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MEMBER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

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"I would make any sacrifice, even to the paving of my ring, to help the cause of the Catholic newspaper."—Pope Pius X.

Editorials

INSPIRING CATHOLIC ACTION

It is logical that men who are interested in promoting clean speech should be just as much interested in clean entertainment. No better opportunity could have presented itself for launching a campaign for decency in the diocese than the most successful rally of Rochester Diocesan Holy Name Union held in Elmira, last Sunday. Due to painstaking planning the rally fulfilled all expectations as an assembly of Catholic men representing the various parishes in the diocese gathered to renew their pledges to uphold and reverence the Holy Name of Jesus. Held for the first time outside of Rochester and in the southern part of the diocese, the rally brought to many a new realization of what may be done by the laity outside of their customary duties of attending Mass and the Sacraments.

With Archbishop Mooney the central figure upon a raised dais in deep center field of the ball park surrounded by prelates and priests in a setting of golden light with a background of the dark hills in the distance, those who assembled could not fail to thrill when the Lord of Hosts blessed them in Solemn Benediction. It was a time to place men in the proper mood for being inspired to Catholic Action.

The audience had the unusual privilege of listening to a great priest-editor and an outstanding layman both of whom placed before the Catholic laity of the diocese specific work to be done. The Ordinary of the diocese asked the men and through them the entire laity of the diocese to do a special work assigned to them, promotion of the Legion of Decency, and the response must have been most heartening to Archbishop Mooney.

In an address to the graduates of D'Youville College, Buffalo, Dr. Henry A. Laphin, professor of English Literature, said recently: "The world always stands in sore need of workers and doers, especially in this country and at this moment, and incidentally there is nothing of which it stands less in need than the drones and talkers; and those who apparently regard it as their sole and sufficient function to be, and immovably remain, decorative."

The success of the Rally indicates "doers" are working overtime in Elmira in perfecting the plan. Those who attended were well rewarded. It now remains to be seen to what heights the laity of the diocese will go in participating in the program outlined by Most Reverend Archbishop Mooney. It is an excellent opportunity for Catholic Action in its true meaning.

PERJURY UNCURED

"There may be heard in the land today," wrote Dorothy Dunbar Bromley in Harper's Magazine for June, 1931, "a rising din of alarms and exclamations which announce a breakdown in our system of justice. Many reasons have been given for this breakdown. Politically minded judges; corrupt court officials, an out-of-date jury system—all have come in for their share of the blame. But little has been said about the weakest spot of all in our administration of justice—the impunity with which witnesses are allowed to commit perjury."

The author, who three years ago could, by citing facts and quoting judges and other qualified commentaries, present a strong indictment of the practice of perjury become common, in the meantime discovered no reason for changing her views regarding the prevalence of this crime, vicious in itself and a bar to the administration of justice. Most Bromley has, in fact, contributed another article on the same subject to a recent issue of the N. Y. Times Magazine, conceding in part: "Those who do not follow the activities of the criminal courts may find it hard to believe that criminals at times escape justice by patent perjury. But such is the fact. Conviction depends upon proof of guilt, and proof of guilt depends upon witnesses. If the key-witnesses wish to prosecute, or if they have been intimidated by the District Attorney and his staff, the case is lost for their plans."

So common has the problem grown lately in New York that the condition throughout the State is generally different—that a group of prosecuting officials, headed by District Attorney Bennett, have presented a bill to the New York Legislature, urging that the courts be empowered to improve the administration of justice. The people of the Empire State, however, have up to arms to resist the proposed legislation. The people of the Empire State, however, have up to arms to resist the proposed legislation.

come to be surrounded with a practical immunity. Herbert Harley, Secretary of the American Judicature Society, says that 'perjury is one of the dark corners of judicial administration,' and adds, 'the bar has learned to operate in spite of perjury and to accept it.' Ferdinand Pecora expresses the opinion that 'in almost every civil and criminal case there is a sharp conflict in the evidence as to what the real facts are: one side or the other must be departing from the truth.'

On the other hand, prosecutions for perjury are rare, and convictions still rarer. Miss Bromley asserts there has been no material change in the ratio existing in 1923 between convictions for this and all other crimes, when, out of a total prison population of 109,075 convicts, only 171, according to a Federal Census Report, had been sentenced for perjury. In Chicago, the Crime Commission reported, only three persons were sentenced to the penitentiary for this offense in the years 1926 to 1930. In New York County, from 1928 through 1932, there were 92 arrests on the charge of perjury, but only 16 convictions. In Kings County, where the authorities recently made a drive against perjury, there were 71 indictments in 1933 and only 2 convictions, while in three cases the charge was dismissed because the offender had been convicted for some other crime.

Unfortunately, judges, prosecutors and others, eager to combat the evil, hold the severity of the penalties imposed for perjury largely responsible for the neglect to punish those guilty of this shocking crime, reprehensible in the eyes of God and man. 'The Panel,' a publication devoted to the exchange of views of public officials and citizens interested in crime-prevention and administration of justice, even in 1929 urged two measures bearing on perjury, the one intended to reduce the penalty, the other to ease the prosecutor's approach to conviction. One of the arguments advanced by the Hon. Jacob H. Barton, District Attorney of New York County, in favor of mitigating the law declares in explanation of his attitude: "The punishment for perjury may seem too severe to a jury. If the perjury is committed on the trial of an indictment for felony, it is punishable by imprisonment for a term not exceeding 20 years; while in other cases, the statute prescribes imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years. Under the circumstances, juries sometimes, through compassion, will forget their oaths and acquit those guilty of the crime."

While Mr. Barton treats specifically of the situation in New York, it is safe to generalize his statement, for in many states the traditional abhorrence of a people still retaining reverence for something of the natural and the revealed law continues to be reflected in the laws applying to this crime. Whether the proposal referred to will result in curbing it, is questionable. For the strangest and most saddening thing of all in connection with the entire problem is the indifference of the people as a whole, in striking contrast to the severity of the Divine admonition, voiced by Zachary (8, 17), who declares the Lord "hates a false oath"; and the terrible menace of the Divine condemnation, communicated by the same prophet (5, 3-4): "And He said to me: This is the curse that goeth forth over the earth for every one that sweareth (falsely)—shall be judged by it. I will bring it forth, saith the Lord of hosts; and it shall come to the house of him that sweareth falsely in My name; and it shall remain in the midst of his house, and shall consume it, with the timber thereof, and the stones thereof."

"COME ASIDE AND REST AWHILE"

Back in 1909 the Retreat Movement for men in this country was but a dream for Father Terence Shealy, the Jesuit founder of the movement, but he made the dream come true. In 1915 the retreats for laymen were initiated in St. Bernard's Seminary for men of the Rochester diocese. Down through the years the movement has been growing steadily and on June 29, the twentieth retreat opens with a capacity attendance expected.

Like all things worthwhile appreciation of the great values a retreat offers does not come to those who never made a retreat hurriedly. The attitude taken is that of the Missouriian who must be shown but after the retreat is made an entirely new story is told by the retreatants. In the book, "Father Shealy—A Tribute" edited by the Rev. Gerald C. Treacy, S. J., Father Shealy points out at length the rich benefits that accrue from making retreats. He states: "The bishops and clergy of Europe bear ample testimony to the marvelous good wrought by those bodies of men who from year to year repair to the houses of Retreat for strength and renovation. They become a leaven in the parish and in the laicet, leading their fellow-workers back to Christ by their influence and example."

Father Healy cites some direct questions put to two priests of Münster who were presidents of working-men's clubs which he declared are authoritative and convincing. We quote:

"Q. What is the impression made upon you by the men on their return from a Retreat?"

"A. They are happy and delighted and determined to go again."

"Q. Do you notice any beneficial results in their lives?"

"A. We can testify emphatically to the good results. The men show character, especially in the fulfillment of their religious duties."

"Q. Do they show zeal in supporting their Catholic club or guild?"

"A. They make the best members; they are full of zeal."

"Q. What is your opinion of these retreats?"

"A. We consider them an extraordinary means of promoting vigor and life in our Catholic men's associations, and we wish that many more could make them."

It is hoped that many more men of Rochester diocese will accept the invitation to "Come and rest awhile" and it is believed that after the retreat, their pastors will, when asked, answer as above concerning the results.

The wounds of Jesus Christ pierce the hardest of hearts; they inflame the coldest.—St. Bonaventure.

Thank goodness, it will be a long time before discipline have enough surplus to require Government relief.—Jersey City Journal.

The worst education which teaches self-denial, is better than the best which teaches anything else.—St. Basil.

Diocesan Recordings

old-fashioned things," Archbishop Mooney told Nazareth College graduates on Commencement Day. Fads and fancies of the present day have become so generally accepted that to do the right thing is to be old-fashioned and noticeable. The admonition of the Archbishop may well be heeded by all of us.

Patrick F. Scanlan, managing editor of The Brooklyn ablet, official organ of The Diocese of Brooklyn, was awarded the honorary degree, Doctor of Letters, by Fordham University at the institution's eighty-ninth annual commencement exercises. It is a justly deserved recognition of the service Mr. Scanlan has rendered the Church in his capacity as managing editor of a great diocesan newspaper. Laymen in the field of Catholic journalism concede to Mr. Scanlan a high place, if not the highest, among their number for his alertness, vigor, and capability as a Catholic newspaperman. He is highly respected by prelates and clergy throughout the country. He is held in high esteem by New York newspapermen. He is feared by those who find themselves opposed to him in a just cause. We congratulate Fordham University for recognizing Dr. Scanlan and extend to him our hearty congratulations upon an honor richly deserved.

We thank Recorder Edward P. Shell of Waverly Council, Knights of Columbus who wrote us this week: "Congratulations on your wonderful issue of the Catholic Courier in connection with the Elmira Holy Name Rally."

Someone has said that an expert is a fellow who travels on trains. This feeling seems to coincide with the "prophet without honor" also. We are inclined to take exception with those who do not believe that talent and ability, more than ordinary, is right in our own diocese. A Sister teaching in one of our schools recently wrote articles that were accepted by national magazines and many are surprised. Of course, we are all delighted to know that the good Sister has been recognized, but we cannot see why there should be a feeling that this is something extraordinary. What we are trying to get at is that much latent talent exists in the diocese that is equal and often greater than that existing in other parts of the country, especially in the larger cities. Father Lano has brought out a book that will have national recognition. He has proved that Catholic writers exist in the diocese. Of course there are many more who have produced books, magazines and articles, but the number is not sufficient. We do think that the inferiority complex should be overcome and that "by-lines" on books, articles and other writings should appear with greater frequency from Rochester. Are we "oversold" on the capabilities of people in the Rochester Diocese? A friend of ours thinks it is necessary to go out of town to get well-cooked Italian spaghetti, another thinks you must go elsewhere for the right hats. We think the grass is just as green on this side of the fence.

It is difficult to oppose religion in a community when such a thing as a drought or other national calamity threatens. Even in Russia it is reported that the peasants have turned to prayer and other religious practices to end the drought there. It is not so difficult to forget God when material things are coming our way but when trouble brews especially the kind over which man has no control the natural tendency of man is to turn to a Supreme Being.

We regret very much the trouble and bother some priests in Elmira were put to by a photographer who visited there last week and represented himself as coming from the CATHOLIC COURIER which was untrue. The man was exposed by the police and another misrepresentation was nipped in the bud. It was only by a fortunate circumstance that we learned of this man's operations in Elmira and were able to head him off. We suggest that all such agents be made to show their credentials. If the CATHOLIC COURIER office is within calling distance, we urge those called upon to call the office. The newspaper cannot be held responsible for those who misrepresent it unknowingly and can only know of such occurrences when informed.

A Baptist minister in Eugene, Oregon, the Rev. Bryant Wilson gives these hints for successful marriage: 1—Love; 2—Adjustment; 3—Wide economic planning; 4—The giving of well trained children to society; 5—Faith toward God.

Temptations are overcome by the three words: I believe, I hope, I love.—Blessed Aat. Grassl.

God will grant all thou askest for in prayer, provided it be expedient.—V. Blosius.

There is no medicine more proper to glory God and to sanctify our souls than to suffer.—St. Teresa.

A doctor couldn't go far in a land that yours to ME a new supply.—Watson's Advertiser.

STRANGE BUT TRUE Catholic Facts But Little Known

(c) 1932, by N. C. W. C. News Service By M. J. MURRAY

Illustration featuring a map of China, a globe, and a church tower. Text includes: 'The tomb of St Dominic at Bologna is one of the finest monuments of sculpture in the world. FIVE ARTISTS, INCLUDING MICHELANGELO, FROM THE 13th TO THE 16th CENTURIES SHARING IN THE WORK.' 'There lives in the Convent of the Irish Sisters of Charity Hobart, Tasmania, AN UNAGED 104 YEARS who is the daughter of Doctor Hall who was sent out with the first settlers—convicts—to Tasmania over a century ago.' 'In England, this tower which stands in the middle of Newton Abbot principal Street at one time belonged to a church which has been demolished for over a century!' 'FATHER OSTERMAYR OF ROSENHEIM NEAR MURCH HAS CELEBRATED MASS ON THE WERDELSTEIN MOUNTAIN, GERMANY, EVERY SUNDAY FOR THE PAST 22 YEARS. The small chapel on the top is considered to be the highest church in Germany.'

THE LIBRARY SIGN POST

Examination week offers little spare time for the preparation of the weekly Signpost display, and so I am going to take refuge in quotations. I am looking to no less a helper than Cardinal Newman, who, in his lecture on "Duties of Catholics Towards the Protestant View" has some pertinent and beautifully-phrased observations on Catholic Evidence. Each one of them is worth the serious attention of every sincere Catholic. They are adams with the spirit which has been the motive of the Catholic Evidence Library.

"What I desiderate in Catholics is the gift of bringing out what their religion is; it is one of those 'better gifts,' of which the Apostle bids you to be 'zealous.' You must not hide your talent in a napkin, or your light under a bushel. I want a laity, not arrogant, not rash in speech, not disputations, but men who know what they hold, and what they do not, who know their creed so well, that they can give an account of it; who know so much of history that they can defend it. I wish you to enlarge your knowledge, to cultivate your reason, to get an insight into the relation of truth to truth, to learn to view things as they are, to understand how faith and reason stand to each other, what are the bases and principles of Catholicism, and where lie the main inconsistencies and absurdities of the Protestant theory."

"Your opponents, my Brothers, are too often emphatically not gentlemen: but it will be for you, in spite of whatever provocations you may meet with, to be manly and noble in your bearing towards them; to be straightforward in your dealings with them; to show candour, generosity, honourable feeling, good sense, and forbearance, in spite of provocations; to refrain from taking unfair or small advantages over them; to meet them half way, if they show reluctance; not to fret at insults, to bear imputations, and to interpret the actions of all in the best sense you possibly can. It is not only more religious, not only more becoming, not only happier, to have these excellent dispositions of mind, but it is far the most likely way, in the long run, to persuade and succeed."

CATHOLIC EVIDENCE LIBRARY PLACE—Lobby of 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.

possibly can. It is not only more religious, not only more becoming, not only happier, to have these excellent dispositions of mind, but it is far the most likely way, in the long run, to persuade and succeed.

Consider the next excerpt in the light of our frequent temptation to dismay and discouragement because of the meagreness of our material means in contrast with the imposing display of our opponents. How small was the Holy Land! yet it subdued the world. How poor a spot was Attica yet it has formed the intellect. Moses was one, Elias was one, David was one, Paul was one, Athanasius was one, Leo was one. Grace ever works by few; it is the keen vision, the intense conviction, the indomitable resolve of the few, it is the blood of the martyr, it is the prayer of the saint, it is the heroic deed, it is the momentary crisis, it is the concentrated energy of a word or a look, which is the instrument of heaven. Fear not, little flock, for He is mighty who is in the midst of you, and will do for you great things."

"Ignorance is the root of all littleness; he who can realize the law of moral conflicts, and the incoherence of falsehood, and the issue of perplexities, and the end of all things, and the Presence of the Judge, becomes, from the very necessity of the case, philosophical, long-suffering, and magnanimous."

"Wherever Catholicism is known, it is respected, or at least endured, by the people. Politicians and philosophers, and the established clergy, would be against you, but not the people, if it knew you. A religion which comes from God appeals itself to the conscience of the people, wherever it is really known."

"Protestantism is fierce, because it does not know you; ignorance is its strength; error is its life. Therefore bring yourselves before it, press yourselves upon it, force yourselves into notice against its will. Oblige men to know you; persuade them, importune them, shame them into knowing you. Make it so clear what you are, that they cannot affect not to see you, nor refuse to justify you. Do not even let them off with silence, but give them no escape from confessing that you are not what they thought you were."

"In all times the laity have been the measure of the Catholic spirit; they saved the Irish Church three centuries ago, and they betrayed

the Church in England." The Catholic Evidence Library dedicates itself to the preparation of the type of Catholic layman that Cardinal Newman so earnestly desired.

PROGRAMME EN BRIEF

We do not underestimate the other programmes of Catholic action as promoted by various Catholic organizations. God is being done for the Church as a whole and for the members also. Members of the Holy Name Society are urged to affiliate with these organizations promoted in the interests of the Church and sponsored by the hierarchy and the pastors. The Programme of the Holy Name Society may be reduced to this:

- 1. Greater Public Faith in the Divinity of Christ; 2. Cleaner speech; 3. More manly piety and good example.—The Holy Name Journal.

Spiritual Thoughts

Mary is the perfect creature, the shining example of what God can do for man.—T. Gordon, O. P.

Let our prayers pass through the Blessed Virgin's hands and she will give them fragrance.—The Cure d'Arz.

June is the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The fear of God forbids a man to give his heart to transitory things, which are the true seeds of sin.—St. Bonaventure.

Have a good conscience and God will sufficiently defend thee.—Thomas Kempis.

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