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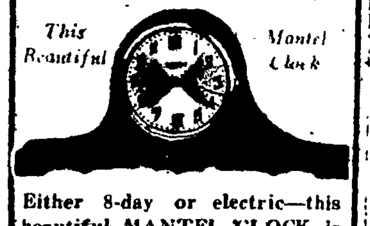

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World Ills Challenge To Action, Prelate Tells NCCW at Ithaca

(Address given by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph S. Cameron, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, Rochester, at quarterly meeting, Board of Directors, Rochester Diocesan Council, National Council of Catholic Women held in Ithaca, New York, Saturday, May 4.)

'THE PRESENT CRISIS'

The condition of the world today makes people serious-mindd. The greater part of mankind is suffering, making enormous sacrifices, being deprived of ordinary comfort and, in counless instances, even of the necessities of life. in countless instances, even of the necessities of life.

As an aftermath of the World War, a plague of trouble has settled upon the hearts of men. Markets have been closed, factories have become idle, unemployment has stalked the streets of all our cities, bread lines ever extending and expanding, homes lost, fortunes gone and depression over all. To say these things is to state the obvious. Hope, however, springs eternal in the human breast. The clouds seem to be lifting. Patience, courage and confidence are now the watchwords. Sincerely we trust that the worst has passed, confidently we hope that we approach the dawn of peace and plenty.

Spiritual Values Down

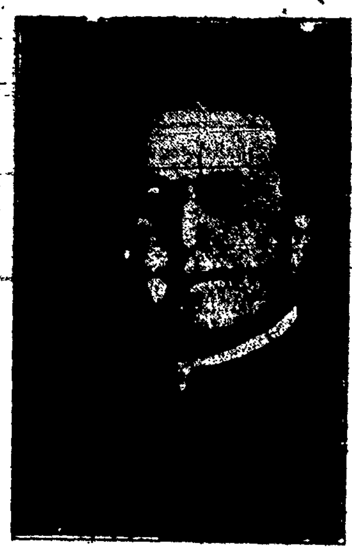
Not only, however, have we suffered the stings of an outrageous fortune in regard to our material welfare, but the things of the spirit have suffered as well. The candid observer has become alarmed over the ever-increasing depression of spiritual values. Unfortunately, in these days of skepticism, doubt and rank denial, nothing goes unchallenged. Men are blasting at the Rock of Ages, the very fabric of morality is being threatened. Not even the Decalogue has escaped attack. Until rather recent years, everybody, presumably, accepted the Ten Commandments as the ultimate and irrefragable basis of morality. Whatever theological differences might divide Christians from one another or from non-Christians, it was supposed that there could be no controversy about the authority and binding power of the Commandments. The moral code of Mt Siani became the expression of the highest human wisdom and accepted everywhere as indispensable to morality.

How things are changing. Witness the crime wave which, during the past few years, has threatened the very stability of organized government. And note particularly the youthful ages of those engaged in acts of violence against society. This is the result largely of a false modern phillsophy This perversion reflects itself in regard to the most sacred relationships of life No longer is the home, in many instances, the sacred shrine of pure affection but just another boarding house Divorce is running rampant through the land and courts innumerable, upon flimsy pretext, are grinding out decrees of nullity. Those in high places, for the most part, are the worst offenders.

Scores False Heroes

Men and women whose names have caught the public fancy think lightly, in so many instances, of the sanctity of the marriage bond. Celebrities on stage and screen, these whose art has fascinated the millions, whose fan mail may be answered only through the employment of many secretaries, whose autographed pictures are sought by the youth of the land, who are glorified and almost deified by sickly sentiment and adulation — to them not one divorce or two but sometimes more denotes the sensuality of the times in which we live These are our heroes and our heroines. Hollywood enjoys the spotlight but Hollywood has become the painted sepulchre, fair without but within, filled with rottenness and dead men's bones. The private lives of so many of our stars have become a scandal and a shame Screen attractions became so vile that a Legion of Decency was necessary to cleanse the Augean stable. Our children and our youth have been fed upon the husks of swine, and still we wonder Much of our modern day literature is of the kind that makes the angels weep and the best seller and popular magazine of today once would have brought the blush of shame to the cheek of innocence.

N. C. C. W. Speaker



Rt. Rev. Msgr. J. S. Cameron

So insidious has been the attack against morality that the very sanctuary of the family life of the nation has become imperilled. Once it was a pride and a joy to bring children into the world for the honor and glory of God. But today foul contraceptive practices have cast a blight upon the sanctity of the marriage bond and have made the matrimonial vows a thing of laughter and of ridicule. The laws of God have been denied and the laws of nature are being thwarted. Many people now hold that there is no value in faith and no virtue in chastity. The moral code, they assert, has collapsed, belief in religion has become passe, and the unfettered soul, free from conventions and restrictions, looks complacently and serenely to the liberty of a newer license.

As a nation we have gone ultra-modern, religion is no longer appropriate for our sophisticated civilization. Let everyone be a law unto himself. With many it is considered bad form to go to church, to pray, or in any way to be considered religious. By some twist of the mind or flaw of the conscience, they reject the Voice of God, they have succumbed to bald and blatant infidelity. Of a population of nearly 130 millions in our country, how pitifully small is the number of those affiliated with any denomination, and of that small number how smaller still are those who practice actively any faith.

In matters of religion outside the Catholic Church everything is in the state of flux. There is little or no definiteness, little or no certainty Doctrines and positive teachings are being no longer insisted upon. A laissez faire attitude toward creeds has usurped the place of dogmatic requirement. It makes no difference what you believe provided you live a good life. A thin veneer of respectability and culture will draw you occasionally to your place in church, but a sense of responsibility towards God hardly falls within the range of things. And in the few instances where positive religion is considered necessary, how futile are the attempts to impose it. What is lacking is the principle of authority

Rome Burns

In non-Catholic Christianity, positive doctrines are in a state of confusion and as a result there has arisen, of late, a tendency to discredit all revealed religion as an authorized and divinely appointed institution. It is no longer a difference in religious belief; it is an attack upon religion itself. The very foundations are endangered, the very fabric is being torn apart. In fact, the wilful minority in certain countries would, by force, impose their will that religion is nothing but the "opiate of the people" and a fetish now obsolete Witness Russia today where religion has been officially abolished, where the very existence of God is denied, where vicious passions have been so freely let loose that the law of the jungle prevails. The revealed truths of Christianity are being denied today in Germany and Spain, but more especially right at our doors in Mexico. And we sit complacently by Like Nero, we fiddle while Rome burns.

Communism is in the saddle and naturally the Catholic Church is the especial object of attack. This is the one institution in the world which, with certain authority, stands up and cries, "Thou shalt not." Her every teaching runs counter to the proposals of a pagan state Away with her, therefore, crucify her. And while we sit idly by millions of our fellow Catholics are being nailed to the Cross. Outrages are being committed in the land south of the Rio Grande, yet the resolution of Senator Borah is gathering dust in the archives of the Department of State because our Government, the professed champion of neighborliness, seems reluctant to investigate this terrible persecution and by its friendly offices stop the carnage and the slaughter Professed atheists and anti-clericals exchange the sly smile and knowing wink while President Cardenas blandly states that there is no persecution in Mexico. And how strangely silent has been the American Press up until quite recently. Murder, however, will out and Truth cannot be strangled. All that is needed is a recital of the facts — conditions are worse in Mexico today than in Soviet Russia.

Conditions In Mexico

The Mexican constitution of 1917, set up by professed atheists, declares that the Catholic Church is no longer a legal entity; it cannot inherit property; it cannot collect funds; it has no corporate standing. All church holdings have been confiscated, among them churches, rectories, convents, schools, colleges, academies, seminaries; all charitable and religious institutions. Not only that, but any house in which a Bishop or priest may be harbored is forfeit to the State. Every religious society has been dissolved. Trial by jury, freedom of the press, of assemblage, of education have been denied Catholics. No structure may be built for religious purposes.

With the exception of two or three, the Bishops of Mexico have been banished. Of the 28 states of Mexico (besides the Federal district and the territory of lower California) 14 are entirely without priests because all priests have been expelled from them. In the other districts [illegible] 15 million people, 90 per cent of whom are Catholics. Since the violent persecution of 1926 over 300 priests have been murdered by the Government. How many of the Catholic laity have been done to death, God only knows, but their number, since the year 1929, approaches 5,000. No Bishop or priest, unless a native of Mexico, is tolerated in that country, and from them the right of citizenship has been withdrawn. As seminaries are forbidden, there is no legal possibility to provide for a future clergy. And still there is no persecution in Mexico.

New Low In Teaching

All religious teaching orders, whether of priests or Sisters, have been suppressed In governmental schools the children are taught to regard religion as a fetish. As soon as they arrive at school they are obliged to greet their teachers with the salute, "There is no God," and the teacher responds, "No, children, there is no God; there never has been a God; and there never will be a God." During the four years of his governorship of Tobasco, General Canabal drove every priest out of the state. To show his hatred of Christianity he named his three boys, Lenin, Lucifer, and Satan. And at a public exhibition of live stock he named a donkey Christ, and a blodded cow the Blessed Virgin Mary. He introduced sex education into the primary schools and had it taugh in a manner too obscene and too revolting to tell. Among other things he made it obligatory for boys and girls to disrobe in school in the presence of one another for the study of sex. How monstrous! Can degradation sink to lower depths? Just last year, 1934, at Guadalajara, General Calles gave expression to this pronouncement: "We must now enter and take possession of the consciences of the children because they belong and should belong to the Revolution." To make sure that their nefarious ends may be obtained, all teachers must make an explicit pledge in which they promise to renounce any and every religion; they must swear on oath that they will never practice any religion or devotion; that they will teach that God is a myth and prayer useless.

Truly, at our southern borders there is a conflagration which sooner or later will spread into this country unless adequate measures be taken to safeguard ourselves against Communism and its agents.

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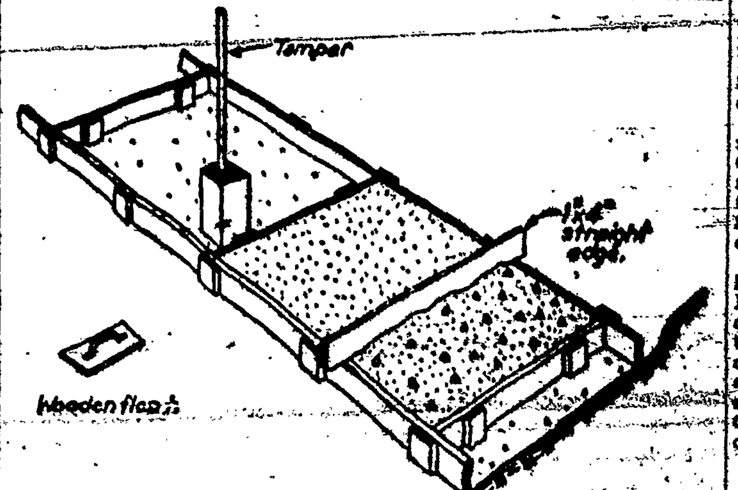

SIDEWALKS, PAVEMENTS AND FLOORS

SIDEWALKS around the farmhouse are a necessity. They keep the mud out of the house, protect floors and rugs, making it easier to keep the house in order. Concrete walks between the different farm buildings are much appreciated in wet weather and are frequently used as runways for light farm conveyances.

Sidewalks should always rest on a firm base of well-drained ground that has been well compacted, or on a sub-base of well-compacted, clean, coarse gravel or clean cinders.

Thickness of walks may vary from 4 to 6 inches. If used only as a walk, 4 inches is generally thick enough; but if wagons or heavy vehicles are likely to drive over the concrete, 6 inches is the minimum thickness.

Usually two by fours are used for side forms, being held in place by stakes driven along the outside.

To make sure that water will drain off the walk should be sloped toward one side. A pitch of ¼ inch to ½ inch is satisfactory for a walk 3 feet wide.

For convenience in building and to provide for expansion and contraction of joints, walks should be divided at 4 to 6 feet intervals with partition strips placed at right angles to the side form.

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Catholic Labor Paper Distributed on May Day By St. Andrews Students

As part of a program of militant Catholic Action, thirty of the students of St. Andrew's Preparatory Seminary distributed 2,500 copies of Catholic Worker on May Day of this year. The students chose the noon hour as the best time and centers labor activity as the best place for propagating Catholic teaching on economic problems; the Labor Lyceum, Salvation Army Hotel, Times Square, the MacSweeney Hotel, and the entire downtown section.

Those who attended the mass meeting in honor of May Day in Convention Hall found at 4:30 p. m. that in order to leave the hall they had to "run the gauntlet" of Seminarians distributing the Catholic Worker.

The Catholic Worker, a Catholic labor newspaper issued monthly in New York City, is one of the phenomena of present-day Catholic Action. The subscription rate is one cent per copy. Free copies, however, may be obtained at the Catholic Evidence Library, Columbus Civic Center Building upon request.

Mrs. Brown: Did you name the baby after his father?

Mrs. Jones: No, we named him Will, as a hint to his rich Uncle George.

Detroit Lake Cruise Will Include Visit To Famous Shrine

A special $15.00 all-expense cruise to Detroit to include a visit and an opportunity to hear Mass at Father Coughlin's Shrine of the Little Flower, Royal Oak, Michigan, is announced by John F. Condon, passenger traffic manager, Great Lakes Transit Corporation, Buffalo, for June 22.

The cruise will be made on the palatial Great Lakes S. S. Juniata. The schedule as announced provides for no loss of time. Passengers may leave Rochester before noon on Saturday, June 22, connecting with the S. S. Juniata and leave Buffalo, 2 p. m. E. S. T., on June 22, returning to Buffalo 8 a. m. E. S. T. Monday, June 24.

All meals, stateroom accommodations for both nights and motor coach trip to and from the Shrine will be $15.00.

The cruise covers 870 miles. The motor coach tour of Detroit will include besides the Shrine of the Little Flower, trips to Belle Isle and other points of interest in Detroit.

An orchestra plays each night on the boat and there is a hostess to arrange ship's games, parties and amusements.

Mass Meeting to Mark Encyclicals Anniversary At St. Joseph's Hall

Observance of the issuance anniversary of Pope Leo's Encyclical, "On the Condition of Labor," and Pope Pius' "Reconstruction of the Social Order," will take place at a public mass meeting to be held under the auspices of the Rochester Branches, Catholic Central Verein of America and National Catholic Women's Union in St. Joseph's Hall, Franklin Street, Sunday afternoon May 19 at 4 o'clock.

Speakers for the occasion which is to make an annual event will be the Rev. Benedict Ehmann of St. Andrew's Seminary faculty and former County Judge Philip H. Donnelly. Because of growing interest in the pronouncements of the Holy Fathers, the societies are inviting the public to hear the addresses

A joint meeting of the two organizations sponsoring the mass meeting will be held in the usual meeting rooms at 3 o'clock. At the conclusion of the meeting, members will go to the larger hall for the mass meeting

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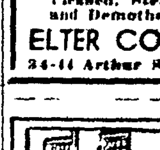

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