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Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions

CATHOLIC ACTION MOVEMENT OF HOUR

By REV. THOMAS F. O'CONNOR, C. S. S. R.

(The following article has been written exclusively for the Catholic Courier, diocesan newspaper, by Father O'Connor, Redemptorist priest at St. Joseph's Church, Rochester, where devotions are conducted each Wednesday in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.)

Our present Holy Father, Pius XI, in view of the distressed times in which we live, and exercising his august office as Father of the Faithful, has come out very emphatically for the cause of Catholic Action. This is the movement of the hour. It is the slogan of the Church. It is the watchword of shepherds and sheep of the fold alike. What then is Catholic Action? Stated simply, in language understood by the man in the street, it is nothing less than active Catholicity. Active Catholicity! Something alive, awake, abreast of the times, conscious of its possibilities for good in a world and an age that is slowly disintegrating from dry rot. It is the Church's rallying cry to the standard of Christ; to make the principles of our Faith the dominant motive force in our lives. To translate into our workaday lives the maxims of the Gospel. To bring into play the leadership of Christ Himself, the Light of the world. To revive, as it were, the ages of Faith, when Religion and the Personality of Christ were live issues; when men and movements were influenced and guided and protected by the bracing atmosphere of Faith.

Time to Occasion

In our day when false philosophy and pseudo-science would outlaw Faith; in an age that staggers through a welter of contradictory teachings; when selfishness and greed are deified, and social justice is denied to the weak and poor, it is imperative that we as Catholics, we the children of the Church imperishable, we who have the inheritance of the Saints, the tradition of the Martyrs, the deathless glory of the Virgins, the ripe wisdom of the ages for a background, the richness of truth, and the abiding Presence of Christ among us,—it is imperative that we rise to the occasion, and be a saving influence for good, a wholesome leaven in a world that sadly needs the robbing touch of the Catholic Church.

Archbishop Beckman of Dubuque stated the case well in his organization of the Institute of Catholic Action, when he said: "The opportunities for Catholic Action were never greater than they are at the present moment. The Church is the only institution which has survived the general collapse of the past few years, and it is the only institution which has the key to recovery. Men admit freely that recovery in the moral order must precede every other kind of recovery, but they do not see that the Church offers the means to that moral recovery. We must present the Church to people today, we must show them what the Church stands for and what it opposes; that it makes for peace, justice, security, charity and honesty. We must show people the true philosophy of life and save them from the despair into which they are falling in great numbers. We must bring to them the message of Christ, 'You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.' We must teach them, too, that there are other values in life, higher and holier values, than the pursuit of wealth and pleasure."

Too many of us act and live as though we were still in the ages of persecution. We haven't emerged from the catacombs. We bury our light under a bushel. Obsessed with time inferiority complex, we spend our time apologizing for living. It's high time that we become articulate in the life of the nation. Our Faith and practice should become a beacon light in the pervading darkness of unbelief; that we point the way out of the morass of infidelity and atheism. We have no cause to apologize for being Catholics. Ours is the only tradition that will bear the searchlight of truth upon it that can sustain investigation, historically, morally or economically, and survive the scrutiny, direct and more glorious for the examination.

It has been pitifully said that Catholics are the richest merchants but the poorest shopkeepers in the world. That is to say, we have the incomparable wealth of Truth in the storehouses of our Faith; but when it comes to selling our wares, making them attractive to an unbelieved-in world, we are sadly deficient. This statement, this putting our Faith across, making our message felt in this age of blatant blustering self-sufficiency, is the opportunity of Catholic Action. I don't mean the

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Nazareth College Graduate Talks On Catholic Press

Auburn. — Miss Eleanor L. Heleck, a graduate of St. Mary's parochial school of this city and Nazareth College, Rochester, addressed the Young Ladies Sodality of Holy Family Church Monday evening, Jan. 29, at the Holy Family Auditorium in North St. Her subject was "The Catholic Press." After the meeting card games and a program of entertainment was enjoyed.

JESUIT MARTYRS OF SO. AMERICA ARE BEATIFIED

(Continued from Page 1)

and settle down in villages and dedicate themselves to agriculture. This system offered those primitive people the advantage of learning cultivation of the ground, building of houses and keeping them in social order. Father Rocco Gonzalez devoted himself for 20 years to the development of the "Reductions." His apostolic journeys had in the meantime brought him to explore Uruguay and he was the first white person to set foot in that vast region.

The first region that he crossed, Ibeuti, did not correspond at all to the fame it had of being so populated. With much difficulty he found a miserable center in which he could found a "Reduction" with the name of Candelaria, erecting there a Cross and a small Church. He left to continue his apostolic path and came to know that during his absence the Indians still savages had fallen upon the "Reduction" and had destroyed it. He then set about continuing his travels in the adjacent region of the Tape, which name in the native language signifies "numerous population." Father Rocco succeeded in persuading the principal cacique of the region to take him to their lands. But although they had consented, they were obstinate in their refusal to accept the Christian religion. At the end Father Gonzalez, seeing that his stay in the country was quite useless, prepared to go to seek for a field more propitious for his apostolic labors.

Before going away however he obtained from the Indians authorization to make a journey for exploration through their lands. Thus it was he was able to convince himself that that region which according to the legend should be thickly populated was instead almost deserted and there was no place adapted to found a "Reduction." Meantime the Indians, frightened by the threats of another tribe, insisted more strongly that the Missionary should leave.

Report an Expedition

After Gonzalez drew up a report of his exploration of Uruguay completed with the utmost exactness and full of statistical data which was most useful for the missionaries that came after him.

In 1628, Father Gonzalez founded a new "Reduction" in the Yuhli and entrusted it to a young missionary, Father Juan del Castillo while he left to continue the evangelization of the Taaro, accompanied by another missionary just arrived from Spain, Father Alfonso Rodriguez.

Juan del Castillo was born in Spain, in 1595, of a noble and rich family. He studied law in the University of Alcala, but after a year he left the world and entered the novitiate of the Society of Jesus at Madrid, in 1614. At the end of his novitiate, he asked to be permitted to go to the Missions of America.

Alfonso Rodriguez was born at Zamora, Spain, on March 10, 1598. At 16 years of age he entered the novitiate of the Society of Jesus at Villa Garcia. He also was sent to the American Missions.

The missionaries of the "Reductions" found themselves exposed to many difficulties. The Spanish settlers, through greed or slavery, sought to keep the Indians in chains, exploiting their work in an inhuman manner. Very often the missionaries had to undertake the defense of the poor Indians with the Spanish crown, and succeeded in obtaining justice for them and liberty for themselves to exercise their apostolic ministry among the natives. In defense of the Indians against the abuses of the settlers, Father Rocco Gonzalez did not hesitate to oppose even his own brother, who was Governor of Assuacion.

Opposed by Wizards

Another difficulty came from the native wizards who succeeded in surrounding themselves with a species of superstitious cult thanks to which they acquired an ascending power which enabled them to exercise a despotic power over the uncivilized and barbarous population. One of these wizards, a certain Nezu, had risen against the penetration of the missionaries in Uruguay and had sworn to exterminate them. The Blessed Rocco Gonzalez tried to win his soul and the wizard for some time pretended to be converted so as to receive gifts from the missionaries and to enjoy with them the benefits of the civilized life in the "Reductions." But seeing that with the increase of the moral authority of the missionaries his own power diminished and that the new Catholic Faith had condemned his customs and power which he had adopted, he resolved in the extermination of the missionaries. He called his most trusted friends and told them that the missionaries must

A WEEKLY COLUMN OF REVIEW AND COMMENT CONCERNING OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

By Scholastic

The broadcast of an actual class studying Christian Doctrine will take over Station WLWL Monday evenings in February and March at 6:30 p. m. The class will consist of boys and girls and grown-ups, and the teacher will be the Rev. Joseph Strugnell, professor of Methods in Teaching Religion at Fordham University.

The first lesson in development of the doctrinal principle—God—created the pupils will turn from their text-book to the Catechism as the criterion by which they prove the correctness of the conclusion they have reached.

Humorous Answers on Examination Papers

Ques. Name a flower that blooms in autumn.
Ans. The last rose of summer.

In one of the elementary grades, a pupil was asked on an examination paper to draw an apple and a pear, and the teacher received no apple and a pair of apples.

Immaculate Conception Groups to Have Card Party, Fashion Show

The Sodality and Mercy Guild of the Immaculate Conception Parish are sponsoring a Card Party and Fashion Show at the school Auditorium, Wednesday evening, February 7. Part of the proceeds of this party will help the guild in accomplishing work planned. Reports of the ticket committee indicate a record attendance. Refreshments will be served. Tickets are 35 cents and may be obtained from any member of the following committees:

Refreshment: Miss Mary McCarthy, chairman; the Misses Catherine Jarry, Molly Dolan, Agnes Dinkum, Evelyn Dreschler, Mary Doyle, Helen Koesterer, Rita Koesterer, Jane Kennedy, Dorothy McMullen, Lorraine McMullen, Lorraine Marlon, Mary Meillon, Helen McGrath, Margaret Crowley, Rosemary O'Neil, Helen Reader, Isabella Schuetz, Norma Schuetz, Cards, Miss Margaret Larkin, chairman, the Misses Mary Barry, Margaret Benham, Beatrice Brown, Noreene Callahan, Ruth Crowley, Rosamond Carpenter, Rita Carroll, Ann Doyle, Virginia Greis, Evelyn Hyde, Margaret McGuire, Anita Mahoney, Rita Quigley, Jane Welch, Ruth Walsh, Margaret Worthington, Shirley Gildea, Eunice Gildea, Winifred Melnikin, Margaret Cahill, Lois Enright, Mildred Ginnity, Mildred Belknap, Genevieve Belknap, Helen Burns, Frances Burns, Reception, Miss Hildegard Bisky, chairman, the Misses Ruth King, Mary Maloney, Mary McCarthy, Anna McDonald, Mary Sweeney, Margaret Cahill, Ruth Van Kerkhove, Marcella Clark, Marion Powell, Carmel Haytoll, Mildred Ginnity, Fern Pennell, Esther Kindalen, Ruth Fagan, Mrs. Pennell, Mrs. Mallett, Prizes, Mrs. Mary Sweeney, chairman; the Misses Edna Bollow, Etta Mae Lechmeister, Irene Ennis, Katherine Jones, Dorothy Milne, Mrs. Paul A. Predmore, Mrs. Nicholas O'Neil, Mrs. John Leahy, Mrs. Bessie King, Card Tables, Miss Kay Maloney, chairman; the Misses Frances Burns, Mildred Belknap, Genevieve Belknap, Margaret Cahill, Mary Casey; Tickets, Sodality representative, Miss Margaret Grant, Guild representative, Miss Margaret Kenney.

SS. Peter and Paul Sodality Party, Feb. 6

The Sodality of Our Lady of S.S. Peter and Paul's Church will conduct a Card Party in the School Hall on Tuesday evening, February 6, at 8:15 p. m. Pedro, bridge, pinocle and table, will be played with a prize for each table. Tickets are 25 cents; parishioners and their friends are cordially invited.

Miss Eva M. Heuer is general chairman of the Card Party, assisted by Miss Catherine Wulter, Rosemary Zonkel, Catherine Hauser, Audrey V. Baglin, Mary and Eileen McInerney, M. Penelope Brennan, Anne Brennan and Rita Marie Drexilius.

Sacred Heart Auxiliary Expects Crowded Meeting

Ladies Auxiliary Knights of St. John of Sacred Heart Church will hold their next regular meeting, Monday evening, February 12, at 8:15 o'clock. A large attendance is requested by the president as a social hour and card playing will follow the business session.

Mrs. Mary Connel is chairman of the arrangements; Mrs. Mame Fromme, chairman of prizes; and Mrs. Leontine Minor in charge of cards and tables.

ST. ANDREW'S YOUNG PEOPLE TO CONDUCT SOCIAL FRIDAY

Young People's Club of St. Andrew's Church will hold a Balloon Social Friday evening, February 2, from 9:00 until 12:00 o'clock in their new club rooms in the Church Hall, Portland Avenue and Durand Street.

The following committee is in charge: Bob Nellis, chairman; A. Sanderl, T. Gilmartin, A. Teerhaar, K. Wagner, G. Krause, Genevieve Nelson, Florence Lang, Agnes Walsh, Marie Albrecht, Doris Pitck.

not be killed, the churches destroyed and the crosses and pictures burned.

On November 15, 1628, Father Rocco Gonzalez, after having celebrated Mass, was erecting a little bell which was to be used for the little church of the Mission. He was bending to attach the clapper to the bell, when one of the Indians struck him violently with an "Itaze" a thick axe of stone. The missionary fell to the ground with his skull cleft and never spoke again. Father Rodriguez, hearing the cry of the Indians came out from the little Mass. He saw the body of his Superior immersed in blood lying on the ground and approached it saying church where he was preparing to say to the Indians: "What have you done, sons? What have you done?" The conspirators threw themselves upon him and killed him. After this they set fire to the church. Other Indians went to the other villages to continue the work of death and destruction. Father del Castillo was surprised the day after in his residence. The conspirators seized him, tied his hands and dragged him to the bank of a swamp after having killed him by crushing his head with a stone.

FRENCH PRIEST DECORATED

Rome.—(NCWC) — The King of Italy has conferred upon the Most Rev. Florent du Bois de la Villera, Bishop of Anney, France, the cross of a knight-officer of the Order of St. Maurice and St. Lazarus, in recognition of his interest in the large Italian colony in Anney and Upper Savoy.

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