they do succeed, it is because of the art of advertising.

Diocesan Recordings

A self-appointed weather prophet in town predicts Indian summer for the first of December. Nazareth College girls hope he is a day late with his predictions.

It seems to us that it would be far better if announcements of jobs available for the unemployed would be held off until the jobs are actually ready to be taken. Hope is buoyed up constantly by announcements of thousands of jobs only to be later given a cold bath by those in charge that this or that thing is holding up starting the actual work. Both political parties have done this recently so we are not picking on any one party. Our belief is that better feeling will result when the men and women are given work and not promises.

The employer continued to be discouraged although every Saturday money came in to meet his payroll. One of his office girls, a Catholic, chided him for his morose spirit, citing the fact that although things looked dark on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, that on Thursday and Friday sufficient money came in to meet payrolls and current expenses. The employer, a non-Catholic, turned to the young woman and said: "Do you ask for help?" She was nonplussed for a moment and said: "If you mean do I ask Almighty God for assistance? Yes." The employer inquired: "When do you pray?" He was told: "We pray all the time, there is no set time for praying to God and we speak to him as we do to any friend." The employer was much impressed and here was one young Catholic woman who was able to explain her belief and to impress one not of her faith with the necessity and efficiency of prayer.

When you hear a good Catholic radio broadcast does it occur to you that it is good "Catholic Action" to write and comment the station doing the broadcasting?

Not so long ago the new Supreme Knight of the Knights of St. Columba, T. P. Davis, J. P. of London, England, and Supreme Secretary of the Knights of Columba in America were guests at a dinner in London of the Westminster Province of the British order. At the meeting it was brought out that it is the ambition of the Knights in England to see the day when the Knights of Columbus, the Irish Knights of St. Columbanus, the Knights of St. Columba and the Knights of the Southern Cross will unite as one vast band to impress upon the world the doctrines of the Church. It was the Most Rev. Joseph Butt, Bishop of Cambyspolt present for the first time at a meeting of the Knights who indicated the means for such action to be most effective. Bishop Butt said that what he knew of the Order filled him with admiration for it. He liked its democratic character and he saw in it one more of those associations which knit Catholics together and make them a force in the land. Catholic Action, done in public, the Bishop said, has a very important place, but the thing which really tells is THE PRIVATE LIFE OF EACH INDIVIDUAL.

"The Tableter" in the Brooklyn Tablet has just written of a little practice that will bring cheer to the shut-ins. A friend of his, a young advertising man clips comic pictures from magazines over a period of three or four months, pastes them in little scrap books and delivers them to the Catholic hospital. This is a hobby that not only provides pleasure for the person with the hobby but also brings sunshine to those whose days are mostly dreary.

Catholic Action in the south is getting results, according to a report made by Richard Reid, chairman of the publicity committee of the Catholic Laymen's Association of Georgia, and editor of "The Bulletin," organ of the Association, at a recent convention of the association held in Macon, Ga. It was revealed by Mr. Reid that in the past year the Association distributed over 100,000 pieces of literature, answered inquiries not only from Georgia but from a score of other states, furnished data for numerous radio addresses on many subjects in various parts of the state, sponsored addresses on many Catholic topics, particularly the Spanish missions of Georgia, before Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Exchange and Civilian clubs, kept the Georgia press and leaders of thought in the state informed on Catholic current events and the Catholic position on current subjects, corrected erroneous statements about the Church in Georgia newspapers and promoted retreats. The report indicated that the press of Georgia has been generously in the amount of space it voluntarily devoted to the reprinting of the matter from the Bulletin, particularly about the early Catholic Spanish history of Georgia, a subject of unusual interest this year because of the bicentennial of the founding of Oglethorpe's Georgia Colony. This short account of what was done does not indicate fully the extensive work done under Mr. Reid's direction nor does it reveal the early beginnings of the Catholic Laymen's Association which were filled with encouragement. It does prove, however, that Catholic Action can be effective if tried.

STRANGE BUT TRUE Catholic Facts But Little Known

By M. J. MURRAY



have witnessed the passing of EIGHT EMPIRES! When Nero placed them on his triumphal arch in Rome it was to mark the death of the Greek Empire. Constantine removed them to Byzantium and the Roman Empire fell. They were brought to Venice after the conquest of Byzantium (Constantinople). Napoleon took them to Paris and the Venetian Empire was at an end. They were returned to Venice when the Napoleonic Empire collapsed. During the war they witnessed the break up of the empires of Austria, Germany & Russia.



THE STEEPLE OF THE CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR COPENHAGEN

The MILLENIUM is the thousand year period mentioned in the Apocalypse when Christ and the Saints are to reign triumphant on Earth. The belief that this would literally occur was common in the early church but is now regarded as impossible. CARDINAL NEWMAN was the only priest of modern times to be raised to the Sacred College without being elevated to the hierarchy or without having duties in the Roman Curia.

Christian Duty

Is it not pitiable, after nineteen centuries, to behold the present distracted state of Christendom? While Christ's enemies are united, His divided followers waste their time and energies in opposing one another. Those powers, intellectual and material which should be employed in unseemly contention; the injury of Christ's cause, which all profess to cherish. Whence this spirit of disunion? Not surely from Christ, who prayed "they all may be one." No! an enemy hath done this. The apostate Luther and the much-married Henry the Eighth of England were the authors of all this scandalous confusion and strife. Strange that two men whom no serious Christian could think of taking as models of Christian life, could ever have been accepted as "reformers" of Christ's irrefragable Church! Christ's own test: "By their fruits you shall know them," is fatal to both.

The misguided Luther's prediction has come true: "The die is cast, and we shall soon have as many religions as there are heads!" What chaos what confusion have followed in his wake! As the prodigal out of his father's house could not satisfy his hunger with hucks, neither can the children of God satisfy their souls with the hucks of a spurious religion. For three hundred years and more, non-Catholic Christians have tried it. Their uncertainty and unrest individually; their numberless divisions, subdivisions and sects collectively show their dissatisfaction. Through those lamentable divisions paganism is again coming back to the world. The idol of gold and the idol of flesh have an ever-increasing number of aggressive worshippers. The millions of poor souls enslaved by those idols show by their terrible excesses how much they need the saving restraints of true religion.

NEW BOOKS

"Aids to Catholic Action," a 96-page booklet designed to promote understanding of and active participation in the Catholic Action Apostolate, has just been printed by the N. C. W. C. Publications Department in Washington. The booklet, it was said, has been issued to meet "the ever-increasing demand for an authoritative text on the general subject of Catholic Action and for practical helps in organizing and carrying on various activities of the Catholic Action Apostolate." The booklet discusses "Catholic Action," "Catholic Education," "Lay Organization," "The Family," "The Catholic Press," "World Peace—Evidencing the Faith," and "Economic Justice."

Each discussion is divided into three parts: The first tells what the problem is; the second why Catholics should be interested in it; the third how its solution can be advanced by Catholic Action. Each of the eight chapters is accompanied by a special bibliography and by a series of questions and topics for discussion. An appendix presents special information dealing with study club organization, membership and conduct.

When the Blessed Virgin's heart is touched, happy is he who has touched it. He has found grace with God.

Love is as strong as death... the lamps thereof are fire and flames. (Cant. viii, 6).

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The best perfection is to do ordinary things in a perfect manner. St. Basil.