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MEMBER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

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"I would make any sacrifice, even to the forming of my time, personal credit and status, in order to support a Catholic newspaper."—Pope Pius X.

Editorials

WHY CARMELITES?

Why don't the Carmelites do something? Many wonder why the Carmelite nuns who recently have established their new cloister on East Avenue, devote themselves solely to prayer instead of uniting prayer to exterior work for the neighbor.

Why a life devoted solely to prayer? To the unbeliever there are several answers, one being that all persons ought to be perfectly free as to the choice of their life work.

There are several prominent texts in Holy Scripture which give a reason for the life of Carmel. Perhaps the strongest is the answer of Our Lord to his disciples when they asked Him why He could cast out a certain devil while they had failed. He replied, "this kind is not cast out but by prayer and fasting." Matt. XVII:20.

Why is contemplative prayer the better part? Because God is the only worker. Men lift their hands but "unless the Lord build the house they labor in vain who build it."

What is the reason for the grates, the turf, the complete hiddenness of Carmelite life? These things are a protection of a life of constant prayer. They make a life of prayer easier, not harder. They are helps, not penances. The imagination is acted upon more by the eyes than by the other senses. The effort to keep the mind and heart with God when the imagination is being disturbed by endless distractions would result in little prayer and complete loss of health. Experts know, the conditions best suited to their work and so does the Church after 20 centuries of experience know in what atmosphere the life of prayer thrives best.

Why does anyone become a Carmelite? Because he or she hears in the soul the voice of God calling to that life and finds peace and happiness in following that call. The mind is satisfied with the delight that is found in contemplating living Truth. The will is strengthened because of the strength experienced in adhesion to the will of God. The heart is gladdened because it is able to spend itself fruitfully for those whom it loves.

Let those who seek happiness turn for five minutes to their Creator, and ask for His friendship and earnestly detest their sins, and then will they know only the finest drops of the happiness of every moment in Carmel.

TO MULCT OR NOT TO MULCT

There is a striking contrast between the opinions on Federal aid for the school system of the country expressed by two leaders in the field of education representing views on the same subject miles apart. In the one a spirit of sound citizenship and noble self-reliance predominates, in the other unabashed dependence upon Federal subsidies, coupled with almost impatient insistence that the aid to be rendered should be generous and prompt. To which there is added criticism of the inadequacy of the assistance hitherto granted the public schools by the Federal Government. The author of the first is the Bishop of Covington, the Most Reverend Francis W. Howard, one of the organizers of the Catholic Educational Association, for many years its Secretary-General and since 1928 its President; while the second has for its author Miss Jessie Gray, President of the National Education Association.

The statement by Bishop Howard was not issued by him as head of the association referred to; it is contained in a lecture delivered by him to the Diocesan Federation of Catholic Women, when they met at Lexington, Ky., last fall. Nevertheless, in long official association with the leading American Catholic association of educators it is not to be ignored, particularly when the question at hand bears on a matter of general interest affecting education and the schools.

The address reprinted in the June Bulletin of the Cath. Women's Association is a champion in principle State aid for the schools. It is one of their own means, as he says in his address.

In the discussion of the local public schools the attention of the speaker is directed to the Federal Government.

It is the Federal Government that is the source of the aid.

He who increasingly seeks to nourish himself with the precious Blood of Christ, would, will not neglect all the perils and difficulties of the world.

and which our President is laboring so zealously to promote.

On the other hand, the elected leader of the National Education Association insistently demands that Uncle Sam must help the schools, and that promptly. Interviewed by a representative of the Hearst newspapers, she declared, as reported in the 'Chicago Herald-Examiner' for June 17: "I wish to express the greatest appreciation of Federal aid." However, the very next note is a critical one, as though the Federal Government had been remiss in a self-understood duty: "But it (aid) arrived during the school year, time was required for setting up the plan and machinery of distribution, so it began to be effective late in the year (what marvelous English). In fact, offered help arrived in many instances after short-term schools had been closed." Miss Gray, with the Federal grants of last November and February, respectively, one of \$15,000,000, the other of approximately \$18,000,000, in mind, observed that a survey "of the situation in various States reveals no possibilities of general improvement" as far as income for school purposes is concerned. "The National Education Association has therefore," she continued, "urged the minimum need of \$100,000,000 Federal aid for the coming year."

She even made bold to state the Association had requested "such funds should be 'ear-marked' SOON" (capitals in the interview); they had sought to procure legislation intended to insure the expected grant, and they contended that even this sum would not warrant any "material improvement; that much (\$100,000,000) is needed merely to keep schools open for a normal term on a reasonably satisfactory basis."

The contrast between the sanity and wisdom of Bishop Howard's statement and the folly of the unsound demands proposed by the head of the N. E. A. must impress itself upon all thoughtful people. However, these demands are not so surprising, because they are put forward by an organization which for at least a decade and a half has sought to surrender the public school system of the country to Federal control. It is this self-same N. E. A. that has repeatedly insisted on the creation of a Federal Department of Education, to be provided with an annual appropriation of \$145,000,000 (under the Towner Bill, for instance). Convinced, evidently that it is money that makes education go, the N. E. A. has promoted extravagance and wastefulness in the administration of the public schools and has, on the other hand, weakened self-reliance and the willingness of States and communities to sustain schools adequately from local funds. The latest demand is of one piece with earlier policies, thus merely indicating anew whether such tendencies lead if they remain unchecked.

TWO CHILDREN SYSTEM

There is much significance attached to a report by Dr. Frederic Funder, Vienna Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service, in the fact that the Calvinist church of the large village of Hidas in Hungary recently had to be closed because the Calvinist population of the village had become extinct.

On the occasion of a mourning service held in the Calvinist church of the adjacent town of Keskemet, Pastor Szavo said:

"For the last time tomorrow the Hungarian psalm will be heard in a Hungarian church, then its doors will be closed because the Hungarian race of Hidas has become extinct. Hungarian brothers, you must mourn and lament at this bier not because this village died, but because it was not necessary that it died. This is our sin: the Hungarian mothers do not wish any longer to have children. No sacrifice is great enough to make an end to this state of affairs. Not tomorrow, but today already we must do so!"

The Calvinists in Hungary are all Magyars while the German, Slovak and Croatian minorities of present-day Hungary are Catholics almost without exception. The disappearance of the Calvinist population of Hidas is therefore a signal of warning to the Hungarian nation. The disaster that befell the Magyar population has its origin in the two-children-system which was adopted mainly by the farm population of the Calvinist districts of the country. It is noted that it is not social distress that is the cause of birth control, but that the well-to-do peasants adhere to the two-children-system. And soon it became a custom to have one child only, a fact that has begun to produce catastrophic results. The case of Hidas is a typical example.

The nationalistic sections of the Magyar population who for a long time had looked at the destruction of their own nationality with indifference, are now all the more depressed as they see that the evil of birth control does not to the same extent prevail among the national minorities of Hungary. They realize that for a people as small as the ten millions of Magyars, enclosed as they are by Romans, Slavs and Germans, the growing evil must, in the course of time, threaten its existence as a State.

Hungarian high school students have taken the bell of the Calvinist church of Hidas to Budapest where they exposed it in a Calvinist church of the capital as a warning. Henceforth this bell will be rung every year on the day of the closing of the church of Hidas to remind Hungarians that they should refrain from sinning against the commandments of God, against nature and their own nation.

"The Catholic Press strives solely for the eternal principles of social justice and charity; no matter what form of government be rightly established on the land."—John P. Boland, Philadelphia, 1894.

Remember that men change easily, and that you cannot place your trust in them, therefore attach yourself to God alone, for He is unchangeable.

Desire not the least thing which is contrary to God and thy conscience under the pretext and in the hope of attaining a great good.

He who increasingly seeks to nourish himself with the precious Blood of Christ, would, will not neglect all the perils and difficulties of the world.

Diocesan Recordings

"Pope Plans Attack on Borah Campaign," headline in New York Times, at first glance would seem to indicate an interest on the part of the Holy Father in this country's political situation. Reading the story shows, however, that the "Pope" meant is Senator Pope. This only goes to prove that type arrangements in newspaper will not permit complete information being contained in headlines. Never form an opinion gained only from a headline.

George Smith, 309 Sawyer Street advocates a boycott against motion picture actors and actresses who have been divorced more than once. He sees in the example a had one for the preservation of family life. He believes the pledge of the Legion of Decency should be amended to include this provision. It is true that motion picture stars attract far more attention than should be their due for their talents displayed in motion pictures. It is true that the private lives of these people, which the sensational press makes anything but private, are avidly followed by too many. The suggestion, if carried out, should indicate clearly to those who have made of marriage, a travesty, that their large incomes depend upon those people who seek decency in public figures. When the baseball scandals broke out a few years ago, the protest that went up soon purged professional baseball of the types not wanted by the baseball-games public.

Word reaches us that house-to-house canvassers are working in town surrounding Rochester selling a book, contents of which are disparaging to the Catholic religion. We shall not publicize such a book by printing its name or that of its author. We simply mention it here to caution our readers against buying anything hastily or when the solicitor does not present proper credentials. It is not necessary to allow a glib salesman to bowl you over when he calls. Get full information and know what you are buying to avoid later regrets.

Two young people of our acquaintance, non-Catholics recently declared that they go to Church, once a year, at Easter time. Whether they need it or not we suppose. If they were exposed to a contagious illness, they would soon seek a doctor but being exposed to the insidious paganistic philosophy that is about them fall to see the necessity for keeping in touch with a spiritual doctor. The trend away from the non-Catholic churches is so serious that a pastor of a Baptist Church in Warsaw on last Sunday planned to address the empty pews. His topic was "O Empty Seats, How Can You Be Filled?"

Knights of Columbus throughout New York State are rejoicing over another capable state leader, the new Deputy, Michael F. Walsh of Brooklyn who has just assumed the duties of his office. At a dinner in Brooklyn attended by nationally known Catholics, Mr. Walsh was extolled highly for his character and his achievements. Supreme Director Daniel A. Tobin said that knights of the nation look to New York State for leadership and he was happy in his travels, to inform the order's well wishers that the head of the organization here is of the highest type. Father William Parsons, S.J., editor of "America," a member of Mr. Walsh's council cited some of the issues facing the new leader mentioning the campaign for better motion pictures. The new State head of the K. of C. when called upon to respond said he accepted the responsibilities of his position and would do the best he could to fulfill the hopes of every well-wisher of the order. He said the Legion of Decency would be one of the first movements of his administration. Assured of capable leadership such as the State has had in the past, Knights of Columbus members should stand ready to carry on the Catholic Action program of the order as it will be directed by State Deputy Walsh.

These newspaper headlines are certainly disconcerting. Here is another one from the London University: "Cardinal to Bless Lawyers' Offices." The story under the headlines announces that "the new offices of the Society of Our Lady of Good Counsel, which is composed of Catholic barristers and solicitors who give free legal aid to the poor will be blessed by the Cardinal Archbishop."

For many years now the radio has been producing wholesome entertainment and does not have to resort to the indecent in getting material for its entertainment. At least any of the programs we have heard have always been on a level that would permit their entering a good home. Of course, if they were not of high moral character, the program could be quickly turned off. The motion picture producers can bring themselves up to standard of the radio if they desire to do so. The sad part with the movie is that if you happen to get into the showing of an indecent picture unknowingly you have to forfeit the amount you paid to get in. The better way to learn of the type of picture you might see before entering a picture house.

STRANGE BUT TRUE Catholic Facts But Little Known

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When VENICE was a REPUBLIC the pigeons which frequent the famous square of Saint Mark were provided for out of STATE FUNDS. Why do Benedictine Monks have the prefix DOM to their names? ANSWER NEXT WEEK. THE GATEWAY AT GLASTONBURY, GIBSEY, ENGLAND is surmounted by a WHALE'S JAWBONE MANY CENTURIES OLD! THE LITTLE HOUSE of Divine Providence at Turin is now one of the LARGEST HOSPITALS IN THE WORLD, caring for without fee of any sort over 7000 patients. SAINT JOSEPH COTTOLINGO—its founder—who was canonized this year started the work in a cottage: HENCE ITS NAME.

THE LIBRARY SIGN POST

(Note: The following is the continuation of an answer to a long letter sent by a "searcher for truth" to the editor of the SIGN-POST.)

Dear "searcher for truth": Your letter was prompted mainly by your indignation at the Cardinal Newman quotations used recently in this column. Last week's installment of my answer presented some facts of Newman's life to prove to you that, when you called him ignorant of the Bible and of Protestant teachings, you let your anger overcome your better judgment. If you had made yourself content with your better judgment would have told you to go to an encyclopedia where you could have found that Newman wasn't a Cardinal, nor even a Catholic, from his cradle days, but, for the first half of his life up to the age of forty-five, one of England's most distinguished Protestants. As to your inference that any Catholic Cardinal must be a bigot, ignorant of Protestant doctrine and history, I would ask you to believe me when I say from personal experience that, if Protestant ministers would with the same fulness and openness study Catholic teaching and history in their seminaries and recourses as we do Protestant teaching and history in our seminaries and recourses, there would be a different story to tell in this country. A Catholic Cardinal is one of the best-informed men in the world, or he wouldn't have that title and position.

In the course of your letter you bring up several other points which demand attention in this reply. Please be assured, I am not concerned about mere matters of opinion; I promise to avoid foisting any of my opinions on you. But history is not opinion; the revealed doctrines of God are not opinions. And it is in these that your letter sometimes goes amiss. Notice I said "sometimes," not "always," because there are things in your letter to which I heartily subscribe, as a loyal Catholic; as, for instance, when you say "You will find that by reading the Gospels and the Epistles of St. Paul and St. Peter that He (Jesus) is the Propitiation for our sins, and for the whole world, and that there is no other Mediator between God and man." But, while I like to find points of agreement, it would be wrong to close my eyes to mistakes of fact or doctrine.

Thus you say that Catholics criticize Protestants so much more severely than Jews, "possibly because of the hatred for Martin Luther who was once a monk, who wished to stay in the church and was only trying to reform her, and was excommunicated and persecuted by priests, bishops and popes..."

century: study their lives for a comparative illustration of the right and the wrong method of Church reformation. The medieval Church needed a cleaning-out in head and members; but a doctor does not purge a sick patient by murdering him or dynamiting him. The true reformation of the 16th century Church came from within, and St. Charles Borromeo was its chief doctor. You cannot claim to know the 16th century fully, if you do not know the life of this zealous and brilliant reformer.

Dear "searcher for truth", a columnist's space is uncomfortably cramped, and is hardly sufficient, even in two installments, to do justice to your letter. Will you be patient for a third next week? Yours in charity, The keeper of the SIGNPOST.

Back Through the Years

(A Glimpse through the Ages of the Catholic Courier and Journal) August 10, 1895 Gifts were reported donated for the convent of St. Mary's Church as follows: a sanctuary lamp in memory of Miss Nora McIntyre and four Munich windows from Mrs. Cunningham, Mrs. John E. Watters, Mrs. Emmett Craig and Dr. Brennan.

SS. Peter and Paul Commandery, Knights of St. John presented Captain Joseph P. Freund with an easy chair in recognition of the Commandery's loyalty to their leader, Advocate John P. Smith made the presentation.

A man may live for the next world and yet be merry.—Bl. T. More.

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