

Catholic History

It has been charged that in the Catholic districts the relatives of such persons keep the suicide secret. However, considering the carelessness with which every case of an unnatural death is investigated in Switzerland, such an explanation is not very plausible.

It is significant that suicide has been almost an unknown factor in Catholic countries. This is directly attributable to the teaching of the Catholic Church concerning the morality of suicide.

The Church teaches that such action, perpetrated without God's consent constitutes a grave injustice towards Him. To destroy a thing is to destroy it as an absolute master and to act as one having full and independent dominion over his life, since to be an owner one must be superior to his property.

Wholly different reasons have been advanced to explain this frequency of suicide. It does not depend on any one particular cause, but rather on a multitude of factors. The social and economic situation, the feverish pursuit of happiness often ending in bitter deceptions, intense stimulation of sexual life, intellectual overwork, sensational news stories, influence of heredity, the ravages of alcoholism, all these contribute.

Statistics prove that the proportion of suicides in Protestant countries is greater than that in Catholic countries, and that the increase in suicides keeps step with the de-Christianization of a country. France presents a painful example paraded in the systematic de-Christianization of a country.

Catholic History

The 15th annual meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association was held in New York City, N. Y., on December 29 and 30, 1934.

No student of American history can fully know his country and remain unacquainted with such history. The student who has closed doors in the history of humanity is the knowledge of what the Catholic Church is, and what it does, what its life through the centuries has been, and what will be for the future.

Through that arrangement and the generous assistance of the Endowment, the Vatican Library, a house of learning and a place of great beauty, to all students of history throughout the world. The Holy Father is himself a keen student and well known among scholars for his treatises, entitled *Peasants in History*.

The progress of the and every nation is due in great part to the intelligent study of the history of those who have gone before. It is a way to the future, and a way to the past.

Only what we have wrought into our character during life can we take away with us.—Henry Van Dyke

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

Catholic Facts But Little Known

By M. J. MURRAY



This impressive painting of CHRIST THE WORKINGMAN, appealing to different races over many ages, adorns the walls of the International Labor Bureau at Geneva. It was painted by a French artist, MAURICE DENIS.

THE PAPAL STABLES HAVE BEEN FINALLY CLOSED DOWN. The Pope & Cardinals now use MOTOR-CARS exclusively.

THE WEDDING is derived from the Anglo-Saxon WED-meeting-a pledge. THIS REFERRED TO THE "PLEDGE" WHICH A BRIDE-GROOM GAVE HIS BRIDE, i.e. THE RING.

THE BUDGET OF GREAT BRITAIN EACH YEAR INCURS THE LOSS OF 18.3.6 FOR A PREACHER. A national gift going back to Godwin's times.

THE PRIESTS' CASSOCK is a monogram measuring dress fabric, is but a survival of the times when all men wore skirtsed as so many do in India and China to this day.

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Diocesan Recordings

CHILD LABOR AMENDMENT About ten years ago when we first attended a meeting of the Rochester Branch, Catholic Central Verein of America, that organization was putting itself on record as opposed to the proposed amendment.

AFTER EIGHTEEN YEARS The present law should not be amended. It is a long lapse of time, but in the meantime the law has been amended.

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Spiritual Thoughts

Catholic Action Nothing New There is not a need of the Catholic Action, which the Church has not considered, there is a need of social and charitable action.

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THE LIBRARY SIGN POST

The objects of the library are to collect, preserve, and make available to the public the books, manuscripts, and other objects of historical and scientific interest.

The French writer, Henri Ghéon, was one of those who saw deeper into the matter. He saw a long, hard resistance to the appeal, he reasoned with himself that the sleep and range and vitality of the movement in the Little Flower cannot be explained merely by the eugenic statistics and the sentimental prayers.

She had learned to control any movement that would draw attention to herself; she would not wipe the sweat from her face, rub her hands together, drag her feet or show any other sign of fatigue, so that no one should see that she was hot or cold, or tired, or ill; she could completely control her tears, and smile or laugh when she felt inclined to cry. She seemed to be the cheerfulness.

CATHOLIC EVIDENCE

IF YOU WERE TO GO TO MASS... The objects of the library are to collect, preserve, and make available to the public the books, manuscripts, and other objects of historical and scientific interest.

Within the next two weeks Henri Ghéon's extraordinary book will be ready for Library use. I hope it will find many readers (it deserves them), and will make many converts to the Little Flower (she deserves them).