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MEMBER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

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

Editorials

COLLECT OF MASS TUESDAY SECOND WEEK IN LENT.

Look down upon Thy household, and grant that our souls, which are enslaved by the morbidification of the flesh, may glow in Thy sight with the desire of Thee. Through our Lord.

SUNDAY'S SYMPOSIUM

Last Sunday evening six young men and women from as many Catholic Colleges in the vicinity of Western New York, and Pennsylvania conducted a symposium under the auspices of the Western New York Student Sodality Conference entitled The Humorous Side of the Saints. It was very well conducted, so well, indeed, that it might almost just as well have been termed The Humorous Side of the Saints, without any loss of reverence or dignity. The cleverness with which the students brought out the fact that the saints are holy because of their humanity, and not necessarily in spite of it, recalls the words of Coudenhove: "The reason why we have so few really great, convincing Christians amongst us is this: We are not human enough to be saints. . . . We forget that grace needs a deep, reliable, healthy, natural ground if it is to take root and bear a hundredfold."

Much is made now-a-days of the youth movement. Catholic colleges are not lagging by any means in this movement. The organization that sponsored Sunday evening's performance is evidence, not only that our colleges are aware of the movement and its advantages but that they are very actively interested. The mission of the Church is a spiritual one and the first and foremost reason for the existence of any Catholic institution of learning is to impress Catholic spirituality upon its wards. That they are not failing is amply testified to by the Student Sodality Conference.

The cleverness and understanding with which the different students presented their facts, and the comprehensive research, of which they gave evidence, shows that they are maintaining a high level of rounded and mature education, that is bound to have its effective influence and leadership in the future.

Our colleges are doing a very useful piece of work. In spite of great financial handicaps these days, and any other, for that matter, they are carrying on the best of secular refinement and culture and, at the same time, the best of Catholic traditions and practice. This truth cannot be presented too much nor too often. The sacrifices by which they are conducted are a proof of the holiness of their undertaking. And lest we forget, there is one in Rochester, Nazareth College, second to none in its standards and aims, both spiritual and secular, and second to none in the Catholic influence of its alumnae.

Let's have more of Student Sodality Conference Symposiums!

THE OUTLOOK FOR PEACE

Fifteen years after the greatest and most horrible of the world's conflicts, the war to end all wars, the world finds itself in a worse condition than ever before. Some of the European countries embroiled in the Great War have never since found any stabilized conditions to remind them of peace. In our own country for five years we have been going through the worst of economic depressions. Internal conditions in almost every country are anything but peaceful. The desperation to which their internal conditions give rise make them angry and only too ready for civil wars or wars even of foreign aggression.

In confirmation, we have only to look to the disturbances in China for the past few years; to the dispute between China and Japan over Manchuria; to the friction between Japan and Russia which has grown to the point that war may be expected any time in the not too distant future; to the talk of war between the United States and Japan; to the civil war attempted within the past few days in Austria; to the aggressive foreign policy of Nazi-ism; to the recent riots in Paris. A world wide view presents the people of the world in a large in no pleasant frame of mind.

What is wrong with the world? Would that the answer were easy! But it is not. However it might be said without much margin of error, that one of the principal causes of what is wrong with the world is its paganism and materialism. The world is its god and His Church is its priest, but they do not see that.

Prayer is the most perfect and divine action of which a rational soul is capable. Prayer is an action for the exercise of which the soul is principally created, for in prayer alone the soul is united to God. Consequently, of all duties it is the most necessary.

peace into the God of war and prejudice! If there is one enemy of nationalistic prejudice today, it is the Catholic Church. And yet, behold the treatment of the Church in various countries at the present time, in Spain, in Russia, in Mexico, and even in France and Germany!

In every Mass, the priest in the name of the Church and the people, prays for "peace in our days." The world wants peace, not only ultimately, but now! Let the world talk war, and soon enough the world will have war. Let the world talk peace, and she can have peace. But if she is going to talk peace, she must seek the proper places and institutions to do so. For the Catholic there is no more fitting place than the shrines of the Prince of Peace, the churches with the Blessed Sacrament. In this war-weary world, again once more threatened and disturbed, it behooves every Catholic more than ever to pray very intensely to the Prince of Peace for the aversion of any more possible catastrophes, such as we have only too recently suffered. No better prayer to be recommended than the frequent attendance at the renewal of that Sacrifice which was made that men have peace, the sacrifice of the Mass.

CATHOLIC READING

During Catholic Press Month it might be well to draw attention to the fact that there is such a thing as a Catholic Press, too little known even among Catholics, and to interest all in learning to support Catholic publications.

One of the purposes of the press is to keep the world informed of what is going on. The spirit of the world is not the spirit of the Church, and the world is not interested in every thing Catholic by any means. The secular press may be biased in some instances, but generally it is not; it sets out to give its readers what interests them; and from the view-point of numbers interested, Catholics form a proportionately small group. Just as a daily paper cannot be expected to give a complete account of all the doings of a particular club to such an extent that the minutes of the club, so neither can it be expected to give an account of everything that is going on in our parishes, or in the Church at large.

The reading of the minutes of a club or organization has interest chiefly for its constituents. The Catholic Church in its various localities is in somewhat the same position. For this reason there should be some means of informing Her members of what is going on, of the progress She is making, of the projects She is undertaking, of the influence She is exercising. To have a live organization, every member of the organization must take a lively and an active interest. The best way of doing this is to know what the organization is doing, for knowledge begets interest and interest begets action. That is the why of a Catholic Press. It gives the Catholic view-point, and stimulates edification.

Often among the unthinking, the complaint is made that there is not much Catholic literature to read. A visit to the Catholic Press exhibit in the Columbus Civic Centre this week would open the eyes of many. By Catholic Press is understood not only the news services in the form of journals and periodicals, but also other permanent works of literature. All these forms of literature must have financial support, which consists chiefly in the purchase of these different works. An author can hardly be expected to bury his talents in undertakings that are useless because nobody will read his works and because he would only starve to death if he depended upon this sale. If we are going to have worthwhile talent, we must have a wide demand for that talent, and for Catholic talent we must have a wider circle of Catholic readers.

It is true that any good literature is Catholic, but only in a negative sense, just as the avoidance of sin is good but in a negative way. Just as we must do something positively good if we are going to cultivate the virtues, so also must we read things that are positively Catholic, things that deal directly with persons and things that are Catholic, if we are to have a literature that is going to have any direct influence on ourselves and be productive of influence upon others.

Very often the secular publications contain much that gives the anti-Catholic view of things: Too often it overlooks some point of interest to Catholics, or the announcement of some new Catholic book, or the pronouncement of Pope or hierarchy. A voice is needed to call our attention to these matters and that voice is the Catholic Press. And lest the voice be in vain, it needs listeners, and the listeners are those who insist upon Catholic reading. Hence the necessity, more or less, of every Catholic taking a lively interest in Catholic reading, first and foremost to protect his faith and morals.

Current Comments

EXISTS FOR YOU

"Since the Catholic Press exists for you, it is only fair and reasonable that you should recognize its services, have it in your homes, read it zealously, and train your children to draw wisdom and strength from its pages."—Bishop Rummel of Omaha.

DISTINCT DEPARTMENT

"I consider the Catholic press as a distinct department of the Church. It has a two-fold connection in this regard. It belongs to the teaching body of the Church and, in its capacity of affording the one avenue of publicity, it belongs to the military section of the Church; it is our Council of Defense. And like all other departments of the Church, it has a hand-to-mouth existence."—(George Cardinal Mundelein).

Prayer is the most perfect and divine action of which a rational soul is capable. Prayer is an action for the exercise of which the soul is principally created, for in prayer alone the soul is united to God. Consequently, of all duties it is the most necessary.

Visit the Catholic Press Exhibit, February 22 to 26 in Columbus Civic Center ballroom. No charge for admission.

Diocesan Recordings

A most hearty welcome to all visitors to the Catholic Press Exhibit, first event of its kind ever to be conducted in the diocese of Rochester.

Those visiting the Exhibit will see the finished product of the Catholic Press. They will not experience the "headaches" that often go into producing Catholic newspapers, magazines, books and pamphlets. Nor do we want any of the visitors to get from the Exhibit other than pleasure in viewing the various displays. However, we hope they will reach an appreciation of what is being done by the printed word to advance the cause of the Church. The saying "The Power of the Press" is true but still filled with significance.

In conducting a Catholic Press Exhibit showing all publications it is believed that the cause is greater than any selfish interest in our own diocesan newspaper. Bigness is experienced among all Catholic newspapers, magazine and book publishers. If it were not there would not be today the type of papers, periodicals and other printed matter you will see at the Exhibit.

As an example of the spirit of Catholic editors today we are quoting here from The Commonwealth, a nationally known weekly review of literature, arts and public affairs, edited by Michael Williams which indicates that this noted publication which in a narrow sense might be said to be in competition with other Catholic papers does not minimize the effectiveness of other papers in the field. In "The Commonwealth" editorial is this comment:

"Perhaps the time must come when Catholic journalism will be obliged to enter the daily field in order to pull its full weight in the national boat which will face stormy seas for many years to come, no matter how successful the immediate social recovery proves to be. For there are great, antagonistic forces now loose among us, and among all the nations—ultra-nationalism, exaggerated state power, atheistic Communism, racial hatreds, imperialistic rivalries, against which Christian morality will be obliged to battle. At present, however, our diocesan newspapers are the main battle-front. Greatly strengthened and improved of late years, thanks to the bishops and their N.C.W.C. news service, they still urgently require the support of the Catholic public. We appeal to our own readers on this point. We believe that those who do not know the high value of the week by week survey and interpretation of world news now being supplied by their diocesan weeklies will be helped in their own lives, and greatly aid the Church and the nation in this critical era, by becoming readers and supporters of the diocesan paper."

Along this same line might be cited the first suggestion offered by "The Queen's Work" magazine published in the interests of the Sodality of Our Lady movement by Jesuit Fathers in St. Louis. This is the very first suggestion for sodalists observance of Catholic Press Month: "The diocesan newspaper demands first attention. A drive among Sodality for subscriptions is an excellent project."

There is an excellent suggestion for activity among women during Lent in an announcement in a New York newspaper that a Lenten sewing class will resume work in behalf of the New York Nursery and Child's Hospital. The announcement states that owing to the financial depression, the hospital needs assistance of the class more than ever before. It is further stated that the financial condition of the hospital makes the appeal more urgent than ever before, as bed linen and children's garments are greatly needed. Such a work could be done in various parts of the Rochester diocese during Lent and we believe that it would be mutually satisfactory.

When people go to a play they keep their eyes upon the stage at all times, yet we still see heads bowed at the Consecration of the Holy Mass, the greatest drama of all times. There is a special indulgence for keeping the eyes upon the priest at the Consecration and Elevation.

Each year there is an announcement of a collection for the Negro and Indian missions. Will these missions which are being conducted with small support, receive a greater contribution from a reader of the Catholic Press who knows something of the purposes and achievements of the missionaries than from Catholics whose knowledge of the missions is confined to the annual announcements?

Those who express the flippant remark that our Catholic missionaries should not go here and there in an effort to evangelize pagan peoples are sorely lacking in knowledge of the Church's history. Some of the information being sent out by the Catholic Information Society of North America is of a nature that only the

STRANGE BUT TRUE Catholic Facts But Little Known

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By M. J. MURRAY

Illustrations with text: 'This GREEK-ORTHODOX Church in Berlin is built over a restaurant', 'The U-S diocese of BOISE is called in Latin: DIOCESIS XYLOPOLITANA, a derivation of the Greek words for wood and city - BOISE - formerly BOISE CITY. is French for wood, and thus we go from an American City through French and Greek to the latinized XYLOPOLITANA.', 'Since the end of 1933 the town of NAZARETH has been lighted - for the first time in history - by ELECTRICITY', 'This GIGANTIC APSE IN THE LATERAN SQUARE, ROME, IS NO PART OF A BUILDING THAT EXISTS TODAY BUT IS CAREFULLY PRESERVED BECAUSE OF ITS MOSAICS. It formed part of the banquet hall in which CHARLEMANGE was crowned in the year 800', 'There is only one Catholic priest in the whole of ARGANISTAN - the chaplain to the Italian Legation at Kabul. ARGANISTAN is utterly barred to Catholic missionaries'

THE LIBRARY SIGN POST

About a month ago one of our alert Catholic publishers in Milwaukee all but challenged the CATHOLIC COURIER to run book reviews of its own. Someone else suggested that the Catholic Evidence Library run a column of information on Catholic feasts and books. Somewhat on the principle of 1 plus 1 equals 2, the above challenge plus the above suggestion has resulted in this new column. Look for us each week at the Signpost.

From the frying pan into the fire! . . . The editorial "we" is meant to avoid the hint of egotism, and yet it so often sounds like the plural of majesty.

The thought of death fell upon the souls of the pagan Greeks and Romans like a frost. Even the sophisticated Horace recoiled from the "hateful cypresses" of the grave. But through Christ, as St. Paul tells us, "death is swallowed up in victory." The Christian sees death as the threshold of unthinkable joys. The "hateful cypresses" furnish him a wreath of victory, and with Francis Thompson, he sees the King of life "cypress-crowned."

February is Catholic press month. A Catholic press must exert pressure if it is to make an impression. Don't become impatient with its repeated appeals. Even at its mediocre average, it is far more thoughtful than the rank-and-file daily; at its best stride, in such papers as the Catholic News or the Brooklyn Tablet, it gives its readers straightforward thinking and clear-cut issues, such as even the famous metropolitan papers may envy.

In Eugene O'Neill's new play, "Days Without End", one of the characters refers to the modern slave-owning State as "the most grotesque god that ever came out of Asia." Shades of Genghis Khan and Tamerlane the Great rising out of their graves and giving the Nazi salute on Christian soil.

Lenten thought—At a luncheon recently held to celebrate the completion of the New Oxford Dictionary supplement which contains 866 pages of new English words developed within the last fifty years, an Oxford professor said: "For a virile nation, there were too many words devoted to comforts, too much to clothes and fashions, to sports and games."

The development of languages follows the trend of life. At that rate, we are too comfortable, too fashionable, too sporty. Our Catholic faith gives us the antidote of fasting and penance at seasonable times. It is quite sure that if modern doctors wished to declare themselves, they would urge a periodical practice of such a regime of self-denial as the Church requires of her subjects during Lent. Such discipline in personal satisfactions and enjoyments might have solved the problem of many a dyspeptic and neurotic invalid.

Norway's population is 2,817,124. Out of that number, 2,612 are Catholics, certainly a most disconcerting minority. Not even in its native Germany did Lutheranism make such proportionately overwhelming gains as in the Scandinavian countries. But there are undeniable evidences of a "second spring", much like a meadow day in February. One of these 2,612 Catholics is no less a person than Sigrid Undset, whose impressive genius has given Norway a voice in international culture. She became a convert to the Church after studying the medieval history of her country in preparation for her monumental novel, "Kristin Lavransdatter."

Visit the Catholic Evidence Library, located off the lobby of the Columbus Civic Centre, 50 Chestnut St. In case you've forgotten, may we repeat that it is open in the afternoon from 3:30 to 5:30 on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. As a special feature for the Catholic Literature Exhibit from February 22 to 26, the Library will be open each day of the display at its regular hours. —B. E.

Catholicity is not merely an external form; it is a system of life and living. Rev. D. A. Lord, S.J. The cause is strong which has so a multitude but one strong man behind it.—Lowell.

"FORTY THOUSAND WOMEN . . ."

Bernard F. Gimbel of Gimbel Brothers Department Store in New York recently announced the results of a merchandising survey of 40,000 women in New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Milwaukee. Eighty-three per cent of these women think that this country is now on the way out of the Depression; some five per cent are persuaded that the country will be better off after the Depression than we were in our more prosperous years because society will have learned "the bitter lesson of greed;" and more than ninety-two per cent think that the country at large has benefited by the NRA, and voice their conviction that housewives should buy of NRA firms only. All of which should be very pleasing to President Roosevelt—and to the NRA's General Johnson. Nor is the witness of these women to be despised. "Forty Thousand Women Can't Be Wrong!"—The Church World (Portland, Me.)

Spiritual Thoughts

Be right and cheerful. Forget yourself and strive to make others happy.

Family prayer is the border which keeps the web of home life from unraveling.

He who cannot bear injuries shows that he has lost sight of Jesus Christ.

One obstacle to the goodness of our actions is precipitation.—St. Francis de Sales.

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