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

Editorials

ANOTHER NEW YEAR

We wish all our readers a Happy New Year, filled with many blessings from the Giver of all good, New Year's Day, as a rule, is a day of hope and encouragement. It marks the passing of a new milestone, the opening of a new stretch of road, the unfolding of new vistas. As 1933 draws near one cannot help but wonder what this coming year holds for the world. Will it see the shadows lifting? Will it see men leaving the dark valley through which they have plodded for so long? Will it see the horizon lighted by the rose and gold of dawn? Certainly the outlook is most promising. The past year began in darkness, but gradually the clouds have lifted, and as the year wanes we find ourselves hopefully peering with straining vision into the future.

As we stand at the threshold of the New Year, it seems to us that what the world most needs is light. For years it has been struggling in darkness and getting nowhere. The world needs the light of Faith; it needs it desperately. It has lighted all its little candles and the winds of fresh disaster have extinguished them; it has called on all its idols, its toy gods and its mythical masters, and their answer has been a mocking silence.

On the one true God it has not called—the only God Who can save it. You and I and millions of Catholics know it. But the world at large does not know it. The question is, and it is a good question to ask at New Year's—how can we make it known? What can we do to relieve and save the world? We need supernatural aid, and this we can have for the asking if we ask for it in the right manner. Though naturally we may be timid as hares, with God helping us we can become courageous and strong as lions.

There is some way out, or some hope of a way out, in the most confusing labyrinth ahead; and from the broken arches of the past which collapsed below us, we must assemble the material for shorter, humbler spans, for more durable bridges. The past we can neither change nor recall, over the present and the future we still have control. Let us do all in our power to preserve within ourselves the peace which the Christ-Child gives to men of good-will, then this New Year and each succeeding one will be happier than the last since it brings us nearer to eternal happiness.

THE HOLY NAME

The first month of the year comes to us filled with the sweet and attractive Feasts of the Holy Childhood. Its first day is the Feast of the Circumcision. The painful rite was endured by the Divine Infant as a lesson of obedience. It was the first shedding of the Precious Blood. At the same time the Holy Name of Jesus was given to the Child. It is a happy auspice for the New Year that it should begin under the aegis of that Sacred Name which means so much to mankind.

A Name in itself is nothing more than a word used to distinguish one individual from another. In this respect all names have a common value, as they have a common utility, and therefore, are entitled to common respect. It is only when the individual excels in some moral, physical or intellectual virtue that his name takes on a greater luster than those of his less gifted fellows.

Were it not for their incomparable skill in arms the names of Alexander and Caesar would never have been invested with the imperishable fame that now enshrines them; were it not for their transcendent eloquence, the names of Demosthenes and Cicero would have been forever lost in the sea of obscurity; were it not for their dazzling genius, the names of Raphael and Michael Angelo would not now live on canvas and in monumental stone; and were it not that He was the Son of God, endowed with all the prerogatives and attributes of the Father, the Name of Jesus Christ would not have been what it now is—the most holy, the most efficacious, the most salutary Name ever given to the tongue of man to utter.

The bearer of that Holy Name has well earned our respect, our gratitude and our love. Indeed the reverence and devotion with which the early Christians continually uttered the Name of Jesus and the efficacy and power which they attributed to it, might well bring the blush to the faces of those who often while professing the faith of Jesus Christ, can find no use for His most Holy Name than one of contempt and blasphemy.

THE CHURCH AND ECONOMICS

A certain type of business men who are not accustomed to do much constructive thinking outside their own particular line of endeavor sometimes ask: What has the Church to do with economics? They assert that these are matters to be left to the business men. Men who hold such views should be given to understand that it is the duty of the Church to preach the eternal truths committed to her in language clear to each succeeding generation and to apply the ancient doctrine to the moral problems of the times. Just as the study of the universe is bound up with the study of its Creator, just as the study of the sciences helps to elucidate the Divine Law, so too the study of political economy is closely bound up with the matter of ethics.

Do not the problems of production, wages, profits, and interest come within the scope of ethical treatment? All of these are certainly moral questions. Despite all the modern discoveries and inventions, in spite of the great increase in the comforts of life, the condition of the great mass of the people has become steadily worse. Because of the greed for wealth and the barbarous system of unrestricted competition, millions of men have been reduced to the level of mere machines. The result is a nation of wage slaves living in a degrading atmosphere, in slum-plague spots whose evil influence radiates beyond their own confines.

Cities spend enormous sums of money to build and maintain poor houses, hospitals, prisons, reformatories, etc., that are made necessary by faulty economics. Millions of babies die in their first and second years because of a lack of sunshine and fresh air. Of the thirty per cent. of young men who were found to be unfit for army service during the War, the evil was traced, in an appalling measure, to unhealthy living quarters. So to the evils of overwork, underpay, and bad housing, we must add the injustices of monopoly prices and extortion in its various forms, all of which could be minimized by the application of sound economic laws.

Those who object to the Church's interest in matters of economy should remember that it is her duty to teach the commandment, "Thou shalt not steal," and to point out that this precept applies to fraud and oppression even when practiced by respectable business men. Therefore the Church has very much to say about the matter of economics. The fact that nothing but a return to Christian ideals will ever remedy these evils is the answer to those who ask, "What has the Church to do with economics?"

CHIEF CAUSE OF MODERN ILLS

Judge Allgretti of the Boys' Court in Chicago, a clinic for the moral ills of youth, probably knows more about modern youth in some of its aspects, at least, than almost any other man in the United States. A man of the broadest human sympathies, he has made a close study of the young people who come before his court, and he has this to say of them:

"Modern youth? Well, considering the temptations that the average boy or young man encounters, the fast pace of the times, and the evident laxity of some parents, I think he is a pretty noble person.

"When I speak of temptation, I am thinking of three of the more important ones. The first is the modern girl; her dress or the lack of it is a serious moral peril, as I know from my courtroom experience. No, the modern girl is not helping the young men to be better, finer and more inclined to a life of decent morality.

"The second temptation is the automobile. It is used to joyride with girls; it is used to commit robbery, burglary and even murder. Parents who have young daughters should make very plain to them the dangers of taking up with such boys or accepting lifts from them.

"The third danger is the curse of the gin bottle so prevalent during the prohibition era. It has caused countless moral as well as physical deaths. A generation ago a girl would refuse flatly to dance with a young man if she detected the odor of liquor on his breath. Now the boys tell me that the girls often refuse to dance with them if they haven't brought a bottle to the party. Sin and crime result.

Then the Judge gives this salutary advice:

"To the fathers and mothers I should say: Remember, your first responsibility is to your children." It is astonishing how many fathers are ignorant of the needs of the boy in the home. American fathers are too willing to throw the whole burden of child training on the already overburdened mother. Fathers spend their time at their work, keep late hours and often have sleepless nights, trying to find the lost penny in the ledger. They try to keep their business out of moral and financial bankruptcy in the hope of leaving to their children a sufficiency of income and a well-founded business.

"What value have wealth and business if they are left to morally ruined children?"

Current Comment

The grain exchange is a device for making agriculture profitable to gent's who dislike to wear overalls.—San Diego Union.

It is discipline which turns an ungainly recruit into a smart soldier. It turns a beginner, fumbling over the piano keys, into a concert performer. It brings back to usefulness and self-respect the man who has lost himself through self-indulgence.—Catholic News (New York).

It is well for a man to respect his own vocation whatever it is, and to think himself bound to uphold it, and to claim for it the respect that it deserves.—Charles Dickens.

Catholics insist upon religion in the school, because God is the Creator and Sovereign Lord of all men. To teach without mentioning His name gives a distorted view of the universe and a false outlook on life.

I cannot understand how anyone can keep himself pure in the midst of the world without Communion.—Pere Egnard.

Beware of so many more than of yourself; we carry out more enemies within us.—Swenson.

Diocesan Recordings

This is the week for exchanging Christmas gifts at the stores. It is also a good time to think of exchanging some of those broken resolutions of 1933 for brand new ones for 1934.

Happy New Year.

President Roosevelt played the role of Santa Claus to more than one just before Christmas in arranging for men to go to work starting the new year. Aside from the money that comes from working again, the renewed hope given men who have been idle for several years results in a condition that is not only beneficial for the peace of mind of the worker but for his family. Idleness has meant not only privation and suffering for the family but a breaking down of the morals of otherwise upstanding, capable citizens. With the return to customary occupations these men are being returned to normal conditions which make the outlook for the New Year one filled with hope for returned happiness.

Each year the students of Washington Junior High School entertain the aged of the city at a party given at the school. The old folks from the different Homes for the Aged are transported by the children, escorted into the school auditorium and given every courtesy and consideration by the children. Sylvester F. Hannan, "poet-laureate" of St. Ann's Home was so delighted with this year's party that he expressed his joy in a poem sent to one of the daily papers. Space does not permit of our publishing the poem but it described well the undivided attention given to the pupils to the old folks. We think this little gesture of the Washington Junior High School every year an excellent means of developing in children consideration for their elders. God willing, all of us will reach that stage some day when feebleness overcomes us and to have youth aid faltering steps and show kindness and courtesy is a warming influence upon those in the winter of life.

President B. Edward Shlesinger of the Rochester Diocesan Holy Name Union postcards us from Berlin where he is enjoying an interesting visit in that beautiful city.

Just because infidelity and divorce news is front paged so often in the secular press does not necessarily mean that the family tie is completely being torn asunder. This thought is gathered from an experience of Larry Lawrence, editor of the Green Sheet of the Milwaukee Journal reported in a recent issue of Editor and Publisher. Casting about for a new idea for his department in which letters from readers are handled, this editor staged a contest getting readers to write on "The Most Perfect Husband," as a general topic. Whether the wives responding believed their husbands "perfect" or not, they generously cooperated in the contest and at a time when so much was being heard of the disintegrated family because of discordant couples. John R. Wolf stated in Editor and Publisher, it was refreshing to read the letters from women who proudly testified that they were blessed with good husbands who were trying to do their best to care for their loved ones during the hard times.

A similar request was made by the Milwaukee newspaper to husbands to write about "The Most Perfect Wife," and a thousand of them told their stories. They hailed their wives for their fortitude in depression, it was reported, their cheerfulness under the most trying circumstances and their willingness to make sacrifices to keep the family together. Some of the husbands declared that they had to fight with their wives to get them to eat sufficient food, for they were bent on depriving themselves of cream, milk and butter so that the children would not have to suffer from a scant supply. We know that Milwaukee is not different in this respect from communities throughout the country. With the standard set for news, as it is now, it will be sad day indeed when it will be necessary to make streamer headlines out of the fact that experiences cited in the letters are so rare as to make news.

A refutation of the Protestant claim that it was Luther who first brought knowledge of the Bible to the common people who did not know Latin is found in the existence at the Civic Library of Augsburg, Bavaria of a copy of the oldest German Bible which was translated about 1350, some 200 years before Martin Luther. The translation embraces the whole of the sacred scriptures and probably originated in a Swabian monastery.

Add to your New Year's resolutions deciding to give sympathetic cooperation to your diocesan newspaper.

Members of the Nocturnal Adoration Society set an excellent example in welcoming the New Year by their presence before the Blessed Sacrament during their all-night Vigil.

Devotion to St. Joseph means love of God's will.—Father Dignan S. J.

STRANGE BUT TRUE Catholic Facts But Little Known

By M. J. MURRAY

Illustration featuring a crucifix and text: 'This CURIOUS CRUCIFIX seen in a field in Bavaria, is strangely symbolic of Our Saviour's sufferings.' Includes a quote: 'Did Our Lord mean these words to be taken literally: IT IS EASIER FOR A CAMEL TO PASS THROUGH THE EYE OF A NEEDLE THAN FOR A RICH MAN TO ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (MAT. XIX. 24.) ANSWER NEXT WEEK.' Also mentions 'BAKING IN CHURCH' and 'THESE TOMBSTONES'.

The Magi's Private Visit With Herod

The simple, straightforward Biblical narrative of the journey of the Three Wise Men from the East to Jerusalem and Bethlehem does not, on its face, appear to invite controversy. Yet it has been assailed, while, as a matter of fact, it is, apart from its intrinsic reliability, which the Christian does not doubt, entirely in keeping with the circumstances of the age, the country and the persons concerned.

This is interestingly illustrated by the version of the visit and the adoration of the Magi offered by Franz Michel William in his recent volume on "The Life of Jesus in the Country of Israel and Among Its People." Having portrayed the cruel and suspicious character of Herod, and the incidents leading up to his personal contact with the Kings from the Orient, William quotes Matthew: "Then Herod, privately calling the wise men, learned diligently of them the time of the star which appeared to them." Continuing:

"This 'private' summons must have caused the Magi to assume that Herod, the aged king, was entirely in accord with them. Hence it was easy for him to learn the precise time at which the star had appeared. Thereupon he dismissed them and sent them on their way to Bethlehem. The road there began at the palace, leading through the gate and the vale of Hinnom, and over the plain to the low range of hills.

"His instructions to them were: 'Go, and diligently inquire after the child, and when you have found him, bring me word again, that I may also come and adore him.'"

The circumstance that Herod did not send spies after them, proves, William contends, that he felt perfectly sure of himself. "It would be a clever stroke," the author continues, "if he engaged distinguished foreigners as his spies and scouts. The strangeness of the silence observed by the contemporary Jewish historian Flavius Josephus," author of "Jewish Antiquities," regarding this occurrence has frequently been commented on. It is particularly interesting in this connection, however, that Josephus speaks of one of Herod's traits which the Gospel verifies:—Josephus writes, Herod had habitually not only stationed spies everywhere but also personally engaged in espionage. In the episode under consideration we see him playing at this game. He undertakes personally what should have been the work of the police and appoints his guests as subordinate spies.

"Herod's shrewdness in espionage is noted in ancient Jewish writings. There is, for instance, the experience of Rabbi Baba, whom he blinded by having a band of hedgehog skin pressed down over his forehead. Afterwards he approached the unfortunate sightless man, deceiving him and seeking to slieet from him an expression of hatred for the king Herod

told him: 'There is no one here who could go to the king and report to him. You and I are alone.' This alone reminds one of the tactics Herod practiced when visited by the Magi.

Thus the Scriptural account of the coming of the Magi, even in this slight particular, is in keeping with historic truth and our knowledge of Herod's character. Its authors did not seek to write a complete narrative, and frequently their omissions as well as their statements give rise to misconceptions and controversy. As in the present instance, however, conscientious scrutiny of the texts establishes their truth, with neither their silence nor their language is in contradiction.—C. V. Servis.

What If He Were Better Known?

Is it because God places Himself so completely at our disposal that He is so neglected? Or is it because He is the King of Kings that he is to be considered outside the circle where courtesy is exacted?

He wants our intercourse with Him to be perfectly free; He desires to have us as we are; He wants to be taken into our confidence; He would share in our interests and in our troubles; He would take part in every experience whether of joy or sorrow. He sees us going off here and there seeking help, comfort or counsel. He hears our footsteps as they hurry past His door to wear out the doorsteps of other friends, but we will not come to Him. We have time to do our shopping; time to visit our friends; time to frequent places of amusement; but we have no time for Jesus present and waiting in the Tabernacle. It is no farther to the quiet church than to the noisy, busy shopping center or homes of our friends; still it is too far to go to visit the lonely Prisoner of the Tabernacle.

Why is it thus?—Is it want of faith in the Real Presence? Or is it ignorance or thoughtlessness? Or both? How much better we should be, and consequently how much better the world would be, if the Blessed Sacrament were better understood! How true that Father Faber says: "If the Blessed Sacrament were better known, the world would be brighter and Heaven nearer."

We live in a reading age; everyone reads. Much valuable time is uselessly spent in perusal of newspapers, magazines and books, many of which do not touch the soul with irreligious and senseless material. How little attention is given to the solid, instructive and inspiring that is to be found in the Bible! No wonder that so many Catholics are ignorant of the Prisoner of the Tabernacle and His

blessings so little understood. What an agreeable change we should soon notice in the lives of so many tepid Catholics if they would but read some publication especially devoted to the propagation of the knowledge and devotion to the Blessed Sacrament! Indeed the face of the earth would be renewed and Heaven nearer if the Blessed Sacrament were better known. Is it worth your while to give this your serious consideration?

WHY WE ARE HERE

There are persons in the world who wonder why they are here. "What is the purpose of it all?" they ask helplessly. A great saint and a great scientist have answered this in the will of God, your sanctification. Louis Pasteur, a devout Catholic, believed and frequently said that we are in the world to make ourselves perfect.

IT DID SOMETHING

Editors of polite columns of church and lodge news report that numerous items come to their desks, announcing parties at which there will be "barrels of fun." And then some nasty people try to say that Prohibition did nothing for this country.—The Detroit Free Press.

Faithful devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and His Blessed Mother is regarded as a certain means of salvation.

Of all future blessings the chief and final will be the repose of the mind in God.—St. Thomas.

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