

Catholic Courier

VOL. VI AUGUST 2, 1934 No. 31

Official Newspaper of the Diocese of Rochester With the Approval of the Most Reverend Archbishop Edward Mooney, Bishop of Rochester.

MEMBER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

Entered as second-class matter in the Postoffice at Rochester, N. Y., as required under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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Subscription: \$1.00 per year in advance, postpaid, single copies 10c. Foreign, \$2.00 per year. In many countries subscribers prefer not to have their subscriptions interrupted in case they fail to remit before expiration. This therefore assumed that continuation in desired circumstances is ordered either by letter or personal order.

National Advertising Representative Callahan's List of Catholic Newspapers (George J. Callahan) 51 Chambers Street, New York City

Published by CATHOLIC COURIER and JOURNAL, Inc. 50 Chestnut St. Room 1492, Rochester, N. Y. Office Established 1925—Journal Established 1889

"I would make any sacrifice, even to the point of my own life, to see that the Catholic press in America is kept a Catholic newspaper."—FOR PAPA XI

Editorials

EPHYPHETA SUNDAY

The eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday August 5, is known as Ephypheia Sunday because the Gospel of that day records Christ's curing of the deaf and dumb man.

A feeling of helplessness always comes over one when one finds oneself face to face with a person who speaks an unknown language. Between us and the foreigner it seems almost impossible to enter a way. The simplest conversations of conversation, the ordinary civilities of life must be omitted. Among men language is practically the only vehicle for carrying on casual acquaintance and ordinarily between us and those who are unable to hear there is no common language.

We who are blessed with the normal gifts of nature hardly realize how much we depend on our hearing for whatever we know. Our speech comes altogether from listening to others talk. The voice of our mother gave us the first news of a land, beyond this growing world of our own experience; the voice of our father carried us into the life of sport, of outdoors, of business.

A Catholic priest, the Abbe de l'Eppe, was the first man to put the training of deaf-mutes on a thoroughly efficient basis, and his work lives to-day in the priests and nuns who serve so devotedly and loyally the deaf and dumb.

In the Diocese of Rochester spiritual consolation of Holy Mother the Church has been through to many deaf-mutes through kindly, self-sacrificing ministrations of the Redemptorist Fathers at St. Joseph's Church. Over eight years ago we remember dropping into St. Joseph's Church one Sunday afternoon and being a spectator at services being conducted by the Rev. Charles Burger, C. S. S. R., in the sign language. Father Burger's work has been so successful that now the deaf-mutes have their own chapel in St. Joseph's School Hall. The work so well organized by Father Burger who has been forced by illness to give up parish work, is now being carried on by the Rev. William A. Dolbert, C. S. S. R.

In a recent issue of "The Catholic Deafmute," a Catholic newspaper published for those who are handicapped from the full enjoyment of their faculties, there is recorded a story of unusual interest.

Miss Gertrude Robertson of Philadelphia, totally deaf and almost entirely blind, has recently been received into the Church and has become a Catholic Action enthusiast. Until her fifteenth year, Miss Robertson enjoyed perfect health and fine sight. Suffering inflammation of the eyes, she completely lost her vision and medical skill was able to restore it but slightly. At seventeen she suffered a similar infection in the ears resulting later in total deafness.

Undaunted by crushing handicaps, she learned to interpret Braille and Manual Alphabet; and through books written in the former, and the faithfulness of friends using the latter, this remarkable woman became acquainted with, and in her twenty-sixth year, was converted to the true Faith. Engaged now in various forms of Catholic Action in behalf of those afflicted as herself, she is able through the medium of "The Catholic Deaf Mute" to inspire others to carry on not only materially but spiritually in a manner that those of us possessed of all our senses could well emulate.

To all those serving their lives to neglected deaf-mutes great praise is due. Co-operation of all who are asked to aid this worthy work should be prompt and willing.

RELIGION NOT DEAD IN SPAIN

The recurrent vitality of Christianity is a fact repeatedly reaffirmed by the events of history. Thinking men throughout the ages have been fed by the past perhaps more than by any other, to the eventual acceptance of its teachings.

On the other hand there are those who, in the name of history, persist in dashing their heads against the rock of the past. Such men are the enemies of the Church and the clergy. They are the enemies of the Church and the clergy. They are the enemies of the Church and the clergy.

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An Arab proverb says, "One ear is worth 10,000 tongues."

Luxury corrupts all alike, "the rich man who is full and the poor man who envies it."

has been one of the most Catholic of countries and noted in a special manner for its fertility in producing saints of the Church. In Spain and Russia today, the same ineffectiveness of the attempts to crush religion from the hearts of a people is apparent. Azana rejoiced that Spain had ceased to become Christian and Trotsky, in March 1931, boasted that Spain would become the base for a world revolution. Even earlier an infuriated Lenin, swearing revenge against the Almighty, began his campaign of de-Christianizing Russia.

However, recent facts are again emphasizing the utter futility and stupidity of trying to destroy religion. The extremely nationalistic English publication, "The Patriot", (May 24, 1934) frankly states: "Though it does not suit our daily papers to say so, any visitor to Spain, who has no reason for concealing the truth, notes that the churches are better filled than before the revolution; and in Rome the large number of Spanish pilgrims for the 'Holy Year' is a frequent subject of remark. Moreover, the Cardinal Primate of Spain, since the 'impartial' Republic exiled him, has been the means of arousing sympathy for Spain in Rome, where his addresses every Saturday recall the gatherings in the Catacombs of the early Christians. And in Madrid, where not so long ago the drama 'A. M. D. G.', by Senor Perez de Ayala (present Republican ambassador to England), attacking the Jesuits, was loudly applauded, the play which has since been drawing large audiences is 'El Divino Impaciente', an impassioned brief for the power of the Cross and the influence of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Furthermore, although the Republic has dealt so largely in burnings of churches and convents, and has endeavored by legislation to overthrow the morality which is rooted in religion, a publisher has been brave enough to issue a new edition of the Bible in Spanish, at the popular price of 3 pesetas."

This failure to eradicate religion from Spain is accompanied by an ever greater futility of the anti-God campaign in Russia. In the latter the strictures on religion were even more severe and were imposed with a ruthlessness and brutality foreign to the irreligionists of Spain. But in spite of all this, religion in Russia is far from being dead. In a newly published book released by the official publishing firm of the Soviet government, P. Oleschuk, the author, admits that the results of the five-year anti-God campaign are extremely discouraging. "We haven't succeeded," he admits, "in eradicating God from the Russian soul. The reactionary ecclesiastical elements are making tremendous headway. Religion is making progress." Godlessness is losing ground. It can no longer be denied that in many places new church congregations have been formed. And it is a fact that the attendance in the churches is increasing in number all the time." The author further states that 90 per cent of the people still pray and have holy pictures in their homes. Other reports indicate that the faithful have gathered secretly in catacombs beneath the larger cities. Several of these underground churches are supposed to have been unearthed by the Soviet secret police.

History is again a willing witness to the perennial vitality of Christianity. In treating this fact Papius has appropriately written: "For five hundred years those who call themselves free spirits because they prefer prison life to army service have been trying desperately to kill Jesus—to kill Him in the hearts of men. . . . And still Christ is not yet expelled from the earth by the waves of time or the efforts of man. His memory is everywhere."

Current Comment

THE VOICE ITSELF

It is not mere coincidence that our present Holy Father, Pius XI, "the Pope of Catholic Action" is likewise "the Pope of the Catholic Press." For the Catholic Press is the co-ordinating medium of the Holy Father's Catholic Action program, even as the hierarchy is its co-ordinating head.

The Catholic Press is more than the co-ordinating medium. Effective Catholic Action requires a Catholic laity well informed on the teaching of the Church, on current Catholic activities, on the application of Catholic teaching to current problems. It requires Catholic leaders distinguished by their grasp of this information, and zealous to extend its blessed influence.

The Catholic Press, which the Holy Father says does not merely make his voice heard, "but is my voice itself," is the most potent means of developing such an informed laity and competent lay leadership. Since the Holy Father calls it his voice it must be likewise the voice of the hierarchy and therefore a principal medium of communication between them and the laity. It is the laity's school after school days, which are but a small fraction of the average life and end just when life in society commences. It amplifies a hundredfold the fifteen minutes discourse from the pulpit on Sunday. It brings the Catholic world into every home it enters, however otherwise that home may be isolated.—Richard Reid, editor, The Bulletin, Augusta, Ga.

All this agitation about liberty and regimentation simmers down to this: Shall we be sacrificed to the juggernaut of chaotic economic life or shall we man it and control it for our own use?—Church World.

The Catholic Church has rendered a monumental service to democracy as well as Christianity by its uncompromising stand against communism in every country.—Houston Post (Secular Paper).

Today our country offers the greatest opportunity for Christian charity and service.—Brooklyn Tablet.

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Diocesan Recordings

Less war news from Europe and other points of disturbance throughout the world and more of this sort of "war" news desired: "Red Sox Battle Giants," "Athletics Train Big Guns on Tigers."

Summer's heat does not deter the sincere Catholic layman and laywoman from carrying on the noble work in which engaged. Holy Name men are sacrificing time and effort to bring new readers to the CATHOLIC COURIER. Knights of Columbus journeyed to Cazenovia Sunday for new ideas to better Council activities in the fall. Catholic women society representatives gave up Saturday in Auburn to intensive effort in the N. C. C. W. program of Catholic Action. Forces of evil have no special seasons and those opposing must work vigilantly and constantly to win out.

One of the reasons for existence of the Catholic Press is to check on distortion of facts in secular publications and to make public to Catholics, at least, true statements of facts, to avoid misunderstandings and to enable Catholics to carry these true facts to their non-Catholic friends and neighbors. Recently the Rev. Leo C. Gaimor, O. P., principal of Fenwick High School, Chicago, made an address before the Secondary School Department of the National Catholic Educational Association in session in Chicago. Certain secular newspapers distorted that Father Gaimor said so as to make him seem to approve questionable conduct on the part of high school boys and girls. Statements attributed to Father Gaimor were in fact never made, as a transcript of his remarks showed later. In the other papers it was said that he remarked in the course of his address that Catholic educators "don't care" if youth return from a dance at 3 a. m. when what he did say was that the hour young people return from a dance is not as important as what they did and where they were. Father Gaimor's address dealing with the growing importance of social relations among high school students and the necessity for providing safe and wholesome recreation between school boys and girls contained sound Catholic thought on the matter and in no wise gave the impression that Catholic educators are not concerned with the youths in their charge. After saying that means must be devised to provide interesting social events to bring children together under nearly ideal conditions as can be presented rather than driving them to public functions over which no control can be exercised, Father Gaimor said:

"We must teach them that the hour they get home from a dance is not nearly so important as what they did and where they were. We must teach them that the Church does not prohibit drinking, but she does insist upon respect for self and for womanhood, upon chivalry and manhood, upon virtue and honor."

"If we educators can accept the changes in the social order and at the same time cling to the Truth, if parents can adapt themselves to the new conditions and at the same time so pattern their own lives that they will be an inspiration to the younger generations, then we may hope that this heritage of Truth will be passed on to the coming generations."

While this incident happened in a western city it also is of interest to Catholics everywhere for Catholic teaching is universal. The incident also serves to show the necessity for furnishing manuscripts to secular papers then if errors are made the newspaper may be held responsible.

While mixed marriages are not encouraged by the Church, they are permitted under certain conditions. In England, the Rev. Leo Flickering has instituted a rule that the non-Catholic in every proposed mixed marriage must undergo a course of instruction and he has organized a regular instruction class. He believes that in order to remove prejudices every non-Catholic contemplating marrying a Catholic must first learn something of Catholic doctrine. "This does not mean that the party must become a Catholic, but it will at any rate make the promise signed by the non-Catholic have some meaning." It would seem, too, that many future misunderstandings would be eliminated by such a course.

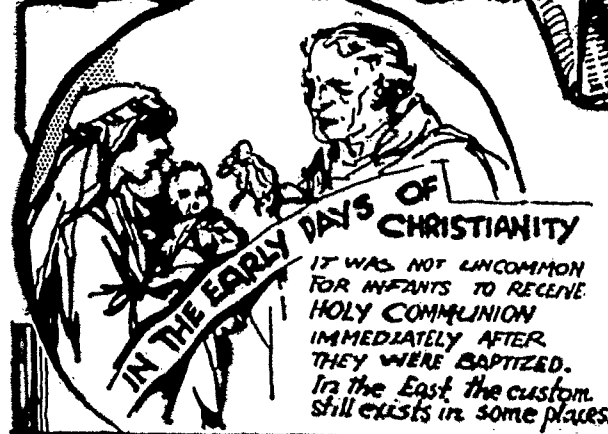
The London Morning Post which recently published a series of articles on conditions in the Irish Free State describing Ireland as in the throes of violent disorder and proclaiming that Protestants are suffering boycott and persecution has done a great injustice to the country presided over by Eamon de Valera as special articles in the New York Times have since brought out. The condescending reaction to the articles is that non-Catholic clergy and people of prominence have come quickly to the defense of the Irish Free State and have vigorously stated that the Free State has in itself deepened their harmonious relations with their Catholic fellow-countrymen. Other countries who have not been so tolerant with Catholics may find in the little Irish Free State an excellent example of how Catholics in the majority treat their non-Catholic neighbors.

STRANGE BUT TRUE Catholic Facts But Little Known

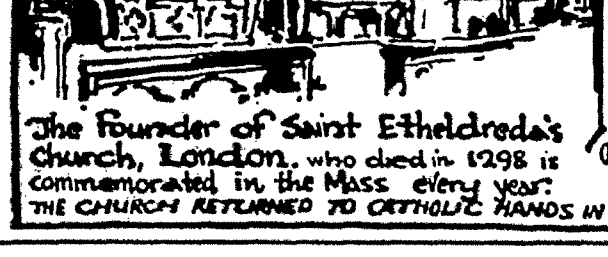
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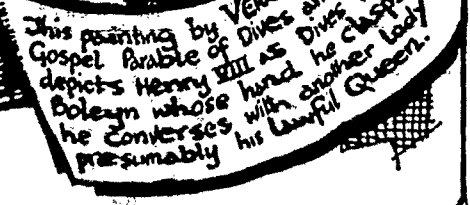
THE PICTURE HANGS IN THE ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS, VENICE.



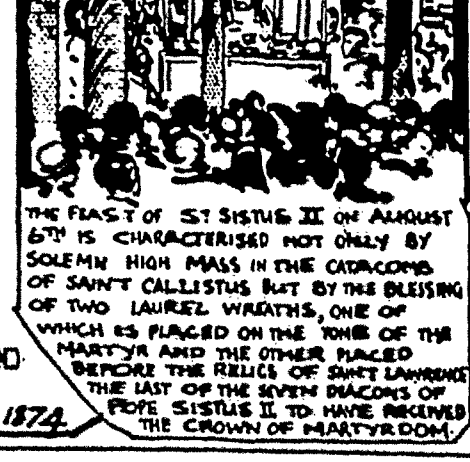
IN THE EARLY DAYS OF CHRISTIANITY IT WAS NOT UNCOMMON FOR INFANTS TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION IMMEDIATELY AFTER THEY WERE BAPTIZED. In the East the custom still exists in some places.



The founder of Saint Etheldreda's Church, London, who died in 1298 is commemorated in the Mass every year. THE CHURCH RETURNED TO CATHOLIC HANDS IN 1874.



This painting by Veronese of the Gospel Parable of Dives and Lazarus depicts Henry VIII as Dives who deplores whose hand he clasped with the beggar who converted to Catholicism, presumably his lawful Queen.



THE FEAST OF ST. SISTINE II ON AUGUST 6TH IS CHARACTERISED NOT ONLY BY SOLEMN HIGH MASS IN THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT LAURENCE BUT BY THE BLESSING OF TWO LAUREL WREATHS, ONE OF WHICH IS PLACED ON THE HEAD OF THE MARTYR AND THE OTHER PLACED BEFORE THE RELICS OF SAINT LAURENCE. THE LAST OF THE SEVEN DEACONS OF POPE SISTINE II TO HAVE RECEIVED THE CROWN OF MARTYRDOM.

THE LIBRARY SIGN POST

Some ill-advised defenders of the movies in the present decency campaign are using the unfair ruse of whitewashing the black and at least a dirty grey. Illogical apologies for salacious films are followed up with accusations that the decency crusaders are aligned against intelligence and beauty in the theatre. The apologies are no more lame than the accusations, which mistake sophistication for intelligence and sensuality for beauty. I was glad the other day to see an editorial in the "Saturday Review of Literature" which isn't afraid to join hands with the reputedly "unintelligent" decency legionnaires. It ought to convince any open-minded man or woman that intelligence has never been a besetting virtue in Hollywood, and that the present campaign of the "unintelligent" for a return to morality in the films will also give the cue for a return to intelligence.

I am posting this week some excerpts from the "Saturday Review" editorial. They will be a refreshing drink for those of us who have been consigned to the desert of dreary unintelligence by the movie wits. They contain an indictment which many of us forget in our moral indignation. We ask our readers to add the following to their thoughts on the issues of the drive for movie decency.

"The motion picture industry, which seems to have been plunged into gloom by the determination of the churches to purge it of some of its more sensational features, is taking humbly at its lowest worth if it sees disaster in this clipping of its wings. For what the public wants—as has been said a million times before—is not necessarily the shocking; it wants the romantic, the poignant, even the familiar, something through which it can either escape from the commonplace or effect that transfer of perspective which makes the commonplace the romantic."

"It would be folly, of course, to deny the appeal the salacious has for many, and the eagerness with which many more respond to the titillation of their appetite for the sensational, but it none the less remains true that the public has proved again and again, in the case both of literature and the stage, that the belief that what the dear people want is exaltation rather than excitement rests with those who provide entertainment for them rather than in themselves. The public-damned attitude is one thing; the public-to-be-tortured-is-another; in between is the sane point of view which takes into account tastes, preferences, and

needs, and steers a course between the Scylla of arbitrary regimentation and the Charybdis of pandering to unworthy instincts."

"If motion-picture producers were psychologists instead of merely superficial observers of popular reactions, they would discover a hundred byways to the entertainment of the masses instead of following monotonously along the main travelled roads. Life for most of the world is a pretty drab affair, and any window to the unusual offers prospect of relief. It does not need the startling to lift man out of himself, but merely the interesting or the stimulating."

"When it comes to the matter of securing material, the motion-picture industry is a hundred times blessed, for it has not only the raw material of the actual world to draw on, but, ready to its use, a wealth of literature capable of conversion for the screen that can meet the quirk of the most charnel public taste. The screen, indeed, has in literature a fairy godmother whose largesse can indefinitely be counted upon. The great classics of humor have as yet hardly been touched; the possibilities of folklore and myth have scarcely been approached; the historical novel has been merely brushed in passing. A dozen stories, poems, or novels that have all the elements which have carried feeble scenarios to success, spring instantly to mind. There are hundreds more that could easily be named, and that merely because of the fear that they might prove above the crude tastes which the producer regards as standard."

"Let the poor public have a chance. If the churches are going to take away the unhealthy sensational, let the commercial producers feed the instinct for melodrama and romance instead on some of the tales of adventure and love and grotesquerie whose popularity as literature over a period of years has proved their pulling power with the masses. There ought

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to be skill enough to adapt these to the screen without losing their flavor. And then perhaps literature as well as the public will be the gainer in that audiences will turn from the motion-pictures to read the books from which they were drawn."

THE BOY WHO BETRAYED HIS MOTHER

A Reuter Message from Moscow states that Pronya Kolbin is the newest Communist "hero." At the age of 13 he has won the praise of the Soviet authorities for reporting to them that his mother was stealing grain from a collective farm in a district near Moscow. Theft of this grain is a crime punishable by death. The Soviet authorities have given Pronya a cash prize as a reward for betraying his mother. It is not stated whether his mother was using the stolen grain to help feed her children.—London "Times".

CLEAN NEWSPAPERS, TOO

Christian parents are demanding not only that our movies be cleared up but that the newspapers which come into their homes must be clean not only in their editorials, but also in the news items and in advertisements as well. Editors may as well wake up to this point now and understand that their papers must be clean all through.—The Louisville Record.

"He will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able to bear."

All things work together for good to them that love God.—St. Paul.

The crucifix is the abridgment of all that a Christian ought to believe and practice.—Grou.

Catholic Courier

Published every Thursday in the Year by the CATHOLIC COURIER and JOURNAL, Inc. 50 Chestnut St. Rochester, N. Y. Telephone, Stone 1492

Communications regarding the conduct of this newspaper, articles and illustrations for publication, should be addressed to the Editor, Catholic Courier.

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Business communications of whatever nature should be addressed to the Catholic Courier and Journal, Inc., to the attention of the Manager.

MECHANICAL REQUIREMENTS Width of column: 13 ems (2 1/2 inches). Depth of column: 2 1/2 inches (full length). Size of page: 14 3/4 column inches (7 full columns); 13 1/4 inches by 2 1/4 inches. Forms close noon of Wednesday preceding publication day.