

Catholic Courier

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

Editorials

COLLECT, FERIAL MASS, FRIDAY, PASSION WEEK. "Mercifully infuse Thy grace into our hearts, we beseech Thee, O Lord: that refraining from sin by voluntary chastisement, we may be rather afflicted in time than condemned to punishment for eternity. Through Our Lord."

HOLY WEEK

For some nineteen hundred anniversaries the world has been observing Holy Week. At least once a year the Christian and educated world drops its cares and worldly pleasures to honor the Savior and recall to mind His agony and death.

But to the Catholic Holy Week commemorates more than the mere humanitarian deeds of Christ. For him it means recalling to mind the most outstanding event in the world's history, the reconciliation of Man to God. The death of Jesus Christ was not a mere tragedy. It was also an event of great joy and of great triumph.

Holy Week impresses upon us the need of suffering. Our fallen human nature has in it the seeds of great happiness and joy. But these seeds can take root only in pain and suffering.

Man lives in a vale of tears. This truth is particularly evident today. During Holy Week we have a particularly good season to meditate upon this fact. Let us then cease from thought about our own trials and tribulations for a few days and turn to those of our Master.

GUTTER CULTURE

Some Catholics wonder why it is that the clergy so constantly deny Non-Catholic places of learning. And the clergy have brought to their attention so many instances and examples of what Non-Catholic education means that they wonder what is the matter with some Catholics.

We are informed that the college man is one of those select individuals who know how to live. The "narrow-minded moralist" is told that he must mend his ways to enter this select circle of society, and that to be more specific, the college man must see to it that he tastes every experience of life as it exists.

This is the broadmindedness, the purpose of college education. Such mindedness is broad because it is shallow. An amount of water in a pail will cover a much larger surface if spilled upon the floor—also much more dirt!

The day following the same paper published an editorial, Any Answers, in which the statement is made, "Certainly the younger generation is making no apologies for its conduct, their actions being perfectly right according to their own definition of the word. These actions include excessive drinking, debauchery, pre-marital intercourse, naive rowdiness, and so on."

This is a sample of the practical philosophy underlying one great university, which has many like-minded sister institutions. Then Catholic parents wonder why the Church objects so strenuously to their sons and daughters being educated in such places?

The correct answer to all systems of education for centuries has been the thought of drawing out the best in the student and endowing him

with some principles and habits of self-restraint. But that concept has been discarded for quite a while now. The modern conception of education is to live in the gutter and learn to enjoy it. It is unfortunate that universities and colleges have spent so much money on beautiful buildings and grounds, when such esteemed connoisseurs of living as Al Capone and gang are so much more successful, and practical.

Do all you can, keep stepping, don't miss anything whether good or bad, there isn't anything bad! Get all you can, no matter how; this is modern education. If you don't believe it, read the Pennsylvania. The University of Pennsylvania is a typical university. But we hope that all the Catholics there are not taken for typical Catholics.

THE FORT WAYNE PLAN

Hollywood is located in the Diocese of Los Angeles, of which Bishop Cantwell is the Ordinary. When he speaks of conditions in Hollywood, therefore, we may be sure that he speaks with authority. Recently he has stated that fully twenty five percent of the films produced there are positively bad and harmful.

So harmful is the influence of the movies on the young, and the old, too, for that matter, that Senator Patman has recently introduced a bill for the strict regulation and sale of movie films. And the National Council of Teachers of English is seriously at work upon a plan to introduce courses of appreciation of the cinema in high schools in order to create a demand for higher standards in the films to be shown in the future.

But the palm for action should go to the N. C. W. of The Fort Wayne Diocese. These women made a house-to-house canvas during Lent to obtain individual pledges against attendance at indecent movies. This type of campaign, if adopted quite generally, cannot help but be effective, for it is the type that injures the purses of all responsible for the exhibition of movies, from the ordinary theatre proprietor up to the producer magnate and the high salaried actress.

Current Comments

WOULD THEY ALL WERE

An impartial observer, a non-Catholic also, is puzzled over Catholics although he admires them. He even marvels at them. He was present at a Mass, crowded to the doors, and could hardly credit the fact that there were several others with equal attendance. He asks, what is the secret of this extraordinary loyalty? Is it the spell of a popular priest? Is it showmanship? Is it due to association of ideas as assimilated from birth? Is it fear that draws Catholics to Mass? Or is it the expression of living, vital faith, which satisfies their mind and conscience that what they do is the will of God? He goes on to say, "To me, an absolutely impartial observer, it is little short of amazing that the Catholic alone of all the churches is making appreciable progress in the gain of adherents."

STATE AID FOR SCHOOLS

Catholics are not asking aid for the teaching of their religion: They ground their request upon the fact that their parochial schools teach practically the same branches of secular learning as do the public schools; and that they teach them as efficiently, as has been proved time and again in national, state and municipal contests, open to pupils of both systems upon identical terms. That our schools impart religious training in addition to secular learning should be an extra score in their favor—especially since, for more than a dozen years, statesmen, criminal court judges, educationalists, social welfare workers, and religiousists of all denominations have been striving earnestly to devise some means of making up for the lack of religious teaching in the public school system—a lack of which they hold responsible for the deplorable prevalence of juvenile delinquency and criminality.

DIVORCE STATISTICS

"Five-sixths of all divorces are those of childless couples or those having only one child." So says Albert Edward Wiggam, D. Sc., whose statistics are generally accurate even if his opinions are sometimes dubious. "At the present time," he continues, "seventy-one per cent—nearly three-fourths—of childless homes are broken by divorce while only eight per cent of homes with children are broken by divorce." The significance of such figures, we think, is obvious. We recommend their study to those whose idea of a happy world apparently is one without children.

He who does not greatly fear sin is not far from falling into it.

"It is important to insist that the real issue which separates Catholics and Protestants is not the infallibility of the Pope, but the infallibility of Christ."—Alfred Lunn; Noted English Convert.

Diocesan Recordings

Decisive "amputation" by Hearst Rochester Journal editors of the St. Joan of Arc item in a recent column of Walter Wachenet saved the columnist from inflicting "pain" upon the readers of that newspaper so that his apology does not apply to those readers. The local editors are to be commended for saving the "contact" before its readers could be exposed. May they continue to be alert and their "knives" continue to be sharpened.

Historical research coming to the forefront as a result of the centennial of the City of Rochester will no doubt bring to light the fact that Catholics had no small part in the development of this section of New York State. As A. M. Stewart in his new book on "Bene Menard" points out, Catholic activity in this section dates from 1656 when Father Menard's chapel beside Cayuga Lake of 400 members was the first chapel in the present diocese of Rochester. Since that time Catholics have left an imprint upon the historical record of the vicinity and every fair means should be used to bring the facts to light. The Centenary of the coming of the Redemptorist Fathers to Rochester which will take place in 1936 will be another opportunity of stressing the part played by Catholics down through the years. While we do not want Catholic deeds to be overlooked in recording the 100 years of Rochester's existence, neither should we be prone to minimize that done by others in building up the community.

An item in Monday's newspaper presented an account of what was termed the world's largest breakfast at the Hotel Astor, Sunday morning. It spoke of the 3,000 apartment, 200 pounds of oatmeal, 24,000 scrambled eggs and many other items used in the breakfast. All of which may be interesting to those materialistically minded. The real significant fact of this breakfast was that it was served to 8,000 members of the Police Department Holy Name Society who that morning had approached the altar rail and received their Lord in Holy Communion.

Inter-faith item: The Rev. Michael J. Allen, S.J., formerly president of Canisius College, Buffalo, and now a member of the faculty of Weston College, Weston, Mass., who has lectured in Rochester, spoke recently in the hall connected with Trinity Episcopal Church of Boston on "Some Aspects of Human Catholic Education." Father Allen is a noted scientist and well known as a radio speaker in New England.

Many study clubs have been formed in the diocese recently but we think it interesting to note that the Rochester Knights of Columbus on last Thursday evening on one floor of Columbus Civic Center Building inaugurated a study of Pope Pius XI's Encyclical, "Quadragesimo Anno," and (Catholic) Catholic Daughters of America, on the floor above began a study of the Missal. News of this kind does not lend itself to heavy headlines and large front-page stories, but far more significance is attached to the news because it means real Catholic action on the part of our lay organizations.

When things are getting blue, hold out a little longer for the silver lining. Out in San Diego, Cal., Friday, an unidentified Japanese of advanced years was found dead in a park apparently by his own hand. Police said in his pockets were four pennies and a lottery ticket. Saturday—the lottery ticket won a \$500 prize in a St. Patrick's Day drawing. The money was used for funeral expenses.

Announcement of the coiffing of General Joseph Haller, famed Polish war hero, to Rochester recalls that recently he decorated the Most Rev. Joseph Schrombs, Bishop of Cleveland, with the Cross of Merit of the Polish Veterans of America.

Double run movie titles often amuse because of accidental tie-up of meaning, but the London Era calls attention to a report in Film Daily recently which records a church advertisement headed "Do You Know What Hell Is?" followed by the line "Come and Hear Our New Organ."

Lakshmi Vilasaram was not considered too long a name for a little pagan village in India until recently by unanimous consent of the villagers it was changed to "Bosco-palayam," or "Bosco Borough." The change was made not to shorten the name but to honor Blessed Don Bosco whose canonization takes place on Easter Day. The villagers made the change out of respect to missionaries in the village.

Better understanding eliminates many differences of opinion. Appreciation of the other fellow's viewpoint comes from calm, intelligent discussion. On this basis will Faithful movements progress.

STRANGE BUT TRUE Catholic Facts But Little Known

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Illustration featuring a bee hive, a trial by jury, and a church interior. Text includes: "MASS has been celebrated in an airplane by a French Missionary father travelling from Saigon (Africa) to Marseilles (France)", "TRIAL BY JURY. WHICH EXISTED IN EARLY ANGLO-SAXON TIMES, WAS DERIVED FROM THE CANON LAW OF THE CHURCH", "This most modern decoration in the church of ST. GABRIEL, MUNICH, GERMANY has been carried out in that most enduring of forms, that of MOSAIC.", "Amongst remarkable BEE-HIVES in Kuumar, form at Hotel, a small village in Austria, are these fine representations of an Abbot, a Bishop and a Monk. THE HIVES ARE INSIDE THE WOODEN PILLARS OF WHICH DEPICT ST. PETER, ST. PAUL, ST. SIMON & MOSES.", "Prior to JOHN XII (955-964) the Pope kept their own Christian name: since JOHN XII the custom has been maintained of keeping a new name."

THE LIBRARY SIGN POST

It is poor discipline which is built only on prohibition. A merely negative attitude in leadership and education is harmful. Warnings against poison wells are hardly enough to bring a thirsty man to pure springs. At first glance a hasty look as if the present Catholic vigilance against indecency were thus one-sided. But Catholic leaders know that mere denunciation is not enough; there must be affirmative proclamation. And they publish "recommended book lists, conduct literature exhibits, form study clubs, and foster a culture which will be its own best defense against secular paganism. The Catholic Evidence Library respectfully submits itself for consideration in any census of such constructive projects.

This little graveyard epitaph from Walter De La Mare's "Ding Dong Bell" is a profound Lenten meditation in brief: O passer-by, beware the day that yet unto evening shall the day spin on And soon thy sun be gone. Then darkness come, And this a narrow home. Not that I bid thee fear: Only, when thou' at last lie here, Behold thee, three shall surely be Thy Self for company.

Our company for eternity will be the Saints (so we fervently hope and pray). Why not become acquainted with some of them now? That will make the celestial introduction so much the easier. The Catholic Evidence Library shelves are more stocked with biographies than with any other specific class of books, and most of them are of history's "proudest boast" the Saints. Don't be afraid: you won't dip your fingers in mawkish syrup. Some of these "Lives" are a heady tonic, all of them are stimulating. One of the latest additions is "The English Way" subtitled "Studies in English Sanctity from Bede to Newman," written by such artists as Belloc, Chesterton, Dawson, Fr. Martindale, S. J., and published by Sheed and Ward.

A skeptical friend recently asked whether that person who had borrowed a book from the C. E. Library had ever come back for another. "And so the world wags..." "Be it hereby set down, affirmed and made known that, after four months of service, the Library has close to 100 books in steady circulation—almost one fifth of its whole collection. This is not far from the average of the public libraries.

Encouraging facts: subscribers are choosing a wide range of books outside of fiction. Discouraging (or rather, challenging) fact: too few men are listed among the 235 signatures on the Library register. What can we do about that? If any good suggestions are sent in, they will be "lacked" on the Signpost. Write to the Library Signpost, Catholic Courier, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N. Y.

Catholic Evidence Library LOBBY—Columbus Civic Centre Building, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester, N. Y. HOURS—Afternoon—3:30 to 5:30. Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Evening—7 to 9:30. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. DAILY RENTAL—One cent for each book.

SPRITUAL NEW DEAL Through the Lenten Season the Church gives to the faithful annually a spiritual "New Deal." The Most Rev. Christian H. Winkelmann, Auxiliary Bishop of St. Louis, said recently in an address delivered at the old Cathedral: "How many of us, asked Bishop Winkelmann, 'on our own invitation would submit to forty days of fasting and abstinence?' We would not think of it. But because we know Mother Church is interested in our eternal welfare, when she gives that invitation we gladly accept it." "There is the necessity of performing works of charity," he added. "God wants to express to us that the two laws of love are correlative. It is impossible to love God with our whole heart and our whole soul and our whole mind and our whole being and on the other hand have no consideration and love for our neighbors. We all have love God in proportion as we have Christian charity for our neighbor, no more, no less."

If inclined to think getting to Mass on Sunday requires personal discomfort think of Father Korbinian Ostermayr of Rosenheim, near Munich, who for 22 years has been saying Mass every Sunday on Wendelstein mountain, 6,000 feet high in the Bavarian Alps. No matter how bad and cold the weather, Father Ostermayr has always stuck to his Sunday schedule.

St. Joseph is, above all other saints, the Master of Prayer.—M. Philip.

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