

Courier

ious people want far more. They want honest pictures, sincere pictures, great pictures. They want freedom for the motion picture art to develop in the service of all the people. They want America a good name abroad, protected and enhanced, and no longer defended. They want the local exhibitor freed from the block-booking system so that he may choose his pictures in accordance with the wishes of his clientele. They want the exhibitors to be THE ALLIES, NOT THE ENEMIES OF THE HOME, THE SCHOOL and the CHURCH. They want their cooperation in the task of building a better country and a better world.

He concludes with five recommendations as to how the public can secure such pictures: 1. Continued patronage of the best. 2. Box office boycott through the Legion of Decency. 3. Public education through such agencies as the Motion Picture Research Council. 4. Legislation to break the block-booking and blind-selling system. 5. A law giving power to the State Department to withhold from foreign circulation those pictures that might get America into trouble or defame her national reputation.

It is to be noted that there are producers who are taking their own small share of the Legion of Decency law, and before attempting the production of "obscene" pictures, the Legion of Decency has begun its campaign.

FORMATION — NOT INFORMATION

There is a broadened vision, intellectual development and development of the heart, mind and will, as well, but it does not mean masses of information.

The statement was the epitome of an address given by Rev. Dr. William H. McCracken, at an Open Forum at Webster College, St. Louis.

He said that Americans are apt to forget that the struggle in Europe is not a struggle between the cultures of European countries. It is a struggle between the cultures of the world. The most part, have the highest level of education in our schools. However, as the speaker said, it does not follow that because in America we have more young men and women in colleges and universities than in any other country in the world, we must be more educated.

Information, not information, that makes a difference. Every educated person should be able to do something. Culture means a great deal more than that. Culture means a standard of taste and ability to solve the problems of life.

The speaker of culture is one that Catholics in America might well consider. We are, perhaps, too apt to associate the term with illness and mental well-being. It is true that culture, to an extent, presupposes leisure. To view the world, historically, it must be remembered that it was not the wealthy and cultured from other countries who came to our shores, but the poor and less educated.

But the Catholic, however humble his formal education may be, has a heritage of culture. It was the Catholic Church that preserved for posterity the literature and art and architecture of the Roman Empire. It was the Catholic Church that took in hand the Huns and Vandals and other devastating races which threatened to overthrow civilization and made them the modern nations of Europe, now so much admired for their progress and culture. It is to the Catholic Church that the world is indebted for the development and progress in science, the priceless art treasures of the Middle Ages, the glorious cathedrals scattered throughout Europe, the foundation of such Universities as Cambridge and Oxford and the University of Paris.

And now it may be said that no body of people in the history of the world has advanced so fast and so far in cultural development as the immigrants from Catholic countries. No other class of people in America has so many institutions of higher education nor so many privately supported secondary schools as the descendants of those immigrants. To the heritage of culture which is theirs by birth, they have added formal Catholic training. And Catholic education is synonymous with culture, because it means the harmonious development of the physical, intellectual and moral capabilities.

CONSCIENCE AND THE LAW By unanimous decision, the Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that a land-grant college may oblige its students to take instruction in military science. From the technical correctness of this ruling, there is no room for dissent. But we must take serious exception to several statements contained in the opinion, read by Mr. Justice Butler. These conclusions rest on the theory of the supremacy of the State over the rights of conscience. They make no attempt to effect a reconciliation of conflicting rights, but simply set aside the rights of conscience alleged by the individual. In that sense, they are repugnant to Christian philosophy, and out of harmony with the spirit of the Constitution. We must obey God rather than man; and if rights of conscience can be set aside in war, they are not rights but mere concessions revoked by the government. It is impossible to maintain that this decision affirms the supremacy of the government in time of war to the exclusion of those of conscience.

It is obviously a scatterbrained thing to say that one religion is as good as another. When people say that, they say something more fearful than they really mean. Namely, that the truth makes no difference. Pilate's question, "What is truth?" is on their lips, and like Pilate, they are impatient of the answer. Or it may be that some of them are desirous enough of finding the truth but give it up as a hopeless search, and then to ease their minds they do violence against their own consciences, saying that one's belief is of no consequence. Then, too, there are those who see where the truth is to be found, but because they fear the consequences of accepting it, they take comfortable refuge in the same pitiable compromise.

If God had never revealed Himself to man, it would then be true to say that religious truth would be far less defensible than it now is. But what high treason it is that, after God has carefully revealed Himself to man, and has deposited that revelation in the keeping of a commissioned authority, men should still act and talk as if religious truth were no more than a matter of personal opinion! Truth is truth, as open and real as sunlight, and it is for us to come out of the darkness into the light. God has not left us to find our own way with such false lights as "conscience," "moral sense," "feeling," and "reason." He has himself set us on our way with the brightness of His truth. He has shown us the way by His own example. He has called us into the light, and of whom should we be afraid? He has shown us the way in darkness and the darkness did not consist of it.

Divine truth is a centre, a unity, a unity which is the very heart of the universe. It is the light which is the life-giving power of the universe. It is the light which is the life-giving power of the universe. It is the light which is the life-giving power of the universe.

Catholic Education

The growing concern of the leaders of secular education in America today over the disappearance of religion from the curriculum and the spirit of secular educational institutions is given voice by Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of the Columbian University, in his annual report to the trustees of that institution. "The separation of church and state," Dr. Butler said, "is fundamental in our American political order, but so far as religious principle has been so far departed from as to put the whole force and influence of the tax-supported school on the side of one element of religion, the result is that which is pagan and believed in as religion, whatsoever." The inevitable menace to civil society resulting from the exclusion of religion from education so frequently alluded to by the Holy Father is a serious one. For that theological thus becomes increasingly imminent. To separate religion from education is to undermine the foundation of education and with it the structure of society. The gravity of the situation in America today is given added emphasis by Dr. Butler who says: "From the viewpoint of sound educational principle, it is a serious mistake to assume that the religious inheritance of the race is an essential part of the history of that civilization, beyond a knowledge of which it is the duty of education to lead youth from generation to generation."

Without religion the true purpose of education is lost. The purpose of American education is indistinguishable in the mass of the people from the purpose of the atheistic, modern educators. Materialism, individualism, naturalism, and other so-called "isms" all endeavor to separate religion and promise a new freedom in education.

The Catholic Church alone has withstood this crushing tide of "isms" which have battered down the true purpose of education. The aim of Catholic education is, and always has been, as the Holy Father says, "to cooperate with divine grace in forming the true and perfect character of the individual."

The parochial schools are an exemplification of this aim. The Catholic Church has not fallen behind in the effectiveness of its religious education, as Dr. Butler states, "because in the last resort, because in the parochial schools, religion is not merely an extrinsic factor. It is the very atmosphere of the instruction."

The Catholics of Rochester are fortunate in their parochial school system. The educational institutions in the diocese of Rochester are monuments of education, whose foresighted, careful planning and numerous sacrifices brought them into existence. The example set by Bishop McQuaid in his zeal for Catholic education has been closely followed by his successors.

The sacrifice which the burden of supporting two school systems has placed upon the laity becomes insignificant in the light of the tremendous advantages which are theirs. The fact, stated by Dr. Butler, that "religious knowledge, together with religious interest, is

STRANGE BUT TRUE Catholic Facts But Little Known

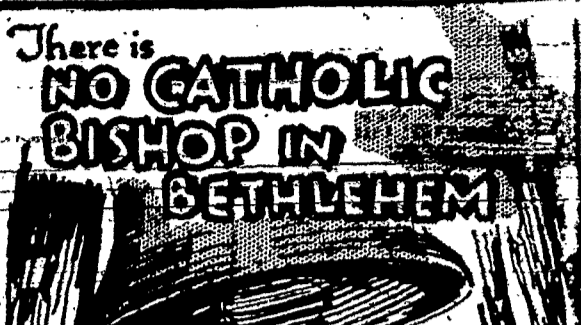
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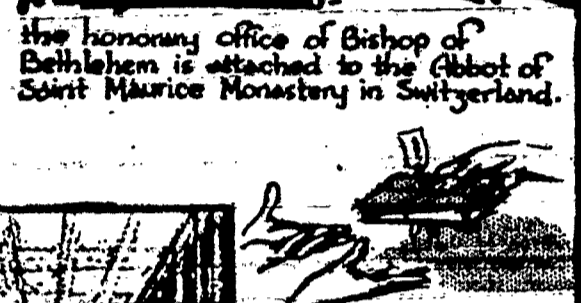
Although the "ZAY" State does not recognize other religions, it in France a recent French government authorized the issue of an appropriate postage stamp for the Occupied Territory of the Saar. The stamp depicted the BUCKLE UP OF OUR LADY AND HER SON WHICH IS A PILGRIMAGE PLACE AND HAS A HISTORY GOING BACK TO THE 13TH CENTURY.

Holy is to be found where it is to be found. Where it is to be found, it is to be found. Where it is to be found, it is to be found.

The ceiling of Saint Mary Major's Basilica in Rome was painted by the first pope to be crowned in Rome by the Spanish nobles.



There is NO CATHOLIC BISHOP IN BETHLEHEM. The honorary office of Bishop of Bethlehem is attached to the Abbot of Saint Maurice Monastery in Switzerland.



EPIPHANY AND OF CHRISTMAS IS THE TIME OF GIFT-GIVING IN SPAIN AND SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES. Thus the Gifts of the Magi are commemorated at the correct period.

CATHOLIC EVIDENCE LIBRARY PLACE—Lobby of Columbus Civic Centre Building, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester, N. Y. HOURS—Afternoon—3 to 5:30 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Evening—7:30 to 9:30 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. DAILY RENTALS—Five cent for each book.

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Diocesan Recordings

STILL NEEDED Walter Winchell in his syndicated column reports that a new movie on the blackball lists is now in its third week on Broadway. In making the Legion of Decency a permanent organization the Bishops of the United States knew that war upon unclean film entertainment must be continuous until such a picture as reported does not draw enough paid customers to meet expenses.

TWO PICTURES With the Rotary-International convention set for Mexico City in June, leaders of Rotary are bringing skillfully designed word pictures of advantage of going to Mexico trying to allay fears those may have who desire to visit the republic to the south. When the situation of Jews in Germany became intense we doubt if any speakers cared to go among the Jewish people urging them to visit Germany. Why then do intelligent men seek to encourage Christians to go to a land where all that a Christian stands for has been suppressed? The Rotary speakers say that false propaganda is to blame for the erroneous picture we in the United States have of Mexico. News from authentic sources of the killing of five Catholics is not propaganda, it is fact. News of the expulsion or arrest of priests coming from reliable informants is fact. A letter appearing in America, Jesuit National Weekly Review, penned by one who is in Mexico and is an eye-witness of what is transpiring provides the other and unpleasant picture of oppression that no red-headed lover of liberty can construe as anything but religious intolerance.

"The Ave Maria" in its current issue says "Everybody knows what is going on in Mexico. As a matter of fact that tyrannical government has been violating the very rights for which Rotary itself professes to stand. Ministers of religion have been exiled and Church property confiscated without due process of law. Citizens in good standing have been denied the most primitive rights of religious worship in a word, the government of Mexico has publicly and avowedly started upon an organized campaign to eradicate all religious influence particularly upon the minds of children."

This is no propaganda to divert tourists' dollars from Mexico to California and Florida. It affords an excellent reason for joining the Christian membership of Rotary to a realization that the international gathering in Mexico City will mean. Those in charge of the Mexican Government will certainly feel that approval is given their mode of government if such a well recognized organization as Rotary International is their guest.

MAGNIFICENT HOLLAND When voicing our praises for those who have taken their religion seriously, we must pronounce with special emphasis the name of the Catholics of Holland. These good people have not only upheld the world by the stability of their faith in the home country, but their zeal has just about embraced the entire world. Although the Catholics of Holland number less than one per cent of the population of the entire Church, this little group can boast over ten per cent of the entire missionary enlistments of the Church. What a record of conversions will be written in the annals of Heaven!—Ave Maria.

KEEPING TRACK OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION in Washington and Albany will affect Catholics should provide any steady state in the diocese with enough to do.

STATISTICS showing that deaths are exceeding births do not provide a hopeful outlook. The funeral director, of course, will continue to be busy but as fewer children come into the world, stores will sell less baby carriages and cereals, schools will have less pupils and book stores less sales, so on through life with business decreasing until the funeral director is the only one left in business. Yet there are organizations sponsoring birth control movements.

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CANA Mother, who of another's need, Didst quite forget That time and place were not as yet. Thou, who didst not despise The shame that trembled in another's eyes— To thee we plead That thou our daily cares may heed. Dreading not Our lowly lot Oh for us intercede To Him, Who showered whisp'ed words of thine With water, changed to unsurpassed wine. City Esmond, in "Irish Catholic."

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CATHOLIC EVIDENCE

HOW 25,000 PRIESTS WOULD ANSWER

Every so often someone sends a religious questionnaire to a group of Protestant clergymen. The results have shown in recent years so great a diversity of belief of basic Christian principles even among those of the same denomination, that the Catholic can't help but wonder how his Protestant friend can know for sure what to believe and whom to follow.

It is unlikely that such a questionnaire will ever be sent to the 25,000 Catholic priests in this country, but should such occur there would be 25,000 "yeses" to all such questions as "Is there a personal God?", "Is the soul immortal?", "Is there a heaven and a hell?", "Is Jesus Christ God?", "Was He born of a virgin?", "Did He perform miracles?", "Did He redeem mankind?", "Did He rise from the dead?"

The Protestant may take satisfaction in feeling that he may search for God's truths with a translated bible and an individual brain. But the satisfaction of the Catholic is greater, we believe, for he is convinced that his way

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