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CENTRAL VEREIN IDEA STARTED IN ROCHESTER

(Continued from Page One)

here with representatives of five similar societies of Buffalo to honor a distinguished Redemptorist, the Rev. Max Leimsgruber, who had been transferred to Pittsburgh.

"The delegates," the article states, "gathered to show their appreciation and gratitude to this devoted and beloved religious for the efforts he had put forth in their behalf. During the day addresses were delivered, and each speaker emphasized the one thought, the need of closer relations between the various Catholic societies. Unwittingly, these speakers were planting the seed that was to develop into the great organization that is today known as the Catholic Central Verein of America. So that it can be truly said that out of this gathering which met to honor an humble Redemptorist religious came the great society which is this year holding its annual convention in Rochester for the third time."

After getting the late Bishop John Timon's permission, a call was sent out to 17 societies to meet in Baltimore and the Central Verein was formally established April 15, 1855.

The article tells how after the election of officers, Ludwig Ernst, of Rochester whose photo is also presented, moved at the first meeting to form a "Central Verein of German Roman Catholic Beneficial Societies."

Landed for Work

Throughout its existence the Central Verein adhering to the spirit and laws of the Church has drawn forth commendation of the American Hierarchy and from 1866 onward, the article points out, has repeatedly had bestowed upon its labors and members the blessing of the Holy Father, together with other remarkable testimonials regarding its activities and services. Among distinguished members of the Hierarchy who stood behind the Central Verein was the first Bishop of Rochester, the late Most Rev. Bernard J. McQuaid.

Recalling the 1874 convention of the society in Rochester, the article states: "When in 1874 the convention met in Rochester for the second time, the Most Rev. Bernard J. McQuaid, one of the staunchest advocates of Catholic parochial schools

Weekly Calendar of Feast Days

Sunday, August 19.—St. Louis.
Monday, August 20.—St. Bernard.
Tuesday, August 21.—St. Joan Francis.
Wednesday, August 22.—St. Symphorian.
Thursday, August 23.—St. Philip Benizi.

that the American Hierarchy has produced, addressed the convention on the School Problem and the many occasions on which it has been dodged authoritatively. Among other things he said, "As soon as the Germans appeared in the field and erected their parochial schools, the practical solution of the School Question was inaugurated. To you Catholic men goes the honor of having solved for yourselves this problem by your action. You were not bothered with what others did and said, you constructed schools for your children in which they could be educated. This honor belongs to you."

The article further points out that history shows that if the Catholic parochial school system is today functioning from one end of the country to the other, it is due in no small measure to the courageous and farseeing position taken by the pioneers of the Central Verein and its leaders throughout its history. "While others were hesitating and vacillating," the historical sketch states, "the Central Verein boldly approached the subject, and at the convention of 1877 passed the memorable resolution on the Catholic Parochial School Question. It declared that it was not the intention of the organization to oppose the public schools but to permit them to run their course. "But," continued the resolution, "it is necessary that our highest possible standards of perfection be maintained and that they be equal to or superior to the former."

The success of the promotion of Catholic schools impressed the Central Verein and the society set out to further Catholic interests at large. As far back as 1895, the social question was discussed by the Central Verein, and in 1899, eight years after Pope Leo XIII had given to the world his immortal Encyclical on the Condition of the Working Classes, the annual convention held in St. Paul adopted a motion that the Central Verein and all affiliated societies should give consideration to the study of social problems. From that time to the present day, the study of the social question and the application of the principles of social justice have been the chief concern of the Central Verein.

As the Central Verein increased its study of the social question there developed a need for a Central Bureau to serve as a center of information and instruction. The formation of this Central Bureau and its achievements under the direction of Frederick F. Konkel, U.S.C., K.H.S., with commendations by the Hierarchy are contained in the article. A photograph of Mr. Konkel is presented. The effectiveness of the official organ of the Central Verein, the "Central Blatt and Social Justice," is recorded.

Women Organized

Much space is also given to the formation of the National Catholic Women's Union, which is the women's section of the Central Verein. "While the Central Verein throughout its history has done most effective work along the lines for which it was organized," the article states, "it became evident from year to year that there are phases of the work required to be done which can be looked after more effectively by women than by men. It also became evident that Catholic women must organize if they wish to combat the theories that were being put forth with ever-increasing frequency by the non-Catholic women's organizations." The National Catholic Women's Union was founded in New York City in 1916.

Since its organization the Union has functioned as one of the component parts of the Central Verein. It has been the beneficiary of the traditions and institutions of that society, and has adapted its course in the study of the social question along the same lines with the men's section. The Union formulates and adopts its own resolutions dealing principally with the family, marriage and education. The resolutions adopted from year to year have set forth views calculated to assist the members of the Union in combatting the dangerous and destructive views that have been put forth from time to time by the numerous women's organizations and clubs. These resolutions have been based upon the letters of the American Hierarchy and of the Pope.

The words of praise that have been bestowed by the American Hierarchy upon the work of the Central Verein have applied with equal force to the activities of the Catholic Women's Union.

An interesting feature of the Souvenir Program is an article in memory of the Rev. Joseph St. Sulpice, a staunch champion of the Central Verein who in the article is compared to Frederick O'Shanan, Bishop Von Kettler, Pope Leo XIII, and Cardinal Manning because "his chief concern was with the poor and the masses."

The complete program of the convention is listed in the souvenir and there are excellent reproductions of St. Joseph's Church, Columbus Civic Center Building and Hotel Seneca, convention headquarters. Local committees arranging for the convention are listed.

Local Committees Perfect Plans For C. V. Convention

Officers and members of the Rochester Catholic Men's Federation and Catholic Women's Federation comprising the several committees who have worked diligently for nearly a year in perfecting arrangements for the Catholic Central Verein and Catholic Women's Union conventions are as follows:

Honorary chairman, the Rev. Frederick Nastvogel, C. S. S. R., general chairman (men), Joseph T. Otto; general chairman (women), Mary T. Kios; vice-chairman, Miss Louise Meyers; general secretary, Frank C. Hehnlein; general treasurer, Miss Laura K. Schilling; first vice-chairman (men), Charles T. Trot; first vice-chairman (women), Mrs. Madge Spiegel.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: the Rt. Rev. Msgr. John F. Doppelt, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. John P. Scheffhorn, the Rev. Joseph H. Gofel, the Rev. F. William Stauder, the Rev. Ferdinand Scheid, the Rev. J. Emil Gofel, the Rev. Francis X. Kuns, the Rev. George W. Eckl, the Rev. Peter Beras, the Rev. Leo C. Mooney, Hon. Philip H. Donnelly, Edward Heberle, William J. Fuehrer, Lawrence May, George Kasman, John L. Stark, Frank Haag, William Wittman, August Maier, Mrs. Madge Spiegel, Miss Mary Finucane, Mrs. Mary Madies, Mrs. Mildred Melanich, Mrs. Sophia Kramer, Mrs. Nattie Stark, Mrs. Marie Donnelly, Mr. Susan W. Keogh.

Committee chairmen are as follows: Hotel, Francis Hoffman, Mrs. Madge Spiegel; publicity, A. William Knittel, Miss Laura K. Schilling; reception, Charles T. Trot, Miss O. Kleinhaus; printing, Rudolph Mommel; church service, Charles H. Murra; speakers, Hon. Philip H. Donnelly; badges, Joseph Teichdeler, Sr.; music, John L. Stark; souvenir program, Joseph T. Otto; finance, Joseph Burkhardt; automobile, Joseph Zimmar; entertainment, Charles F. Glatz; reception committee for Hierarchy and visiting clergy, the Rev. Frederick Nastvogel, C. S. S. R.; railroad, George J. Leicht and Mrs. Mary E. Hehnlein.

Catholic Women Make Nation-Wide Appeal For Catholic Blind

Albany—Catholics are asked to enter a "new field of Catholic Action," which will aid the Catholic Blind throughout the United States, Mrs. William J. Gleason, President of the Albany Diocesan Council, National Council of Catholic Women.

A nation-wide request is being made for donations large or small for the purpose of producing Catholic records for Catholic people, deprived of their sight. This work is being undertaken by the Braille Association of the Alumnae of Kenwood, Academy of the Sacred Heart, here, in cooperation with the Xavier Press Publishing Society for the Blind.

"The Library of Congress has begun the distribution of records of Talking Books, produced by the money appropriated by Congress for the aid of the 'Blind,'" stated Mrs. Gleason. "However, all the books are non-sectarian and the Douay Version of the Bible may not be one of them."

All contributions may be addressed to: the Rev. J. M. Stadelman, S. J., Xavier Press Publishing Society for the Blind, 136 West 97th Street, New York City.

The chief objection to the school of experience is that you never finish the post-graduate course, says an exchange.

When you graduate from that school, brother, your diploma is a tombstone.—Boston Transcript.

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Auburn Board Reduces Teacher Following Catholics' Protest of Article in High School Paper

Auburn—Action which followed the expressions of regret on the part of the Board of Education here and the apology of Principal Russell Morehouse over the publication of an article in the Auburn Senior High School "Arrow" that aroused the indignation of the Catholics here and brought a vigorous protest from the Catholic priests, has resulted in the transfer by the Board of Miss Florence M. Webster who is about to enter upon her final year as a member of the Senior High School faculty.

The Board voted to transfer Miss Webster from her present position as head of the English Department and dean of girls in the Senior High School, to a position in which she will direct work in English composition for pupils of the Senior High School who wish to consult her.

In this matter of the transfer of Miss Webster who has taught in the Auburn schools many years the following recommendations by the High School Committee and Teachers' Committee, respectively, were adopted:

"In the matter of the complaint brought by the Catholic clergy of the city in regard to an article appearing in the 'Arrow' concerning the number of the Senior High School Arrow, it is recommended that Florence M. Webster be transferred from her present position in the Senior High School.

"According to the Rules of the Board of Education full recommendations in regard to the transfer have been made to the Committee on Teachers.

"Recommendation: That upon receipt of the following information from the Board of Education, the Board of Education should be notified of the transfer of Miss Webster to the position of English composition teacher in the Senior High School."

Commissioner of the High School Commission, Florence M. Webster, transferred from her present position in which she will direct the work in English composition for the pupils in the Senior High School, with to confer with her this transfer will be effective at the beginning of the school year 1934-1935, with no change in salary.

This action of the Board of Education answers satisfactorily the complaint made by the Catholic clergy and brings to a close an unpleasant incident in the community. It will, however, serve as a precedent for any future desire to disparage in an untruthful manner anything pertaining to the Catholic Church.

U. S. Catholic College Graduate Given Cross of the Legion of Honor

Oakland, Calif.—(NCWC)—Miss M. Theresa Bonny, a graduate of the College of the Holy Names, here, has been decorated by the French Government with the Cross of the Legion of Honor for distinguished services rendered that country in the work of relief, arts and letters, according to word received here.

After leaving the College of Holy Names in Oakland several years ago Miss Bonny received the Degree of Doctor of Letters from The Sorbonne in Paris.

Hostess: I've heard a lot about you.
Politician: Possibly, but you can't prove it.



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