

Catholic Courier

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Bishop of Rochester.

MEMBER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

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

Editorials

LENT, ONE DAY OR SIX WEEKS?

Next Sunday the annual letter from the Chancery will be read explaining the meaning and obligations of Lent and announcing next Wednesday as the beginning of that holy season. And on Ash Wednesday many thousands of people in this diocese, and several millions in the entire country, will go to their respective churches to have their brows marked with the sign of the cross in ashes.

Unfortunately, it is safe to predict the largest church attendance for Lent on Ash Wednesday. From whatever cause it may be, it is the only significant day in Lent. It takes no very deep observation to realize that, for the average person, even Catholic, the Lenten season in recent years has shown no telling difference from other seasons of the year. The promiscuously social probably welcome it as an excuse to let up on their nerves and their pocketbooks as far as social events are concerned. Otherwise the community seems to enjoy the same amount and amount of pleasures as usual. And, also unfortunately, many Catholics are only just ordinary members of their communities in this regard, and too many other Catholics keep the strict Lenten practices with a daily growl!

To many Lent means only the abstaining from meat; too few understand that the main penance is abstaining from other food in regard to quantity and times,—that only one full meal is allowed in the day, and that in between meals no food of whatever kind is allowed. There was a time, however, not so many years back, when such "public entertainments" as dances, shows, and the like were regarded as a sinful desecration of the holy season. Also, there used to be a large daily attendance at Mass, the weekly sermon and the Stations of the Cross; and in many families there was even the daily recitation of the Rosary in common in the evening. Certainly these things are the exception nowadays, but well might they be renewed in these days of increased and enforced leisure for so many!

Salvation is impossible without penance. During Lent Holy Mother Church imposes upon her children this obligation of penance that weak human nature left to itself would never undertake, and she obliges them, as it were, to share no matter how little, in the sufferings of their Saviour.

Some can not keep the fast and abstinence; but there is hardly anyone who can not fulfill some of the many secondary ways of keeping Lent. In these days of want and need it is well for all to turn to God; and, for those who are able, to keep the full observance of Lent, to do so cheerfully, thanking God that they are able, and asking Christ that the food they deny themselves may somehow or other find its way to those who need it. May the throngs that are marked with the sign of penance and mortification on Ash Wednesday carry that mark indelible upon their hearts and minds the entire season, and not for a day only!

CHURCH UNITY

Addressing the "Converts" League of the Catholic Daughters of America, recently in Washington, His Excellency, Archbishop Cioffano, Papal Delegate to the United States, mentioned the need of charity and prayer; but he emphasized very particularly the need of good example and behavior on the part of Catholics if we are to draw converts into the Church.

This is what we might call objective Christianity, which in itself is only the principle laid down by the Divine Teacher, "By their fruits you shall know them."

The universal tendency in all branches of study today is to know the truth by the facts in which the principles are portrayed. Inoculation against various diseases came as the result of innumerable trials of the specific remedies, and they have generally proved effective. Examination of many cases of scurvy revealed the fact that those who seldom got any fresh foods, and who had salt-preserved foods were the victims. Experiments of diet revealed that scurvy could be prevented by the presence of a magnet led to the discovery of the electric dynamo. The same is true in every field of modern discovery. We must have a certain attitude in the study of life. The student whereby he looks at the facts and then proceeds to

examine and study first the outside or objective facts. And the objects that he will study are human beings, not a few but very many. As Catholics, each one of us individually has the obligation of presenting those facts to him, not by writing books and pamphlets,—these are useful though secondary,—but first and principally by the personal example of living the doctrines which we profess. The serious student will want to know why for instance, in these days of matrimonial corruption, so few Catholics ever seek a divorce on the same grounds that so many of their non-Catholic neighbors do. When he finds that Catholics receive the Sacrament of Matrimony with its special sacramental grace, he will be in possession of one set of facts. And a study of all the outward manifestations of Catholic life will reveal to him that the Catholic Church is the one and only form of objective Christianity.

Outwardly it is the duty of every Catholic to give a personal practical example of his Christianity first of all, and then to pray that God will give His grace to those outside the fold. Good example, charity, prayer, especially the prayer of the Holy Father for Church Unity, these are the things that will bring about one Church.

TRIBUTE TO OUR CARRIERS

The occasion of Catholic Press Month gives us an opportunity to bring to light, and to pay tribute to, the work that is being done by the one hundred and ten Catholic boys who each week are devoting time and energy to the distribution of their diocesan newspaper, the Catholic Courier.

It is true that these boys are being recompensed somewhat for their efforts, but greater recompense than the material will be theirs for the effective manner in which they are bringing into Catholic homes each week the budget of news and editorial matter as presented in the pages of this newspaper.

This is truly an apostolate; for the amount of good these boys are doing for the Church cannot be measured. Catholic homes wherein the diocesan newspaper has not yet entered are being visited each week by these boys in various points of the diocese. To these homes, our carrier boys are bringing Catholic views on problems of the day and Catholic news in the diocese and throughout the world.

For them we ask the full cooperation of every diocesan. Aid them in getting other homes to call upon. Encourage them in their work by a cheerful word. Keep up their interest by prompt payment for papers delivered.

Starting in their youth to show interest in the Catholic Press, these boys are developing that interest through their work. When they have come into manhood, they will be better informed Catholic laymen and capable of the leadership so necessary in the Catholic Action program of our Bishop and of our Holy Father.

A LITTLE MORE ACCURACY

In a series of articles by Norman Kent appearing in the *Democrat and Chronicle* under the title, *Wintering in Rome*, and in a particular article dealing with the Colosseum in last Sunday's issue appeared the statement, somewhat surprising, that only twenty-four martyrs met their death in that celebrated place of slaughter. He cites as authority "one competent historian." There is no fault to find with him on this score, although it would be interesting to know who the authority may be.

Mr. Kent does not say in so many words that only this number of Christians met their death in Rome, but from the tone of the article it would seem that he, along with a very great many, are under the impression that, whatever Christians were put to death, were put to death in the Colosseum. As a matter of fact, there seems to be no authentic authority for any martyrdoms in the Colosseum. But historical tradition for a very great number of martyrdoms in the city of Rome is too strong to be dismissed off-hand in the hint that there were only twenty-four altogether because of a modern popular notion that the Flavian Amphitheatre was the exclusive place of that execution. There is a lack of definite and authentic information about the numbers of Christians killed in that place.

But because of the somewhat shady comparison with "the hundreds" who suffered death in the inquisition "hundreds of years later," Mr. Kent might be accused of a little bias. Does he mean the Roman Inquisition? If so, it would be well for him to give his readers a "competent authority" also for these figures. If there is any popular tradition that hundreds suffered death by the Roman Inquisition, as implied, then it would be well for every body to get in on it.

In giving such astonishing information, Mr. Kent should be very careful not to give his readers too severe a jolt without quoting competent authorities. Mr. Kent has too many readers who are rather sensitive along certain lines of history, to risk any offense to them by inaccuracies, whether intended or not.

Current Comments

EMMA

Do you remember, back in the dear, dead days, when Emma Goldman was deported to Russia, and expressed her joy at going to help build up the Communist State? Emma is in the news again, because she is trying to get back into this despised capitalistic country to give lectures. She very soon found that the Bolshevik Government was a "tyranny a hundred times worse than Tsardom."

Capitalistic countries are nice, too, because the people usually have enough money to pay admission fees to lectures by former deportees.—*Brooklyn Tablet.*

"However useful the radio is as a practical means of disseminating truth and knowledge, it cannot adequately take the place of the Catholic Press." — *Catholic Central Vexin of America.*

The Cross dismays us often because we think of its bitterness, and do not realize that when we suffer for Jesus Christ, it is not so much we who suffer, as Jesus who suffers in us.

Diocesan Recordings

"The movement, at heart, is anti-Christian. Christ and Christianity as a whole are denied."

Thus is reported the result of the Congress of the "Germanic Research Society" held this week in Berlin by the Frankfurter Zeitung's religious correspondent through an Associated Press dispatch. Noted German professors are reported to believe that Christianity is unaltable for the Nazis.

Lines of the struggle of Paganism against Christianity are being more closely drawn. Those who believe that the condition in Germany does not exist hereabouts have film on their eyes or they are doing an ostrich act.

Are we going to develop our children along the lines offered by the One, True Church, or are we to let them drift towards paganism and its deadening effects?

Catholic Press Month offers an excellent opportunity to make a special effort to increase the interest of growing boys and girls in Catholic reading. There are those who believe it is a waste of time and others who say it cannot be done, but has it been tried?

The Catholic Courier is attempting something unique in the history of the diocese in sponsoring an Essay Contest on the Catholic Press during Press Month. Its object is not alone to promote the diocesan paper but to direct the attention of these growing boys and girls in Catholic literature generally and to make them better acquainted with St. Francis de Sales, Patron Saint of the Catholic Press.

Boys and girls develop their bodies by exercising. They develop their minds by study. They can only develop their spiritual lives by constant practice and reading. Not only does the Catholic Press aid them in practicing their faith but it also develops them to be alert to problems of the day in the light of Catholic teaching. Will they not be better Catholic laymen and laywomen if their early lives are directed to a fair proportion of Catholic reading?

We had opportunity last Sunday to hear a Catholic youth presiding at a meeting of the Columbian Squares. This young fellow never would have handled himself so ably if he had not been adding to that which he received in school by outside Catholic reading. He was an inspiration to the boys who heard him and was a challenge to older men who may believe that all that is necessary for them to be informed is to hear the Sunday sermon.

During the Lenten season will be an excellent time to increase Catholic reading. Make it a Lenten sacrifice if it appeals to you that way, but we are willing to predict that those who expose themselves intelligently to reading of Catholic newspapers, magazines or books, will soon find that they are becoming intensely interested. It is sad to relate that many of our people do not read Catholic publications because they have so little knowledge of what is transpiring in the field of the Catholic Press. Many are still in the horse and buggy age so far as their realization of what is being done by Catholic publishers is concerned.

If you have a friend who doubts that the Catholic Press is advancing with the times bring him or her to the Catholic Press-Exhibit in Columbus Civic Center lobby from February 20 to 26.

Leaders in Catholic boy work in the diocese are calling upon us to assist them in every way we can by promoting their activities through the columns of the Catholic Courier. We are glad to do it. In return we are not asking these same leaders to interest the boys in the Catholic Press. It will help the boys, it will aid the movement being sponsored for the boys and it will increase the influence of the Catholic Press. The same is true of Catholic girl work which we are not overlooking in our efforts to be one with the youth movement in the diocese.

There is another way that diocesan may aid their Catholic Press which we believe has never occurred to them. Advertising revenue provides the principal means of maintaining the Catholic Courier. Those who conduct card parties, bazaars, or other events to raise funds for a worthy project could easily expend a few dollars for a display advertisement in the Catholic Courier. We are glad to insert the news notices gratis as far as our space permits, but a display advertisement would be guaranteed insertion and the small amount it costs would add little to the expense of the most worthy charitable enterprise. Please keep this in mind when the Lenten season is drawing to a close and you are planning benefit parties or social functions.

Raise your heart a little to the most sweet and holy Cross and you will find it blesses every day.

Reading Catholic papers turns thought towards God.

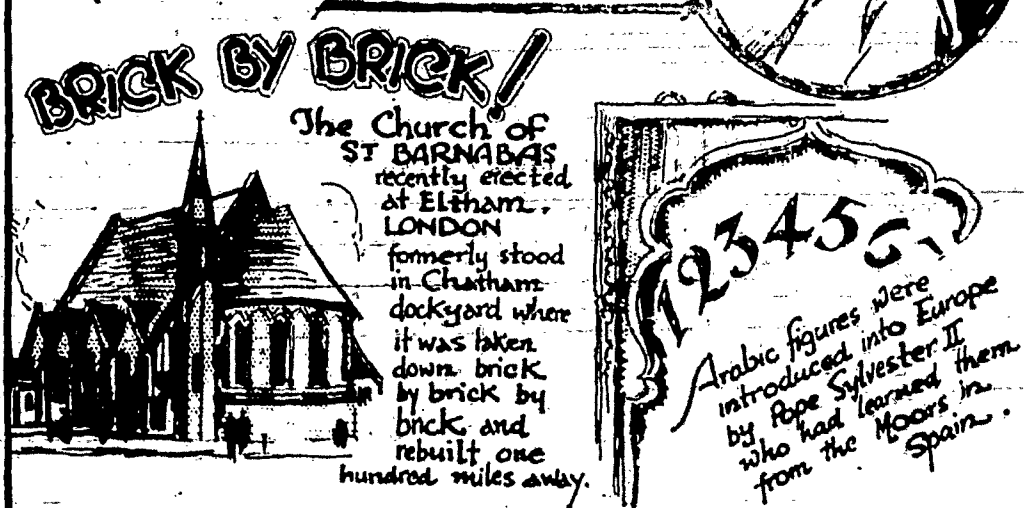
STRANGE BUT TRUE
Catholic Facts But Little Known

By M. J. MURRAY

A PRIEST WAS PRESIDENT OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY



The INDIAN BISHOP of TIRUVALLA TRAVANCORE MGR THEOPHILOS
LIKES THE SAME LANGUAGE WHEN CELEBRATING MASS - ARAMAIC - AS THAT SPOKEN BY OUR LORD.



The tiles which closed the tomb-recess of St. Philomena in the Catacombs were misplaced when found in the last century; the first should be third and the Latin words read PAX TECUM FILUMENA (Peace be to thee Philomena).

Arabic figures were introduced into Europe by Pope Sylvester II who had learned them from the Moors in Spain.

Responsibility of Catholics Toward The Socially Inadequate

By REV. ALBERT MUNTSCH, S.J.

The departments of sociology of not a few of our universities and schools of social service offer courses on the "socially inadequate." The phrase generally includes all those for whom it is difficult to cope with the evils and defects of modern industrial conditions and who are handicapped in the competitive struggle of a capitalistic society. It also embraces the mentally defective and all those who, for various reasons, but more often those of an economic nature, cannot satisfactorily adjust themselves to the group of which they are members. Frequently this lack of adjustment may lead to delinquency, in as much as it is those who cannot fit into their group, who are apt to be guilty of anti-social conduct.

It demands that we look after the whole man. Let us devise channels by which we bring distinctly Catholic cultural influences into the lives of those who spend their sad days in the dark corners of the slum. If it is good to feed the souls and bodies of men, it is also good and imperative to feed them intellectually. We do not want our own people to starve spiritually or bodily, but neither can we allow them to starve intellectually and culturally. And there is a distinctly Catholic culture which we must make accessible to all.

These words contain a practical direction for Catholic social workers and should lend courage to those whose privilege it is to search out abandoned souls and guide them back to their Father's House.

Nor should we look upon such efforts as less noble than those for souls protected from danger and enjoying the manifold blessings of well ordered Catholic family life. For, as Dr. Bruehl concludes: "Nothing should remain alien to Catholic Charity. Catholic Charity can descend to the lowest depths of social degradation without becoming sullied itself. It must open its eyes wide and see the evils that oppress our fellowmen. Perhaps in our very neighborhood horrible and dreadful conditions exist. We cannot help it if we do not know. Let us not shrink from knowledge, even if it is unpleasant and disquieting. It will be a spur to activity.—C. V. Service.

FIRST REPORTERS

An interesting review of the beginning and development of the Catholic Press was made by the Rev. Dr. Timothy Rowan, news editor of The New World, arch-diocesan weekly newspaper, in a recent address over Radio Station WIBC in Chicago.

Father Rowan said that "we might say that the Catholic Press began with the public life of Our Lord" and that the four evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, were the first reporters.

"Their work was inspired by the Holy Ghost and is known as the Four Gospels," continued Father Rowan. "The Evangelists were reporters, but St. Paul might be called the first editorial writer of the Catholic Press. St. Paul is called the Apostle of the Press and it is often said that if he were alive today he would be editing a Catholic paper."

If our religion does not spell "surrender" there is something wrong with our faith.

Catholic philosophy is the one philosophy in the world that has not thrown common sense overboard and that is broad enough to admit both God and Man, both soul and body, both earth and immortality, both mind and will.—Fr. Lora.

Back Through the Years

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

June 8, 1895
In this issue of June 8, 1895 of the Catholic Journal appeared the following, editorial comment quoted from Ave Maria, publication of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, Fathers at Notre Dame, Ind.

"The importance of supporting the religious press ought to be plain even to those of weak faith and dull intelligence. As an antidote to the corrupting or misleading contents of the secular press, a religious journal is almost necessary. The daily newspapers are sure to record the scandalous acts of apostate priests, but how few of them will tell their readers about such noble missionaries as the late Father Albert! How little of education or of truth is to be found in the best of our secular journals!"

It is to be wondered at that so many young Catholics become lukewarm from reading daily newspapers. As with papers so with books. If Catholics persist in reading such publications calculated to weaken or pervert their religious faith, at least they should provide themselves with the antidote."

Remain in the peace and calm which Our Lord has given you.—St. Francis de Sales.

What you have to do, do no longer because it is your inclination but purely because it is God's will.—St. Frances de Sales.

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