BELIEVE IT - - Not By REV. OWEN B. McGUIRE, D.D.

called "Imago Mundi" whose author tonio de Marchena and Fray Diego de Deza. The latter had become

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Your Will?

ortunate brethren. There is no better way of dispos ng of earthly possessions, after other obligations, personal, par ochia I, diocesan, have been fulfilled, than by making them serve the cause of the

other things, for God's fronor and

glory and the welfare of your less

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Columbus Wrong

is the factual truth; and that fact was proved by the discovery of in the East; and that the Commission declared to be impossible. As a matter of fact it was impossible. He Indies with the Santa Maria, Nina and Pinta. It was the intervention of America and the adjacent islands that saved the enterprise from certain disaster. When he did finally reach the island of San Salvador, he had not yet covered one-third of the distance to the East Indies. Let us suppose that there was no American Continent; or let us suppose that there were no islands, but two American Continents, North and South, and no Isthmus of Panama, and that Columbus continued on his course where the isthmus is. Then, sailing through to the Pacific, out of sight of land, he could not have made the journey across the immense ocean, and it is very doubtful that he could have returned to Spain. Columbus was wrong, not in his estimation of the shape of the earth, but of its size; and the Royal Commission was right. not because they believed that the earth was "square and flat," but because they had a more correct estimation of its size than Columbus had. They had also a more correct idea of its exact shape; for Columbus, to the day of his death, believed the earth to be in the shape of a pear, rather than of an orange. That was perhaps, one reason why he miscalculated the distance from Spain to China. And he died also in the belief that he had discovered the East Indies-that he had gone half-way around the earth while he had not As a consequent of this idea of Columbus, the lands discovered were called Las Indies even to the seventeenth entury.

I presume you already know how Columbus fared in his later attempts to get approval and financial backing for his enterprise. His brother, Bartholomew, laid the project before the King of England and the King of

France. Neither monarch would have anything to do with the foolbardy CATHOLIS IN proposal. Columbus, in 1491, tried again in Spain. The Spanish sovereigns were then in camp before Granada laying slege to the last outpost of Moorish domination in Spain. had been a sailor since the age of Bishop of Placencia. (As a matter ness of the earth, nor entirely of the fourteen and had made a persistent of curiosity I might tell you that in possibility of the enterprise. It was study of Geography. In arriving at Spain, then and also today, when a much more a question of money. The the persuasion that by going West friar is made Bishop, he still retains treasury had to support the war and he could come out East, he was in-fluenced especially by a book-map These two men obtained for him the a time to spend the money that was very valuable support of another left in an attempt to discover new was ardinal d'Ailly. In 1486 he Churchman, Cardinal Gouzalez de worlds. Yet the King, influenced now on all students entering German appeared twice at the Court of Mendoza. The three ecclesiastics especially by Cardinal Mendoza, did colleges or universities must make Spain; and here he found two faith- prevailed upon the Court to appoint appoint another Commission. It reful friends in two priests, Fray An- a Royal Commission to investigate ported unfavorably. This Columbus distinction of creed will be recogthe project of Columbus. They sat considered the final blow, and set out nized. Heretofore, many Cathelic at Salamanca, heard Columbus ex- for Portugal. How he on the way students had the opportunity of joinplain his scheme, and rejected it as called at the Convent of La Rabida, ing the Catholic student bodies where asking a night's lodging for himself and his boy, and how he there found tained to foster Catholic education Now, it may surprise you to be a friend and enthusiastic supporter in and Catholic ideals. told that the Commission was right Father Juan Perez is known to every

and Columbus was wrong. But such school child. It need not be repeated. Influential Friends What I would call your attention corners with an angel at each corner?". In fact, it may be said that it was the Catholic Church which not only got approbation for the scheme of Columbus but also fitted out the expedition financially. Among the earliest friends of Columbus in Spain was Luis de Santangel. In 1492 this man was "Receiver of the ecclesiastical revenues of Aragon," and it In a book just published under the be held in New York City, October was he who advanced the funds nec-

essary for the voyage. Within the last thirty years there has been a grat revival of Columbian studies and research both in Spain and in Spanish America. A hotly debated question at present is: What was the nationality of Columbus? A new school of writers claim that he was not Italian, but Spanish. At first of Barvaria and Wuerttemberg. Thousight the claim seems absurd; and it sands of Protestants recently staged did so seem to me. A Spanish-American has written an exhaustive treatise on the question. I have not seen his book, but I have read several reviews of it in the Spanish press. lectures summarizing what he had montal interferences. written. I read the lectures and his contention is not by any means abconnected with the antecedents of Columbus, and it seems from these lectures that Columbus did deliberhandwriting, the says, referring to Genoa: "Porque alli nasci," because there I was born. It would take too much space to tell how they explain

away that difficulty. Three Races in Crew Recently, in this century, they have made a very interesting discovery at Los Palos. They discovered there the journal, or register, of the commercial house which furnished the three ships with all the requisites for the voyage. Everything Is there noted with minute detail. They also dis-covered the list of the three crews, consisting of 120 men. This distate Prussian Department of the proves absolutely the former claim Interior, said, in a recent press conthat all the sailors were Andalucians. ference in Berlin, that "only future They came from practically every region of Spain. Among them are one Englishman and one Irishman. How did they get there? Well, in the first place sailors in those days, as in our own, were incurable rovers. But there is another entry which throws the Rev. Ludwig Mueller, Primate of some light on the question: "Algunos sacados de las carceles" - some of them taken out of the prisons! It is not said that the two foreigners were among these. But it can easily be believed; and, perhaps, the crime for which an English or Irish sailor would be put behind the bars in Audalucia in those times was not very serious. However, this suspicion might dampen a little our enthusiasm for the fact that an Irishman took part in the discovery of America. It is interesting, all the same, to see

of the Continent, North and South-Spanish, English and Irish! Contrary to some of the pictures we see and some of the books we read, no priest accompanied Columous on the voyage of discovery. On the morning, August 3, 1492, they sailed from Los Palos, they received who gave them his blessing from the who was seriously wounded, seeing a short as they pulled out to the fate-ful ships. This priest did accompany mistook him for a Catholic priest and Columbus on the second voyage in asked him for a Crucifix which he the following year.

that in the discovery were represented

so important a part in the peopling

In the article on Columbus in the Catholic Encyclopedia, Professor Abraham Block who, without hesi-Bandeller says "they touched at the tancy or comment, sought a Crucifix Canaries." The fact is they spent among the ruins. As he put it to the two weeks there. On the way down, lips of the priest, a shell exploded the Pinta had broken her rudder nearby and the Rabbi was killed in-It is said, but there is naturally no stantly. proof, that the captain of this boat rudder broken. They had intended of every Laith. to fand at Tenerife (the largest of the Canaries) for repairs; but when The conquest of this island had been they came in front of it the vulcano, completed only eleven years before; Pico de Teide, was in a state of erup. but there was already a Bishop at tion, and they proceeded to Las Pa- Las Falmans and a small Catholic lamas on the island of Grand Canary, Church,

GERMANY FEAR VOTE IN SAAR

(Continued from Page One)

An official ruling states that from their homes in dormitories where no the proper atmosphere was main-

Voted Against Hitler

How much German Catholics resent these and many similar measures was shown during the recent America. The idea that we had as to in particular is that from first to plebiscite which was held to confirm children, and I fear there are some last his best friends and most influovergrown children who have this ential supporters were Spanish eccle- late President von Hindenburg. In wrong idea even today, was that shatics, priests, Bishops and Car. Aix-la-Chapelle, for instance, no less what Columbus had to do first dinals. In his first attempt, in 1486, there 30 per cent of the preeminently of all was to convince the Commis- he had the support of two monks, one Catholic population voted against sion that the earth was round. But Bishop and a Cardinal. So also in Hitler. In the district embracing that was not the question at all. the second attempt; and, finally, both Cologne and Aix-la-Chapelle the What Columbus proposed was that when he prevailed, it was through the negative vote amounted to 20,5 per by sailing westward (in such ships influence brought to bear on the cent, in the district of Westphalla as they had at that time) in a Queen, and through her on the King, North to 18.5 per cent and in the dismonth, or in two at most, he could by Father Perez and Cardinal Men. trick of Koblenz and Treves to 15.5 reach the outposts of India and China doza. Yet, you have been told that per cent. These figures are rather in the days of Galileo, 150 years later, impressive when one considers the Roman ecclesiastics believed still tremsendous propaganda organized by that "the earth was square and flat. the Nazi party throughout the councould never have reached the East How could it be round and have four try and the psychological and material pressure brought to bear on

the woters. The Most Rev. Konrad Groeber, Archibishop of Freiburg, once more found it necessary to protest publicly against racial theories which, he emphasized, are a open of position to Christian doctrine, but are still wide the International Foderation of Cathly activertised by Nazi party members, offic Alumnae Amural Convention to title, "Only One Is Your Teacher, 10-14, according to decision reached Christ," the Archbishop analyses at a special Executive Board meeting these tendencies with utmost frank. called this week. ness, with the result that the police

confisscated the book. German Catholics now are watchbetween the courageous factions of not leading us over the dark waters, the Protestant Church in the States spontaneous demonstration both in Munich and Nuremberg for their Bishop, Otto Meisel, who had been attacked by a Nuremberg Nazi organ because of the position he had taken Then, four years ago, its author in favor of the independence of came to Spain, and gave a course of Protestant communities from govern-

Admits Unification Aim

About the same time the Bavarian surd. There are many difficulties premier, Ludwig Siebert, admitted in public for the first that the Nazi party is working toward the ultimate ately keep people in the dark re-denominations under the auspices of goal of a unification of the Christian specting his antecedents. In his will, the government. "The two great denominations," said Premier S "will be protected by the National Socialist State, but it considers them only as a means to the ultimate unity of faith." And he went on: "Just as the Great War has demonstrated that we are neither Protestants nor Catholics, but only Germans, so the recent glorious party convention in Nuremberg has shown that now there are no Protestant National Socialists or Catholic National Socialists, but only National Socialists of the Chris-

tian fasth." Also Dr. August Jaeger, who is in charge of Protestant Church affairs developments will show whether a unification of the Christian churches is feasible, but there is hope that a solid religious unit will arise within the nation in due time." Similar statements made a few days later by the Gerrnan Protestant Church, were later denied, but the impression remains strong among Catholics that ultimately powerful factions within the Nazz party will strive for a National German Church, although for reasons of policy it may not now be frankly admitted. These factions never have concealed their dislike for "Roman influence in national German affairs.

Rabbi Who Held Cross . To Dying Priest's Lips Honored By Monument

Paris, (NCWC)-A monument just unvelled at Taintrux in the Vosges is in memory of a rabbi who lost his life while holding a Crucifix to the lips of a dying priest.

On August 29, 1914, the village of Holy Communion in the Church and Tainbux, which was serving as a first marched in procession down to the aid station, had to be evacuated sudsea, accompanied by Father Perez denly, under German fire. A priest might kiss before he died. The man he halled chanced to be Grand Rabbi

The meonument, inaugurated by had already despaired of the suc- Minister of Pensions Rivolett, was ters of the undertaking and had the erected by donations from Frenchmen

Congress Chairman



The Right Rev. Monsigner Daniel. Figueroa. President of the Excoutive Committee of the thirtysecond International Eucharitie Congress, to be hold at Buenos Aires. October 10-14. Catholics in many dioceses of the United States are planning to participate in the Congress. . ..

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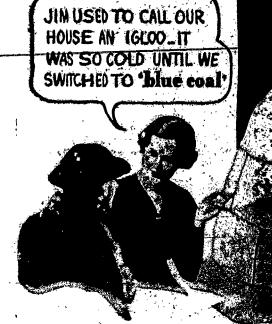
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