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"I would make any sacrifice, even to the pawning of my ring, pectoral cross and soutane, in order to support a Catholic newspaper."—Pope Pius X.

Editorials

LUTHER AND THE BIBLE

Luther made the statement that before his time "the Bible lay under the bench forgotten in the dust." This statement is untrue. Indeed, the Bible was the most widely circulated book in the Middle Ages. Priests used it in preparing their sermons, and knew it from their daily reading of the missal and the breviary. The monks copied the Scriptures in their scriptoria, and meditated upon them frequently, as we learn from the pages of St. Bernard and Thomas A. Kempis (Life of St. Bernard; Imitation of Christ). The laity, before printing was invented and when Bible manuscripts were rare and costly, knew the Scriptures from listening to sermons, and from studying the sculpture, paintings, frescoes and mosaics that filled the churches. What a comprehensive view of both the Old Testament and the New could be had by a parishioner of St. Mark's in Venice in the thirteenth century. As Ruskin says: "The walls of the Church became the poor man's Bible, and a picture was more easily read than a chapter." (Stones of Venice).

Many non-Catholics have supported the Catholic teaching regarding the Bible. "It is no longer possible to hold," says Kropatscheck," as the old polemics did, that the Bible was a sealed book to both theologians and laity. The more we study the Middle Ages, the more does this fable tend to dissolve into thin air."

We also quote Dr. Cutts, author of Turning Points of English History: "There is a good deal of popular misapprehension about the way in which the Bible was regarded in the Middle Ages. Some people think that it was very little read, even by the clergy; whereas the fact is that the sermons of the mediaeval preachers are more full of Scriptural quotations and allusions than any sermons in these days; and the writers on other subjects are so full of Scriptural allusion, that it is evident their minds were saturated with Scriptural diction."

JOHN WYCLIFF AND THE BIBLE

Cardinal Gasquet has proved beyond question that the so-called Wycliffe Bibles in existence today are really the old English Catholic Bibles, mentioned by Blessed Thomas More, who wrote: "The whole Bible was long before his (Wyclif's) days by virtuous and well-learned men, translated into the English tongue, and by good and godly people and with devotion and soberness, well and reverently read."

Wyclif's translation was condemned by the Council of Oxford under Archbishop Arundel in 1408, because he introduced into it his heretical views. It ordered that no translation should be made, until "it should have been approved by the Bishop of the place or by the provincial council." Blessed Thomas More thus comments on this law: "I trow that in this law you see nothing unreasonable. For it neither forbiddeth the translations to be read that were already well done of old before Wyclif's day, nor damneth his because it was new, but because it was naught; nor prohibiteth new to be made but provideth that they shall not be read, if they be made amiss, till they be by good examination amended."

Tyndale's translation of the New Testament was burned at St. Paul's by Bishop Tunstall in 150[illegible] for the same reason. It was a faulty translation containing some 2000 mistakes, and purposely garbling words and texts to set forth Luther's new teachings. The Bishops of those days banned it just as a modern State prohibits the circulation of counterfeit money. In their eyes it did not represent the pure word of God.

CONVERT-AID SOCIETY

The St. Paul Guild was organized in the United States in March 1934 for the purpose of aiding non-Catholic clergymen and others who were forced to give up their means of livelihood because of their conversion to Catholicism. Since its inception membership in the organization has been increased by 1000 and more than $3200 has been expended in convert aid.

At a meeting of the Guild in New York last week, the Reverend Henry P. Fisher, C. S. P., spiritual director, announced that plans are under way for the organization of similar groups in other cities. He said that it was the hope of the Guild to have a larger office which would serve also as a reading room and information bureau.

Father's concluding remarks stressed the duty of Catholics to the convert. "Be this thought with you," he said. "The great gift of faith to a convert who are already of the household with Him in his work by extending a welcome to the newcomer; by generously giving him financial assistance if the need arises and in so doing, to complete a work done by God Himself. The St. Paul Guild is organized to do the work of helping the convert to adjust himself in his new surroundings. We ask your support, particularly in your prayers."

The convert-aid idea originated in London where an active guild has been functioning for many years. Impetus was given to its organization by the widespread conversion of non-Catholic clergymen, particularly Anglicans, to Catholicism. The last annual report submitted to the Holy Father by the London chapter showed a membership of 9,709 and an expenditure of about $53,000.

Seventeen Anglican clergymen of the diocese of Nottingham sought Catholic instruction last year, according to the Most Reverend John F. McNulty, who spoke at the December meeting of the Society in London. He added that they desired corporate reunion and wanted to be received as a body.

The Earl of Inddesleigh, a convert, also addressed the Guild members. He said that each year there is an increase in the number of Anglicans who desire affiliation with the Roman Catholic Church.

HOSPITAL NUNS

The record of the Loyola Base Hospital Unit which appears in the current issue of *Carry On*, the national organ of the Women's Overseas Service League, is one that Catholics should be proud to read.

Catholics have played a heroic part in every achievement of modern medicine and in every advance of modern nursing. Catholic hospitals dot the maps of every country in the world. And yet we are prone to criticize these heroic workers, criticism too often based on lack of knowledge.

"The Loyola Base Hospital Unit," according to Etta Mullen, author of the article, "was the first and only band of Sisters from the United States to engage in overseas work, and was the first base hospital to be sent from the United States to the Italian front."

This hospital unit was organized by Dr. J. A. Dana of New Orleans, chief surgeon of the Medical Department of Loyola University, and was named in honor of that institution. Mrs. John Dibert of New Orleans donated $100,000 for its equipment, and it was through her patriotism and generosity that the Unit was sent to the Italian front.

Although organized by a Catholic surgeon the Loyola Base Hospital was absolutely non-sectarian. Its nursing department was given over to the Sisters of Charity, but its staff included doctors and nurses of all denominations and the donor of the equipment was a non-Catholic woman. The Sisters insisted, however, that they retain their religious habit, dark blue gown with white collar and cornette. This they were permitted, but in all other respects they were subject to Red Cross rules.

Many are the traditions of the Sisters of Charity in war work, since they were the first women and the first Religious of any community to brave the dangers and hardships of the battlefields. Their founder, St. Vincent de Paul, had sent them to the battlefields of Sedan and Arras as far back as 1654 and 1655.

At the outbreak of the world war, the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity in France offered 5000 of its members for field work and they labored ceaselessly for the duration of the war.

Before the Loyola Unit went overseas, the Italian Sisters had been carrying on a hospital in Vincenza in what was originally a schoolhouse. Vincenza is in the Province of Venice about 15 miles from the firing-line. Loyola Unit took this over, and later, as work increased, founded a second hospital in a former orphanage. Surgical teams were sent out from these hospitals to the advanced dressing stations.

The achievement of these nuns is one before which we can stand in respectful pride.

AN EX-BOLSHEVIK ESCAPES

A former commander of an aviation camp at Moscow, Trenine by name, has arrived at Paris after escaping through Persia. He had been imprisoned and condemned to forced labor in Siberia for having criticized the Soviet agrarian policy.

Commandant Trenine, formerly an admirer and an adherent of Bolshevism, recently published his memoirs which outline all too vividly the horrors of the Soviet regime. The work is the more interesting written as it is by a young man of peasant origin who was still a child at the time of Czarism.

The writer tells how the religious problem is handled at the barracks. The first concern of the authorities, he says, is to uproot any vestige of faith in the souls of recruits. Clergymen of all religions are represented to them as drunkards and seducers who seek a livelihood by oppressing the weak and the poor. Obscene images and caricatures are used to support the oral instruction.

But religion still lives in Russia. Despite the persecution of priests and the closing of churches, Commandant Trenine reports that on feast days one still sees the churches of Moscow crowded to overflowing with people on their knees praying, many of them even gathered on the steps outside the doors. Priests long ago had to discard their clerical garb and they expose themselves to grave dangers while celebrating the ceremonies of the Church.

So strong is the anti-religion feeling in Russia, says Trenine, that a soldier in uniform always avoids passing near a church lest some informer might report this incident against him. A charge of this kind would subject him to the worst sort of unpleasantness.

The man who thoroughly loves God and his neighbor is the only man who will love a woman ideally, who can love her with the love God thought of between them when He made them male and female. The man, I repeat, who loves God with his very life, and his neighbor as Christ loves him, is the man alone who is capable of grand, perfect, glorious love to any woman—George Macdonald.

Diocesan Recordings

PLEDGE OF DECENCY

In answer to the question will the Legion of Decency continue, Catholics in this diocese and throughout the country on last Sunday pledged themselves anew to the principles set forth in the Legion of Decency's opposition to unclean and immoral motion pictures. The effect upon the producers in Hollywood will be a continued improvement of the films. What will be the effect upon those of us who have taken the pledge? Shall we concentrate our will power only upon abstaining from motion pictures that are forbidden or shall we see in this pledge an admonition to us to refrain from all things indecent? The motion pictures are not the only occasions for sin. Consider the type of literature that is now being produced for loan libraries and the magazine stands. Suggestive conversation and the "smutty story" might well be included in a pledge of decency.

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CATHOLIC READING

He doesn't have time to read anything but the publications of his profession, a professional man told us the other day. He is a Catholic, has had a Catholic education and is a father of a family. The conversation brought out that he was but very slightly informed as to what was going on in the Catholic world in trying to bring about a solution of many present day problems. He is undoubtedly raising his family properly and seeing to it that the children are getting a Catholic education. He could do a better job of it, however, if he could manage to give a few minutes to the reading of Catholic publications. While his own professional reading is necessary in his own avocation, he could improve as a Catholic father by exposing himself to current Catholic thought.

* * *

CRIME FORUM

Poor old Uncle Sam in addition to his many other ailments resulting from abuses during the prohibition era and from depression of the pocketbook is suffering from a major disease which is crime. Disregard for authority has developed a condition that has called for a consultation. Specialists have gathered in Washington at a Crime Forum which was opened by the President on Monday evening. It is hoped that success will be the outcome of the consultation and that the patient will get well.

All of which is an introduction to the fact that there is a special interest in the discussions for those of us in the Diocese of Rochester because the Rev. Francis J. Lane, Catholic Chaplain of the Elmira Reformatory has accepted an invitation of Attorney General Homer S. Cummings to take part in the Forum. Father Lane brings to the deliberations not only the principles involved in correcting conditions that result in crime, but a wealth of experience in dealing with youth in the stages when they are apt to be on the way to arch-criminality. He is the author of a book, "Twelve Years in a Reformatory," which has had honorable mention by the Cardinal Hayes Literature Committee. His valuable experience will be contributed to the "consultation" and will serve to enlighten his hearers with information gained in the practical field of rehabilitating not only the youthful criminal but also the family members who often, he has said, are the real instigators of crimes committed by their offspring. His message will be that the restoration of the ideal Christian home, discipline and devoted supervision of their children by responsible parents and the constant and sincere exercise of religious faith and practice are the most important means for restoring the criminal class to a normal place in society. Let us hope that the spirit of his message will animate the deliberations in Washington. With the Department of Justice proving too much publicized "Public Enemies" that authority still exists in the land and with effort being made among youth to bring about a realization of this before cold bullets must be used, the beginning of convalescent for Uncle Sam of this particular ailment should be in sight.

* * *

MOVIE LISTS

Each week in conformity with the directions of the Bishops of the United States, this newspaper runs a list of motion pictures prepared by the Chicago Council, Legion of Decency and released by the Queen's Work, Sodality Service. This is run under the heading "A Moral Estimate of Motion Pictures." Obviously it is not possible to include all current motion pictures in a list of this kind published each week. We suggest that the list as it appears be cut out and filed. In this way can be had for ready reference a complete record of the stand taken by the Legion of Decency on pictures as they are released.

* * *

A GOOD DEED

Knights of Columbus in Rochester will furnish automobiles on Dec. 19 to transport aged people from the several homes for the aged to Washington Junior High School for a courtesy party conducted by the students. It is an act that entails some sacrifice on the part of the knights in giving up time and the use of their cars. However, they join in the fine respect shown for old age by the high school children and encourage those children in developing such respect. And they give the old people's pleasant afternoon.

STRANGE BUT TRUE
Catholic Facts But Little Known

(c) 1934, by N. C. W. C. News Service

By M. J. MURRAY

THE LIBRARY SIGN POST

The Catholic Evidence Library will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 24th and 25th, as also on Monday and Tuesday, December 31st and January 1st.

* * *

The ancient Trojan's fear of the Greeks bearing gifts is not a mere bygone. It exists today in the heart of every harassed Smith and Jones who wonders how much trotting about he will have to do after Christmas to exchange useless or oversized gifts. From unwitting friends, good Lord, deliver us!

* * *

A book can be the worst kind of gift. Or again it can be the best kind of gift. That all depends upon the person you are trying to please. You are lucky if you have friends who would sooner eat a book than a beefsteak. It not only solves your gift problem neatly, but also assures you that you are giving a pleasure such as no other kind of gift can presume to give.

* * *

But it isn't every kind of book that pleases. A book on hardy perennials that would bore your cousin Alice to tears will give your Aunt Euphemia hours of blissful contentment; whereas Aunt Euphemia might be quite bewildered at the antics of a novel that takes cousin Alice to a new wonderland. If, as Shakespeare assures us, "borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry," it is equally true that a well-chosen book can sharpen the edge of friendship. And there, presto! we've jumped right into the middle of the difficulty that bothers so many book-givers at this time. What are the good books, and to whom will it be good to give them?

* * *

Well, suppose your friend prefers the type of historic novel of which "Anthony Adverse" proved to be a disedifying and disappointing example. By all means, give him or her "The Forty Days of Musa Dagh" by Franz Werfel. The critics seem to have forgotten all about poor Anthony Adverse in the rush of their enthusiasm for this new tale which has been selected by The Catholic Book Club for January as well as by the New York Book-of-the-Month Club. Here is heart's content for those whom conscience kept away from "Anthony Adverse" . . . Then there are Sheila Kaye-Smith's "Superstition Corner" and "Gallybird," and Stark Young's "So Red the Rose" to make the choosing a bit more difficult.

* * *

Does your friend like portraits in words? Give him ('him' will mean 'him' and 'her' from now on) Belloc's "Cromwell," Sargent's "Thomas More," Walsh's "Isabella of Spain," Yeo's "Don John of Austria." And then, since Saints are people, there are Curtayne's "St. Catherine of Siena," and Gheon's "The Secret of the Little Flower," and Violet Clifton's strikingly beautiful play about St. Elizabeth of Hungary called "Sanctity."

* * *

What about those very discriminating friends of the cap and gown and black tassel? Philosophy glows with beauty in Alfred Noyes' "The Unknown God." History is given perspective in Christopher Dawson's "Progress and Religion," and the Middle Ages are not dark in his "Medieval Religion." Science is shown its proper field in Dr. Fulton Sheen's "The Philosophy of Science" . . . And if your university friend has been doing some yeasty reading of recent sceptics rather blandly regrets the passing of his faith, do him a service by giving him Arnold Lunn's "The Flight from Reason" or the same author's "Now I See." Mr. Lunn is one of the wittiest of living writers on serious subjects.

* * *

Nor need you be at a loss for books to give your sick friend. One ideal book is Fr. Roche's "Bedside Book of Saints": its fine little chapters discuss such interesting topics as "The Joy of the Saints," "The Wit and Humor of the Saints," "The Peace of the Saints," "The Saints of the Bedside." It will console your sick friend to find out how sickness can be allied to holiness. Then too, since holiness and humour have always been on good terms, your sick friend will bless you for the humorous holiness of Fr. Feeney's "Fish on Friday": it's brighter than a vase of marigolds.

Here is a miscellaneous shelf on which there should be some title to interest your priest friend (or bishop friend, if you are so blessed): "The Son of God" by Karl Adam; "A History of the Church" by Philip Hughes; "The Life of the Church" by Pierre Rousselot, "Stages on the Road" and "Saga of Saints" by Sigrid Undset, "Judaism, Christianity, Germany" by Cardinal Faulaber; "The Catholic Church in Action" by Michael Williams; "Religion and Leadership" by Daniel Lord, S. J. (a fine book for sermon and lecture outlines). Of course, a priest, or even a bishop, to say nothing of a cardinal, will enjoy the other books listed above, if you care to choose from them.

And have we forgotten the nuns? Like the good wine, they keep well until the last. Don't feel that you must associate convent life entirely with missals and breviaries. Outside of the contemplative orders, convent rules will permit the reading of most of the books here listed.

All these can be obtained through your Catholic book store.

P. S. I forgot that, if your friend is a movie star, you might give her the Autobiography of St. Teresa.

CATHOLIC EVIDENCE LIBRARY

PLACE—Lobby of Columbus Civic Centre Building, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester, N. Y.

HOURS — Afternoon — 3:30 to 5:30; Evening—7 to 9:30. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

DAILY RENTAL—One cent for each book.

CHRISTIANITY AND PEACE

"May they all unite in the peace of Christ and for the peace of Christ in a full concord of thoughts and emotions, of desires and prayers, of deeds and words—the spoken word, the written, the printed word—and then an atmosphere of genuine peace, warming and beneficient, will envelop all the world."—Pope Pius XI.

Holiness consists not in doing uncommon things, but in doing all common things with an uncommon fervor.—Cardinal Manning.

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Few souls understand what God would work in them, if they put themselves completely into His hands and let His grace act.

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