

Why St. Francis de Sales Has Been Named Patron of the Catholic Press

(Editor's Note: This article is being reprinted, from Dramatic Moments in Catholic Life and History, which appeared in the January 6, 1933 issue of the Catholic Courier, for the guidance of seventh and eighth grade boys and girls entered in the Catholic Press Month Essay Contest now under way. The article is timely, a view of Catholic Press Month and will appeal to all our readers who may have missed it when it first appeared.)

Just fifty years after Luther had inaugurated his great revolt against the historic Church of Christendom the eldest son of the noble De Sales family was born in their chateau in Savoy. The day after his birth he received the name of Francis in baptism at the parish church of Thorens.

In the half-century since the introduction of the so-called New Learning, Protestantism had made rapid and unfortunate progress throughout Switzerland and at the time of our saint's birth the reformers backed by the Swiss military arm had occupied part of Savoy.

The uncle of Francis was the Bishop of Geneva but, for some years had been unable to live in his See because of the machinations of the

enemy. In times such as these young de Sales made his early studies and learned first hand of the attacks against the Church.

Rounded Educated

At the age of fourteen Francis went to Paris to attend the famous university of that city. With its fifty-four colleges it was easily the leading seat of learning of the day. Thoroughly disgusted with the worldliness and profligacy of his fellow students and of the clergy of his school at Clermont which was under the direction of the Jesuits.

During his student days Francis gave evidence of that lofty spirituality which was to characterize his entire career and be the admiration of his contemporaries, some of whom, like himself, canonized saints.

He completed his studies in the famed law schools of Padua and at the age of twenty-four returned to his father's house after receiving the master's and doctor's degrees from the Paduan university. Here began the first of the constant clashes between his will and his father's. The latter looked forward to a brilliant worldly career for his first-born while Francis himself could only entertain notions of serving God in His Church.

In Service of the Lord

A brilliant marriage was arranged by the father; this was put aside by the son for he had long since pledged himself to perpetual chastity. A commission was obtained in the Duke's army; Francis would be knighted but a soldier in the service of the Lord. At this juncture the Provost of the Geneva Cathedral Chapter died and this honorary post was obtained directly from the Pope for the heir of the House of de Sales. In this way the opposition of the father was overcome and Francis prepared himself for the priesthood, a necessary qualification to obtain the provostship.

The fortunes of war restoring two of Savoy's provinces to their rightful sovereign, it was necessary to provide for the spiritual wants of the restored patrimony. This was no easy task, for Calvinism had taken a firm hold upon the people. In Thonon, the capital, there were but twenty Catholics left and these were so intimidated by the enemy that they dared not openly profess their religion. The Bishop of Geneva sent them a priest, learned and holy, but he was fortunate to escape with his life. Thus matters stood in the first year of the provostship of St. Francis.

Cathedral Chapter

The Bishop called his Chapter together to consult on the matter and to ask for a volunteer. He did not wish to commission anyone without his consent as it appeared to be issuing a death sentence. Francis was twenty-seven, young and energetic; he announced that he preferred to be a missionary rather than a provost. When this decision was made known to his father, the old Count de Sales came storming to the Bishop that he had consented to the vocation of his son but not to his being a martyr. Again the clash of wills; again the cause of God won out. But the old Count refused his blessing on the enterprise; it was just another trial so frequent in the lives of the Saints.

Attacked While Preaching

For two years Francis ranged the countryside preaching, preaching, always preaching but with scarce a soul to listen. He was insulted and attacked. Time after time his life was saved as if by a miracle. One night, while on a march from town to town he was attacked by wolves; and taking the only means of escape, he climbed a nearby tree where he was forced to spend the night. The next morning he was rescued by a Calvinist family who took him to their home to recuperate from the exposure. They were so affected by his deep spirituality that they came into the Church, the first fruits of his apostolate.

Since the people would not listen

Mercy High School Students Observe Pope's Anniversary

A program, celebrating Pope's Day, the anniversary of the coronation of Pope Pius XI, was conducted by the Sodality of Our Lady of Mercy High School Thursday, February 15. Originally scheduled for the exact date of the anniversary, Monday, February 12, the program was postponed because of rehearsals for the Senior play which took place last Monday.

The singing of the Sodality song, "Christ the King" opened the celebration.

A talk was given by Mary Arndt, '36, on the outstanding events in the pontificate of Pope Pius XI.

This was followed by an address by Dorothy Keefe, '36, showing Pius XI a true defender of the faith and zealous in its propagation.

The closing address, delivered by Dorothy Norton, '36, pertained to the Holy Father's program of Catholic Action and sodality activity. A closing prayer and hymn ended the program.

Mass and Communion are to be offered up for the intention of the Holy Father on Sunday, February 17, by the Sodality.

A program featuring the new junior orchestra will be held at Our Lady of Mercy High School at a general assembly on Friday, February 23 in honor of Washington's birthday.

"Young Washington" by Guttermann will be given by Marion Curran. Alice Daly will recite an "Ode to Washington" by Whittier and Catherine Martin will present "Washington on the Delaware" by Joaquin Miller. "Washington Monument at Night" by Carl Sandburg will be delivered by Beatrice Brown.

The program will close with the school song and a march by the orchestra.

Forty Hours Devotions

February 18—First Sunday in Lent; Our Lady of Sorrows, Rochester. Holy Family, Auburn.

to him St. Francis sensed in some mysterious way that they might read what he had to say. He took to composing leaflets, setting forth the leading doctrines of the Church as opposed to the errors of Calvinism. These were multiplied and distributed as widely as possible by a few devoted friends that he had.

First Catholic Newspaper The first Catholic newspaper! And thus St. Francis de Sales sowed the seeds of the Catholic press that is accomplishing so much for the Church especially in our day when it is coming to full fruition.

But what did it do for its author? The people began to read; they were interested and wanted more information. They began to look up St. Francis and find out where he was preaching. Soon the churches where he appeared were crowded. The tide of conversions set in. At his death from the ruins of the faith in Geneva had sprung up a flourishing Church.

But the life of Francis was by no means over. He was later made Bishop of Geneva and negotiated for the Duke of Savoy at the court of both Henry IV and Louis XIII of France. Both sovereigns wanted him to remain in Paris but, his work finished, he preferred to return to the humbler duties of Geneva.

Founded Visitation Order Between visits to the French Court, in union with St. Jane Francis de Chantal, he founded the Visitation nuns. The direction of the first convent of the order in Paris he confided to a humble priest now known as St. Vincent de Paul. This Apostle of Paris said of Francis: "This servant of God conformed so well to the Divine model, that often I asked myself with amazement how a created being—given the frailty of human nature—could reach so high a degree of perfection." It takes a saint to know a saint.

Patron of Catholic Press St. Francis died on the feast of the Holy Innocents in his fifty-sixth year, 1622. He was canonized by Alexander VII in 1665 and proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by Pius IX in 1877. But of all his posthumous honors the most interesting to Catholic journalists was his declaration by the Holy See as the patron of the Catholic Press.

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Provost—Chief dignitary of a cathedral or collegiate chapter in certain countries such as England and Austria.

Cathedral Chapter—A body of clerics instituted for observing greater solemnity of Divine Worship and at Cathedral Churches for assisting the bishop according to Church Law in his senate and council and governing the see during vacancy. In dioceses which have no cathedral chapters the board of diocesan consultors functions as the bishop's senate.

Calvinism—System of religion introduced by John Calvin, the French Reformer, in opposition to Catholic teaching; doctrines which it taught were: Man has no free will; God has predestined each one of us, absolutely independent of our own efforts.

Advertisers in this newspaper are co-operating with the Catholic Press, by showing appreciation of what they are doing.



BOYS Their Interests

Dealers in second-hand clothes and furniture had a bad scare when President Roosevelt asked the Boy Scouts to collect old furniture and clothes and distribute them to the needy. Regardless of how some may regard this, it comes as a wonderful charity to many families. Home means more than food and clothing; it means a little comfort, decent furniture, a few pictures and all those little things that make a home a desirable place in which to live. God bless the Scouts for their charity!

Archbishop Mooney in a few well-chosen and vigorous sentences, praised the Catholic Scouts who trudged over to the Cathedral last Sunday morning at an early hour to attend the Scout Mass. Then the Archbishop interpreted the Scout program, showing how God through His grace helps their development not only in the spiritual world, but also in those things which apply to their neighbors and to themselves.

Anyone who saw the three thousand Scouts last Saturday at the Eastman Theatre could hardly suppress the thought that these boys will be the leaders of tomorrow. Scouts are usually energetic and full of vitality, and they are trained to be leaders. They are the type of boys who 'do things'. That is why it is so important for the Church to foster Scouting and to influence Scouting as much as possible.

Members of Bishop O'Hern Circle of Columbian Squires lost their first bowling match to the Elmira Circle. They are going to Elmira Sunday to try to avenge this defeat. Incidentally they are also to talk over plans for regular athletic competition, especially in baseball and basketball, with the Elmira Circle.

In spite of the sub-zero weather the Camp Stella Maria card party went over the top. Many played in their own homes and after turning in their scores were given the table prizes. Camp authorities are trying to keep the price of camping this summer at Stella Maria at the \$1 level. This makes it possible for boys of moderate means to take advantage of the Camp.

But is not \$1 a day expensive? Just the opposite. The Scout Camps in most cases financed by Communion Chest money, ask this same price. In the list of some fifteen Associated Camps of New York, not one camp was as low as \$1 a day. The prices ran from \$10 to \$35 a week. And not one of these camps has a better site than Stella Maria. Most have salt or river water to swim in, and are placed in a low altitude, usually at sea level.

The Grandpa Hexzie Story contest closes this week. The winner will be announced in a week or two.

We have received inquiries as to whether or not the Parochial Baseball League was going to function this year. Of course it is. And it is going to be better than ever. That lively ball ought to help some of the boys to lift a few bits out of the infield. Watch this column for definite information.

All information concerning the Baseball League, returns, accounts of games, etc., will be placed in the Catholic Courier in this column. So if you want to follow your friends, or to see your own team, or own name in print, subscribe to the Courier and have the information brought to your home every Friday.

Should the Parochial Schools have track teams and compete once or twice a year for prizes and honors? Bill Lang, promoter of the Indoor League, thinks they should. Of course, running is a fine sport but we have very few facilities in winter, and in good weather most boys play baseball. This has been discussed before but as there is considerable work attached to it, and after all it would not affect as many as baseball. However, if the demand is strong enough, something will probably be done next fall.

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CONCERNING OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

By Scholastic



Seventh grade choir members of Holy Rosary Church were entertained at a unique Concert-Supper in the School Hall Thursday evening, by the Eighth grade members. Choral numbers, sung between courses served to the diners seated around a horseshoe banquet table, were interpreted by dancers in appropriate costumes. The entertainers were: Dorothy Rovelle, hostess, Jeanette Reif, Mary Louise Guider, Arline Foss, Frances Henry, Eleanor McCarthy, Kathleen Kane, Mary Bircree, Veronica Dill, Kathleen Reddy, Arline Hinkelmann, Patricia Holmes, Margaret Walthers, Mary Height, Helen Garback, Anna An-said.

The Rev. Walter Foery, pastor, spoke to the children on the character of one privileged to sing at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Reverends W. J. Naughton, J. M. McDonnell, J. J. Curley were also guests of honor at the banquet.

The musical program included the following: Come Where the Lilies Bloom—Thompson; Four-Leaf Clover—Brownell; Merry Zingarellas—Rockwell; Embarrassing Moments—Song of the Skaters—Rufinary-Zamecnik; Carry Me Back to Old Virginia—Bland, Alma Mater.

After successfully passing the Regent Examinations, members of the June Graduating Class of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School were entertained by the Seventh grade pupils, according to a report sent us by

Leonard Goffredo, seventh grader. Songs were dramatized with Geography as the theme of some; speeches were made by individual pupils. The boys particularly enjoyed a sparring match between the two tallest boys, and another between the two shortest boys of the class. The program closed with a rendition of the School's Song, "Our Alma Mater Dear" by pupils of the English Grade.

Pupils of the Eighth Grade at St. Mary's School, Canisius, who obtained an average of 90 per cent or above in Regents subjects taken in January are as follows: Eric Buzell, Stephen Kobetz, Joseph Piosar, Jeanne McGlothy, Alice Murphy, Grace Ann Mitty, Ellen Quinn, Rita Schob. The three highest averages in the Seventh, Sixth, Fifth and Fourth Grades respectively are: Seventh: Jeanne Bailey, Anna C. Cason, Eileen O'Brian; Sixth: Lucille Maxwell, Rosa Yank; Margaret Kilmack; Fifth: Mary Flanagan, Jeanne Hallman, Eileen Quinn; Fourth: Ralph Jordan, Carmella Sarge, Marjann Dowling. Eighth grade pupils conducted a successful Valentine Party in the assembly hall, Friday evening, February 9.

K. C. Auxiliary Names Officers and Committees

Officers and members of the newly organized ladies auxiliary of Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus, met Thursday evening of this week in Columbus Civic Center to arrange for a social event after Easter.

At a recent meeting the following were elected to office: President, Mrs. Joseph F. Ritz; First Vice-President, Mrs. John A. Doyle; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Harold Dorsey; Third Vice-President, Mrs. Anthony Mauceri; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Frank J. Meyerling; Treasurer, Mrs. Walter B. O'Neill; Trustees, Mr. Edward F. Brown, chairman; Mrs. George Andrews, Mrs. Thomas H. O'Connor, Mrs. Leo F. Rombaut, Mrs. William E. Wearner, Mrs. Cal Lofink, Mrs. William H. Sant and Mrs. Francis Garrison.

Committee members are: Ways and Means, Mrs. Charles F. Raymond chairman; Mrs. Louis C. Hock, Mrs. Joseph L. Logan, Mrs. John C. Graham and Mrs. John Callahan; Membership, Mrs. Nicholas J. O'Neill, chairman, Mrs. Clara.

Entertainment, Mrs. Angelo Di-Nieri, chairman; Mrs. John Lanning.

Man passeth as an image, and is disquieted in vain.—Psalms. Get your notices into the Catholic Courier office before Tuesday noon of each week to assure insertion.



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