

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions

PERSIST IN MARY'S DEVOTIONS

By REV. WILLIAM DOHERTY, C. S. S. R. (The following article has been exclusively written for the Catholic Courier, diocesan newspaper, by Father Doherty, Redemptorist priest in charge of the Wednesday devotions at St. Joseph Church, Rochester, which are conducted each week in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.)

In a current periodical a mother describes a very significant episode in her life. She was facing one of the difficult situations that enter every person's life at some time or other. One day whilst she was driving her little children home from the city she was pondering the problems that were overshadowing her happiness. Suddenly her thoughts were changed.

Just ahead of her was a curve in the road where four people had but recently met their death. It was the answer to her off-repeated question: "What shall I do? How shall I escape from these tormenting difficulties that are harassing my life? Here was an easy exit, it would be all over in short order and no one would know that it was her own premeditated act that had caused the catastrophe. Just another sad accident would be the verdict of the press.

They were speeding down the road. The dangerous curve was just ahead of them. A little more pressure on the accelerator and they would be hurled into the awful presence of the Living God. This mother's foot pressed down not on the accelerator but on the brake and she drove the car around the dangerous curve with her customary precaution.

Happy years follow. What saved her and the children from the fate she was considering? She tells us that it was probably her reluctance to acknowledge once and for all that she was defeated. In less than three months after that the complications that had so worried her had vanished and there followed two of the happiest years of her life.

How many sad happenings would be averted if people were only slow to admit defeat. If we could but look into the future and behold the great victories that belong to us by right of our persevering struggles, we would never acknowledge that the insignificant sorrows of life were greater than our courage and endurance.

There are many motives, many reasons why we should not confess our weakness. Why should we admit that we are crushed when we have God to rely upon? No one that confided in Him was ever confounded. He has pledged us His assistance in every adversity and God will never go back on His Word. But we must be willing to fight. We must be courageous soldiers. God did not start the war between the world, the flesh and the devil. We got into that ourselves. Now that we are weary of it we begin to blame Him. We think He is unkind because we are tired of fighting and cannot stop. He should change the fact of the world; do away with all this pain and sorrow and hardship. Like mud-splashed wounded soldiers looking up from the trenches we call out to God and demand that all this should stop. And when we find out that there is no end to it whilst life streams through our frame we grow petulant and begin to wonder if God really possesses that sweet quality of mercy.

Is He unkind, unmerciful because He remains true to His unchanging nature? The course is upon the world and it must remain. God cannot change it. But God is just as unchangeable in His love. Not one sin, nor two sins nor countless sins can change that Divine love which embraces every creature, every human soul. God loves us all, but the manner of His showing us that love leads some to doubt it. It is hard to realize that if He really loves us, why He should desire us to suffer.

Shall Comprehend. Sorrow is not God's gift to the world. It is penalty meted out by His unchanging Justice. He had to punish sin. And He could have left it just that way. He could have left us to ourselves, abandoned us to our desires and awaited the outcome. There was no obligation binding Him to atone and atone us. We had our trial; that could have ended it. The angels had only one trial and the outcome was final. They gained Heaven or lost it on one decision. How many times do we choose Hell and Hell in a moment of grace or gain Heaven. We shall be surprised when we find that the Book of Life and the balanced account of our good and evil deeds. Then we as dear little souls that while we are in this world we are not to be completely satisfied about God's Justice and mercy. It will be too late then. God will not wait for our tardy gratitude.

I recall an incident in the life of the blessed soul of Carmel, Saint Therese of Lisieux. Here was a little of our own kind and of much consolation during the years of the Blessed One's earthly sojourn. She was a child of the same age as our own children. She was a child of the same age as our own children. She was a child of the same age as our own children.

Shakespearean Productions, adequately mounted, interpreted by competent players and offered at a scale of prices that will bring them within the means of all classes, is the newest venture in the field of educational dramatic entertainment. It is being sponsored by the Educational Committee of the Rochester Civic Music Association, of which Mrs. John Foley, Miss Mary Vayo and Miss Mary Sheehan are members. The productions have received the endorsement of the Rev. John M. Duffy, superintendent of Catholic education.

The first of these plays to be presented in Rochester at the Eastman Theatre will be "Twelfth Night," to be given on Saturday evening, February 3. This will be followed by "Romeo and Juliet," on Saturday, March 10, and "The Taming of the Shrew" on Saturday, April 14.

The idea originated with Clara Trevis Major, whose stage plays for juvenile audiences have proved so popular at the Eastman Theatre. The success of her children's undertakings inspired the thought that with hundreds of splendid actors and actresses idle because of the depression in the theatre it should be possible to organize a company that would welcome an opportunity to find employment in a Shakespearean repertory.

With the elimination of the star system and the substitution of a well balanced cast of players familiar with the reading of Shakespearean lines, it was found possible to reduce substantially the cost of presentation. The result is "Shakespeare at a Dollar Top," probably the lowest price ever set when the plays of the immortal bard have ever been offered by a professional company.

Members of the Courier to Advertisers

DANGERS OF CONTRACEPTIVE BILL CITED

(Continued from Page 1) self was called so loosely drawn as to condemn itself, and the effects of its passage were pictured as extremely dangerous not only to morals, but also to the physical welfare of the people and the future of the nation itself.

Among the distinguished figures who personally, or through personal representatives, or through communications, vigorously protested to the Committee against a favorable report on the Pierce bill were:

The Rt. Rev. Mgr. John A. Ryan, Director of the Department of Social Action, N.C.W.C.; Dr. William Gerry Morgan, former President of the American Medical Association and Secretary General of the American College of Physicians; Howard Atwood Kelly, Professor Emeritus of Gynecology, Johns Hopkins University; Representative Mary T. Norton, of New Jersey; Canon Chase, of the International Reform Federation; Mrs. Rufus T. Gibbs, of Baltimore; the Rev. Charles E. Coughlin, pastor of the Shrine of the Little Flower, Royal Oak, Mich., and noted radio speaker; Dr. Henry J. Crosson, Medical Member of the District of Columbia Board of Public Welfare, who read a communication from an officer of the American Medical Association; Dr. Joseph Joshua Muddell, Professor of Obstetrics in Georgetown University; Mrs. Thomas A. McGoldrick, of Brooklyn, representing the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae; William F. Montavon, Director of the Legal Department, N.C.W.C.; Miss Agnes G. Rogan, Executive Secretary of the National Council of Catholic Women; Henry L. Caravati, Executive Secretary of the National Council of Catholic Men; Dr. Henry W. Cottell, of Philadelphia, author and editor of more than 100 medical books; Joseph Murphy of the Catholic University representing the National Catholic Alumni Federation, and a number of other representatives of groups, both Catholic and non-Catholic.

Economic Argument Blasted. Throughout the greater part of Thursday, proponents of the measure laid much stress on economic considerations which, they contended, argued for the passage of the birth control bill. Very large and rapidly increasing amounts of money are being spent on relief and social welfare work, speakers said, one of them declaring that a great number of families are having children at public expense, and that there are such things as "rights and duties" on the part of the population. One speaker called birth control the only means of maintaining a "balance between population and natural resources" which, he said, was essential to a high standard of living. He also said that those who oppose the Pierce bill "are holding the taxpayer while the large-family group ride his pocket," and that "without scientific birth control the New Deal will be a fizzle."

These arguments fairly withered today as Monsignor Ryan calmly analyzed them. "This bill couldn't have any effect for several years," said Monsignor Ryan, "and in that time the Recovery Program will either have succeeded or failed. If the Recovery program succeeds, this argument of the proponents of birth control is useless. If the program fails, we won't have to bother about the problem of children then; we'll have a different kind of social order."

"I protest just as strongly as I possibly can," he continued, "against the Tory belief that the so-called upper classes, the better-off classes, don't want the poorer classes to have large families and thereby impose greater burdens upon us in the form of increased taxes and other responsibilities. This argument tends to divert public attention from the real causes and real remedies of our economic plight."

Ignore Falling Birth Rate. "The Tory believes he ought to regulate the lives of others for their own good. I, and those who believe with me, protest against putting this burden on the poor. It ought to be on society. It is the duty of society to take care of all."

Monsignor Ryan said that the proponents of birth control are ignoring the "notorious fact" of a declining birth rate and that "we are gradually becoming a nation of old men and old women." Continuing, he discussed some economic effects of this "very disturbing phenomenon," and ventured "to predict that there will be no material increase in any class, except a few of the very large classes, on now on."

Dangers Cited by Fr. Coughlin. Father Coughlin, who was called early by Ralph Burton, Washington attorney who managed the time for the opponents of the bill, immediately lashed out against what advocates. Apparently made their most salient argument—the economic considerations.

Appearing after Father Coughlin, Mrs. Rufus T. Gibbs of Baltimore opposed the bill as a mother, and begged the Committee not to open up any more fields for the promotion of objectionable literature, which, she said, already in a serious manner to the youth of the country. While he is not an attorney, Father Coughlin said is opening his

Auburn K. of C. To Welcome Central New York Chapter

By PAUL W. PINCKNEY

Auburn.—The Central New York Chapter of the Knights of Columbus will hold its meeting Sunday, January 28, at the Knights of Columbus home in Auburn. Delegates from the various councils will meet at the Knights of Columbus rooms at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The business session will be followed by refreshments and entertainment. The session will be open to all third degree members of the order. The Knights of Columbus Bowling League held its annual party Wednesday evening, January 21, at Club Dickman. James Hickey, general chairman, was assisted by Edward Secaur and Charles Hawelko on the General Committee. On Thursday evening, January 25, the local council of the Knights entertained the Auburn Lodge of Elks at the K. of C. Home. Entertainment was presented under the direction of Avelly E. Neagle and Gerald Conroy.

Headquarters Open For National Flower Show

Headquarters for the National Flower and Garden Show which will be held in Rochester this year were opened last week in the Seneca Arcade with George B. Hart, local executive chairman in charge. The National Flower and Garden Show involves an expenditure of around one million dollars in the set up of the displays of gardens and daily change of cut flowers. The show will occupy buildings 3, 4 and 5 at Edgerton Park and will be open nine days from April 14 to 22 inclusive.

Mr. Hart says that an attendance of at least 220,000 is expected of which 60,000 will come from out-of-town. The show, claimed to be the greatest show held annually in the world, has never before been staged in a city under 600,000. It was only after tremendous efforts on the part of the Rochester newspapers, the Convention Bureau and a group of leading citizens that this year's show was awarded to Rochester.

remarks, his reaction after reading the Pierce Bill is that its very wording is sufficient to condemn it to failure. He said his testimony would be more or less introductory to what other opponents of the measure would say after him. The theories of Dr. Malthus gave rise to the birth control movement in England, a little island that could not sustain itself for 24 hours if boats from other countries did not come to its shores, Father Coughlin said, adding that in the United States "our problem is not one of production but one of distribution."

We refuse, the speaker continued, to face the problems of our day "in the manner in which they would be faced by a Washington or a Lincoln." He urged that Americans stop trying to eradicate poverty by birth control and turn rather to a "birth control of money." "Instead of encouraging birth control," he said, "let's turn our minds to how a working man can get enough for himself and his wife and a decent family to live on."

Pointing out the pride which Anglo-Saxon and Celtic stock take in their contribution to the development of America and their place in its affairs, he said "we are being out-generated, and here we are trying to put forward ways to uncrinulate the dissemination of birth control information and devices. Although 60 per cent of the people in the United States profess no religion and according to their rights may practice birth control, Father Coughlin said, this is still no reason for legislating that birth control is moral."

Physicians Disown Bill. Dr. Kelly, who on the witness stand noted that he is not a Catholic, scored the bill as introducing "mechanical meddling" into married life, saying that "if we were to go into this a little more, we'd find it abhorrent." He declared that contraception is not as simple a matter as the proponents of birth control would lead one to believe, and added that he was sorry any member of his profession would give himself to preparing human beings for such practices.

Dr. Kelly told the Committee that the Pierce Bill is tantamount to the recommendation of the practice of birth control, and that it violates the right of the poor. In the light of his many years of medical practice, Dr. Kelly said, he would definitely say that the contraceptive devices now in vogue sometimes prove harmful.

Dr. Crosson told the committee that contrary to any claims to the contrary, the Pierce Bill is not a physicians' bill—a bill which bears the endorsement of the doctors of the country. He read a communication from an authorized official of the American Medical Association informing the Committee that concerning the birth control Bill the A.M.A. has taken no part in its preparation or in promoting its enactment. He also read a statement of the stand of the American Gynecological Association that it "is not sponsoring nor does it endorse the efforts of any lay organization working for the amendment of the Criminal Code" in this respect.

Dr. Crosson also read a telegram from Dr. Gerry Morgan stating the latter's "continued and unaltered opposition" to the harmful and destructive influences of the proposal.

PROTESTS MADE BY HUNDREDS OF SOCIETIES

(Continued from Page 1) day—is our thought of our fellows to be dominated primarily by our estimate of their individual and family worth, or by our subservience to material production and the mastery of the machine?

Men's Council Protest. Henry L. Caravati, Executive Secretary of the N.C.C.M., presented the views of 562 local lay organizations situated in 37 States and the District of Columbia, with a membership of more than 2,000,000 men. He read a resolution adopted at the last national convention of the Men's Council voting opposition to artificial birth control as tending "to the eventual destruction of Christian civilization" and declared it has been "repudiated both by eminent medical authorities and economists."

"I am authorized by the Board of Directors of the National Council of Catholic Men," Mr. Caravati said, "to present a protest to the proposed legislation. We believe that to remove the present restrictions which the law wisely affords to prevent the practices which this act now seeks to give federal sanction would be unwise and detrimental to morals and to the public welfare."

William F. Montavon, Director of the Legal Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, who had filed a brief with the committee stating the objections of the N.C.W.C. to the proposed legislation, said the greatest evil of the proposal to relax restrictions on the dissemination of contraceptive information and devices was the menace such action held for the morals of the youth of the country.

Holy Trinity Dramatic Club To Present 3-Act Comedy, Jan. 28 and 29. Holy Trinity Dramatic Club of Webster will present a three-act comedy entitled "Forest Acres," Sunday and Monday evenings, January 28 and 29, in the church hall.

Joseph C. Durbin, who also has a leading role in directing the supporting cast: Mae Reed, Gella Hosenfeld, Dorothy Hoeler, Helen Hosenfeld, Evelyn Hotzler, Agnes Hosenfeld, Evelyn Vorndran, Rita Huttman, Lawrence Hosenfeld, Joseph Skudlarek, Thomas Smith and Norman Meyers. Elms Vorndran is assistant director and Oscar Biefflo stage manager.

Elmira Nurses Chapter Elects New Officers. Elmira—Miss Julia Sherman was elected president of the Elmira Chapter, Federation of Nurses, at the chapter's annual meeting held last Wednesday at the Dunn Memorial Building, St. Joseph's Hospital. She succeeds Mrs. John F. Barnett.

Miss Sherman will be assisted by the following officers: First Vice-president, Miss Ella Mansury; Second Vice-president, Miss Mary McCarthy; Secretary, Miss Mary Billicke; Treasurer, Miss Mae Peterson. Board of directors, headed by the chairman, Sister Mary Robert, is as follows: Miss Lena MacInerney, Miss Agnes Cahaley, Mrs. Barnett, and Miss Margaret Murphy.

Great Falls, Mont.—(N.C.W.C.) The Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, Bishop of Great Falls, presided at the opening session of a Boyology Institute held here under the sponsorship of the Knights of Columbus.

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Sodality Will Attend Benediction Each Week. Elmira.—By special permission of the Most Rev. Archbishop Edward Mooney, Bishop of Rochester, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will be given each Tuesday night in St. Patrick's Church, following the regular weekly recitation of the Office by the Sodality of Our Lady. Sodality members will sing the Benediction hymns.

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Fr. Bergan, Auburn Chaplain Addresses Geneva Sodalists

By JOHN TOOLE. Geneva.—The Rev. William F. Bergan, Catholic chaplain at Auburn State's Prison was guest of honor and speaker at the dinner party held Thursday of last week by the Sodality of Our Lady of De Sales, High School at Sweeney-Hall, Seneca Street. The affair was held by the Senior Sodality as a final social program before Lent.

Father Bergan's talk was instructive and informative touching upon the human side of prison life. "Prisoners," he declared, "are just the same as other persons. In every case that human touch is there, if one knows how to dig right down and find it." In his talk, Father Bergan revealed that he has wisdom, sympathy and counsel for all who approach him in his prison work. Prolonged applause indicated that his address was received with enthusiasm and appreciation by the students.

Acting as toastmaster, Paul Riley called upon the Rev. Bernard C. Hanna to open the dinner by saying Grace. The entire assembly sang the sodality songs, "Christ the King," and the De Sales Alma Mater Song, "The Blue and Gold." The dinner was prepared by Senior Sodalists and their mothers and served by members of the Junior Sodality. The Sodality Glee Club sang several college songs.

Besides Father Bergan and Father Hanna, the Rev. Edward K. Ball and the Rev. John Guy were guests of the Sodalists.

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Sodalists To Hold Party January 26

Elmira.—Committee chairmen have been appointed for the social which the Young Ladies' Sodality of St. Mary's Church will hold January 26 at the Dunn Memorial Building. Miss Mary Jane Gibson is general chairman assisted by the Misses Margaret Liddy, Catherine Liddy, Catherine Grady, Anne Madigan, Joe Johnson, Mary Jane Darr, Marjorie Hanahan, Mary Rita Walsh.

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