

Catholic Courier

VOL. VI, AUGUST 16, 1934, No. 33

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

MEMBER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

Receives an annual class matter in the Postoffice at Rochester, N. Y., as required under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1911.

SUBSCRIBER TO N. C. W. C. NEWS SERVICE

Subscription, \$1.00 per year in advance, postpaid. Single copies, 10 cents.

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., Stone 1402, Rochester, N. Y. Courier Established 1923—Journal Established 1889

"Should make any sacrifice, even to the paucity of my time, to read and own, in order to support a Catholic newspaper."—FORN PRINX X.

Editorials

CATHOLIC CENTRAL VEREIN

Rochester greets the delegates to the 79th annual convention of the Catholic Central Verein of America and the 18th annual convention of the National Catholic Women's Union.

Rochester considers itself highly honored in being the host from August 17-22 of these two societies. The Central Verein has during the course of the 80 years of its existence given evidence of devotion to the furthering of Christian principles in a manner that called forth the praises of different Popes and of the American Hierarchy.

Rochester will have a rare opportunity to watch these societies at work. All festivities are to be held until the convention adjourns, and the time is to be given over exclusively to the consideration of questions pertaining to the social question. It is 60 years since the Central Verein was here, and it is the first visit of the National Catholic Women's Union.

The motto of this year's convention, namely, "The Restoration of the Family," shows the foresight and the wisdom of the leaders of the Central Verein. At no time in our history has the question of the family been so much in the forefront as at the present day.

The people of Rochester should show their appreciation of the efforts of the local societies which have brought to our city their national organizations. This can be done in no better way than by attending as many as possible of the sessions of the conventions.

Archbishop Mooney has been generous in his encouragement of the local committees and has consented to pontificate at the high Mass on Sunday, Aug. 19, and to be present at the mass meeting Sunday afternoon and address the convention.

The list of other speakers is an imposing one, and the nature of their subjects should give to those attending a clear insight of the Catholic viewpoint in regard to the family. We sometimes hear Catholics ask where can the Catholic viewpoint on the vexing question of the day be obtained. We reply that at these conventions during the next few days the answers to these questions may be found.

The Catholic Courier welcomes this opportunity to call upon the citizens of Rochester to take advantage of the meetings that are open to the public, and to show to the delegates from the other sections of the country how they stand back of these two great organizations in their efforts to solve the problems disturbing our social life according to the true principles of Christian social reform.

EXAGGERATED NATIONALISM, A THREAT

While Communism rears its head and exerts its disturbing influence wherever economic conditions create dissatisfaction among the masses, it is equally true that Nationalism is at the same time a prominent source of disturbance. This truth is being realized more and more keenly, particularly since Plus XI, in his Encyclical "Ubi arcano Dei" (December 23, 1922), designated exaggerated Nationalism as one of the fruitful causes of war and a powerful preventive of reconciliation and peace.

Writing on "The Lesson of 1914-1934" in "Current History" (June for August), Mr. G. P. Gooch, said to be "one of the most distinguished of contemporary English historians," declares that before the beginning of the World War we were living in a fool's paradise, and that a comparatively new influence, in addition to several others, seriously endangered the peace of the world.

Regarding this consideration he says: "The doctrine of sovereignty and Nationalism, the idea that each nation is a unit, the repudiation of any authority above and outside the national boundaries, the discovery of the Middle Ages, the discovery of the Respublican ideal, the impact of the scientific revolution and the geographical discoveries, the discovery of the child of the modern age, the discovery of the modern history in its own right, the discovery of the modern international relations, the discovery of the modern world."

It may sound paradoxical, but the first essential of a true sense of humor is to know the definition of sin. Sin is the conscious or unconscious transgression of a law which can not be laughed at. At the same time, sin is actually directed against the Creator, God.

ately trite that it is still vitally active to the prejudice of world peace and recovery. In fact, another Englishman, John Hallett, declared a year ago in the "Fortnightly Review" of London (June, 1933):

"Ten, or even five years ago, the majority of thinking people still believed the League of Nations, that queer and slightly paradoxical ingredient in the Wilsonian brew, could provide an antidote to the exaggerations of Nationalism. It could hardly be said that the same optimism prevails today. The faith in the League of Nations has been shaken, and nothing contributed more towards it than the cynicism with which the nations having proclaimed in 1927 in Geneva the necessity of lowering tariffs, embarked on that very moment on a race for higher tariffs, which still continues unabated. The fault in this, as in many other cases, lies not with the League of Nations, but with the hypertrophy of the national spirit which stultifies even that tiny germ of internationalism for which the League stands."

This "hypertrophy of the national spirit" Plus XI branded as one of the most fruitful causes of international strife when he declared in the Encyclical named that it was but a pretext under which such sources of evil as the concupiscence of the flesh, the concupiscence of the eyes and the pride of life assumed national proportions and attained to international influence. "These unsurpassed desires," he writes, "this inordinate love of the things of the world, are precisely the source of all international misunderstandings and rivalries, despite the fact that oftentimes men dare to maintain that acts prompted by such motives are excusable and even justifiable, because, forsooth, they were performed for reasons of state or of the public good, or out of love for country. Patriotism—the stimulus of so many virtues, and of so many noble acts of heroism when kept within the bounds of the law of Christ—becomes merely an occasion, an added incentive to grave injustice when true love of country is debased to the condition of extreme Nationalism, when we forget that all men are brothers and members of the same great human family, that other nations have an equal right with us to life and prosperity, that it is never lawful nor even wise, to dissociate morality from the affairs of practical life, that, in the last analysis, it is justice which exalteth a nation: but sin maketh nations miserable" (Proverbs XIV, 34).

Moreover, amplifying the thought expressed by His Holiness, and lending weight in advance to a portion of Mr. Gooch's statement, His Excellency, Edward, Count O'Rourke, Bishop of Danzig, declared in a Pastoral Letter issued in 1927: "Nationalism (which establishes, as it were, a separate law, at variance with the eternal law...) was lacking in the Middle Ages, when the nations of the West formed a Christian community of peoples, bound together organically and by common convictions concerning the highest and last problems affecting mankind. Along with the disturbances and the fermentations of later times, Nationalism was logically developed on the ruins of the mediaeval social order, and proceeding from acute to more acute forms, led men from justice to injustice. And its present evident consequences, admitted by all, are that longing for true peace remains unrequited, and that suspicion and hostility between men and peoples survive, and are constantly fanned to new flame, causing the menace of new misfortune to hover over mankind."

Exaggerated Nationalism is indeed the world's bane. Yet what Nation is free from it?

Current Comment

AID TO SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Davison of Harvard, in his recent book "Protestant Church Music in America," writes, "We may well be amazed that experts in religious education have to so great a degree overlooked music as an aid to spiritual development." The Catholic Church has always appreciated the value of music and song in the execution of divine worship and in the spiritual education of its children. Although by reason of turbulent times and more pressing problems the quality and prestige of our Church music has suffered, nevertheless we can rejoice in the fact, that to-day there is determined movement within the Church not only to restore liturgical music and Gregorian chant to their former vigor, but also to take up their development where others have left off.

Therefore, it is gratifying to read Dr. Davison's observation that "the energy and vision of a few Roman Catholics are laying the foundation of a renaissance of music within their Church through the instruction of children in Gregorian Chant." These statements may serve to make a few of us realize the importance of the summer course in Liturgical music and Gregorian chant inaugurated this week at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Rochester. This course is being conducted by the faculty of the Pius X School of Liturgical Music in New York. The work of these sincere and consecrated persons, and many others like them, constitutes a vital factor in the tremendous task of restoring real church music in our churches. "These individuals," as Dr. Davison says, "working quietly in a small way, and without the handicap of publicity, have given demonstrable proof of the superiority of a high standard over a low one."

THE IMPORTANT THING

Our most titanic creations of steel and cement are like a feather compared to the weight of a massive mountain. Yet we use superlatives when discussing the weight of a modern skyscraper. How interested man is in the things he has made! However puny they may be compared to the things God has made. All through his life man acts that way, interested in the little things: wealth, comforts, pleasures. The really big things scarcely get a rise out of him. His biggest job, Salvation, is less important to him than running an errand during the course of a business day. —The Catholic Advance.

A SENSE OF HUMOR

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Diocesan Recordings

A touching sight, this week, in Rochester. A Boy Scout escorting a veteran of the Civil War by the hand during the G. A. R. Encampment. Respect for old age and reverence for those who have fulfilled their duty to their country could not be better inculcated in the growing boys.

Arthur Brisbane, noted Hearst commentator in his column "Today" speaking of the increasing opposition to "Reds" in this country and citing the organization opposed, pays this tribute: "And the Knights of Columbus, as well organized, as determined, a body as there is on earth, and most intelligently led, are against Reds."

Use of common sense in the production of motion pictures is urged by O. O. McIntyre in his syndicated articles which have wide appeal. Commenting on the present situation in the industry, he says: "Next to Mickey Mouse, I like Popeye, the Sailor Man. Weaklings always aspire to rip-snorting antics such as Popeye performs. If a movie usher makes him wait too long the tears down the theatre. An ugly galoot, he pleases homely men by invariably winning the lady fair in the finale. All the movies need as a formula to prevent decency leagues is to produce films that amuse as simply honestly and cleanly as Mickey and Popeye. Indeed, I believe the province of future films will be more likely to amuse than anything else. One W. C. Fields is worth a dozen Mae Wests in keeping the industry on an even keel."

The excellently planned and comprehensive "Century on Parade," now being conducted at Edgerton Park, Rochester, will take several visits before all of the interesting exhibitions there may be viewed. In one hundred years there is provided a wealth of material to recall the industrial, civic, social and religious growth of the city. The religious part has not been overlooked. There is a Catholic exhibit and St. Mary's Church of one hundred years ago is reproduced. The Centennial Exposition is well worth seeing several times.

We have received two copies of the "K. C. News," published by the Geneva Council, Knight of Columbus which has recently taken on renewed vigor. The paper is well edited and most readable. It should prove to be an important adjunct in the progress of the K. of C. in Geneva. In addition to reporting Council news, the paper gives excellent advice, one of the articles pointing out that there is no excuse for a "nine-month Catholic," but that during the summer months, a Catholic should practice his religion and give good example as well as during the other nine months in the year.

Centennial celebrations are making people historically minded. The "Central Blatt and Social Justice," official organ of the Catholic Central Verein of America, meeting here this week, has two well-written articles in the July-August issue which reveal historical happenings in Rochester. One article deals with a hitherto unknown letter written by the Venerable John Neumann, missionary who visited Rochester along about 1830. In his letter the young German missionary described his coming here on an Erie Canal boat, spoke of the difficulties the German congregation had in erecting St. Joseph's Church building, told of his aid given in helping with the finances and said: "In the course of the week I heard the people's confessions and preached twice on the following Sunday—for the first time in America. On Monday, Father Frost, the Superior of the Redemptorists, arrived unexpectedly. I enjoyed the happiness of his companionship scarcely one day, for on the evening of the 11th I left Rochester by mail-steamer, a city I shall never forget because of the love that Catholic congregation showed me. Thanks to God eternally for having assigned to it so pious and saintly a shepherd."

In the other article in "Central-Blatt and Social Justice" is given a lengthy account of Bishop McQuaid's co-operation given the Catholic Verein of America when that organization held its convention here in 1874. The Bishop's active interest in the convention, the article states, was a boon to the delegates, forced to contend on that occasion not only with problems of organization but also with criticism, due in part to misunderstanding of the aims of the Central Verein and the aspirations of its leaders. In his address at the convention Bishop McQuaid said: "I was happy to learn the German Catholic Union would come to Rochester, since I know it represents the strong, upright, truthful and independent German Catholic men of the United States. And this is substantiated by the words of your President, addressed to you yesterday, directing your attention to the high purposes you should always hold before your minds. I am proud of this meeting of the German Catholic delegates."

Whoever is against Jesus is the mortal enemy of the torrid soul, whether he be brother, friend, pastor, master, or king.—Blessed Raymond.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Catholic Facts But Little Known

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

Illustration of a villa with text: "The gardens of the Papal Summer Villa at Castelgandolfo, 15 miles from Rome, gave COROT the setting for his famous painting of the shepherd gazing over a beautiful valley, now hanging in the Louvre, in Paris." "A BIRD SANCTUARY COMPRISING 200 ACRES HAS BEEN OPERATED FOR 12 YEARS BY THE Benedictine Fathers of St. Anselm's Abbey, Manchester, N. H." "600 CHURCH BUILDINGS have been erected, and 87 new parishes established by Cardinal Mundelein in the 18 years he has been Archbishop of Chicago." "1,046 FOREIGN MISSIONARIES of the PARIS Foreign Missionary Society are laboring in 38 territories in mission lands. The Society, founded 275 years ago, has 48 Bishops or Archbishops." "N.C."

THE LIBRARY SIGN POST

It has been many a moon since the COMMONWEAL has published an article as beautiful and lucid in its expression of a profound religious theme as the one by Dr. Karl Adam in the current issue. Its title is "In the Jubilee Year." It is the digest of a sermon recently given at a Catholic Youth meeting at Stuttgart in Germany, and is a radiant exposition of the vital and undying work of Christ in the hearts of men. Let those who accuse us Catholics of forgetting the spirit of Christ in an undue insistence on the externals of ceremonies and regulations swallow their accusations in silence until they understand us in such articles as this of Dr. Adam. There is the heart and essence of Catholic life, and in the presence of it any hostile charge objecting to statues and relics and external ritual must seem as pleasure and futility as a catcall in church.

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Congratulations to the COMMONWEAL editors and to Dr. Adam on this splendid article which bids fair to rank as one of the most noteworthy of the year. A copy of this issue will be kept on the Catholic Evidence Library table for at least two weeks to give our interested readers ample chance of examining this stimulating summary of the essence of Catholic life.

So much talk about Catholic Action evaporates into thin air and dissipated plans because we let ourselves forget the old Scholastic truism that the action of anything (from a dandelion to the Catholic Church) is conditioned by its 'being'; which is merely the philosophical way of saying that before a thing can act, it must exist. You cannot have Catholic Action without Catholic Being. We must be Catholics to the deepest hearts of us, enriched with the Christ-life within our own. Then when we act, it will be vital and lasting Catholic Action.

Dr. Adam's first great book was "The Spirit of Catholicism," the translation and publication of which was one of Sheed and Ward's first ventures in England. The book has been priceless in its service to many an intellectual convert in the last few years. One of the most recent to admit his indebtedness to it is Mr. Ross Hoffman, Professor of History at New York University.

There are certain men of literary ability whose high talent, and in some cases genius, brings them little fame, because they have devoted it to the service of making greater genius better known. I speak of translators. Their labors give us the passport to foreign books whose treasures would otherwise be sealed from us. Do we realize that their task is almost as difficult as original authorship? The perfect translation is impossible, because no language can hope to reproduce exactly the subtle idioms and nuances of another language. Thus 'youth' is an exact rendering of

the Italian 'giovinerza', but the delicate music of the Italian word is lost in the blunt homeliness of the English equivalent. And I have it on good authority that no English word can exactly fit the hope the typesetter can put an German 'gemütlichkeit'. (I hope the typesetter can put an un-lust on that 'u'.)

YOUR CATHOLIC PAPER If the Catholic newspaper did no more than bring the news of the Catholic world into your home each week it would be worth the few pennies it costs. But it also interprets editorially current happenings, entertains you with short and serial stories, instructs you through special articles and offers half a dozen other features to interest young and old.

Follow the Catholic only one right; that namely, of being a better man than others.—Mme. Swetchine.

Catholic Courier Published every Thursday in the Year by the CATHOLIC COURIER and JOURNAL, Inc. 50 Chestnut St. Telephone, Stone 1402 Communications regarding the conduct of this newspaper, articles and illustrations for publication, should be addressed to the Editor, Catholic Courier. If the return of manuscripts or pictures is desired, they must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but the Editor does not hold himself responsible for such communications. Business communications of whatsoever nature should be addressed to the Catholic Courier and Journal, Inc., to the attention of the Manager. MECHANICAL REQUIREMENTS Width of column: 13 cms (2 1/4 inches). Depth of column: 20 1/2 inches (full length). Size of page: 14 1/2 column inches (7 full columns); 15 1/2 inches by 20 1/2 inches. Forms close noon of Wednesday preceding publication date.