

Catholic Courier

NOVEMBER 7, 1935 No. 45

Published by the Diocese of Rochester with the approval of the Most Reverend Archbishop Edward Mooney, Bishop of Rochester.

MANAGING EDITOR: M. J. MURPHY; EDITOR: J. J. MURPHY; NEWS EDITOR: J. J. MURPHY; BUSINESS MANAGER: J. J. MURPHY.

Subscription rates: Single copies 10c; 6 months \$5.00; 1 year \$10.00.

Published by the Diocese of Rochester, 100 West Broadway, Rochester, N. Y.

Editorial: The Catholic Courier is a non-political, non-sectarian publication.

Advertisements: Rates on application.

Subscription: Send your subscription orders to the publisher.

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quired his best efforts. There is a distinct challenge to all our educational institutions, higher and lower, to make of the process of education a vital, vigorous thing, constantly leading the learner to larger achievements which he can honestly feel are the results of his own initiative and effort.

Reference has already been made in these columns to the matter of capacity. It looms big before Dr. Smith. "The nicest problem that confronts a teacher is that of finding exactly the burden which a child can carry. To give him a burden beyond his strength is matched as an evil by failing to give him a burden that is equal to his strength."

In all this program, there is, continued Dr. Smith, "a fundamental challenge to help the individual to carry to the full his own responsibility for his education. Matching that there must be, of course, a clear recognition that education is not a mass affair. There is no such thing as an average child. Whatever is possible in other fields by way of regimentation, there is no place in education for any such process."

To speak of education as having for its primary purpose the preparation of the child for a class of another year or for an institution that he hopes to enter later, may do great harm. The true ideal of education is based not on preparation, but on growth or development, and that this growth or development may not be retarded but assisted, "a knowledge of the characteristics, the temperament, the potentiality of each child to be educated" is essential.

What should give the teacher "a great deal of concern is as to whether or not the environment of the school, the courses she teaches, and her methods of instruction are helping the children, day by day, to grow in their physical, mental, moral and spiritual stature."

Dr. Smith has not overlooked what has been called the will-to-community, often forgotten in stressing the will to power of the individual. "Our schools must not neglect the fact that the child is a social being," he said. "They must not forget that he must be trained in certain characteristics which will help him to be a worthy member of society. They must not fail to develop the characteristics of good will and co-operation, nor must they fail to endow him with a sense of justice."

It is to be noted that Dr. Smith deemed his remarks fitted for an audience of trained, experienced teachers. They will be conned and possibly not without profit not only by teachers but also by parents and all others concerned with the care of youth.

JOHN E. MASSETH

TIMELY

Maybe you abhor firebrands. Maybe when you think of this or that public figure you think of firebrands. And you will have none of them.

Yet they have their place. At least, they can awake, arouse, when others might easily fail. They put the flaming finger on conditions that otherwise might easily escape you.

Said Major General Smedley D. Butler, October 18—

"If it were not for the League of Nations program, there would be only two nations involved right now—Great Britain and Italy—instead of more than 50."

And this, touching our participation in a European war—

"It takes a while to get the poor devils who have to do the dying worked up to it, but propaganda can do the trick—just as it did in 1916 and 1917. We voted for peace when we elected Wilson for a second term, but we went to war four months later."

The Hearst papers remind Secretary of State Hull that "nobody made him saviour of the world," and that moral plaudits from European nations sound ridiculous to Americans in the light of their defaulted debt to us of "ten thousand million dollars."

Last Sunday Father Coughlin—firebrand or not, according to your viewpoint—reminded his radio audience of the statement of England's Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin, of October 26—

"If sanctions of the severest kind are imposed that will inevitably lead to blockade... I would never sanction this country going into a blockade (of Italy) unless I was sure beforehand of the attitude of the United States."

Blockades mean war.

Father Coughlin might also have pertinently recalled Prime Minister Baldwin's statement of October 19, to the effect that not even the United States is safe from war. All the internationalists are saying the same thing. After a while they'll have us believing it. And then what?

Propaganda has appeared. This country is being flooded with propaganda. You'll find plenty of evidence of this in the metropolitan press and other like mediums all the way down to the pulp magazines. You will also get it from the radio, from forums, from platform and pulpits.

"United States Owe Duty To League," "United States Urged to Assist Oil Embargo On Italy," "Key To League Success Seen In United States Hands"—these headings and others of the kind are before us at this writing.

The build-up is under way. Once again we are being urged to pull European chestnuts out of the fire. Once again we are being urged to take on the soul-destroying functions of catapaws. J. E. M.

Discussion Study Club

PREPARATION OF STUDY CLUB LEADERS

By Rev. James J. Dancy

PART TWO

In the Catholic Summer Center at Stamford, N. Y. it was our purpose to awaken in the minds of some of the many well-qualified summer visitors, an ambition to take up and engage in this much needed work, especially in their own city parishes, always of course with the permission and, if possible, with the guidance of their own pastor.

My first and, I suppose, dominant thought, in the preparation of Study Club leaders is to make the person selected, because of the proper qualities and circumstances, truly conscious of his opportunity.

One of the first efforts we made in Stamford was to shake off from prospective leaders any possible conventionalism or any of that formalism which enervates and deadens so many of our contemporary Catholics, especially in urban centers, and, insofar as we could, to have them put away all unqualified prejudices and to resolve to take their proper places in the Church Militant.

Personally I don't believe we can over-emphasize the unquestioned need of study and discussion among the adult Catholics. If we are to succeed even a little in "putting in the mind of the Church into the mind of the world," certainly to make a Catholic religious study club leader, we must first be interested, an informed and an awakened Catholic.

The strongest and I think, well worth quoting statement that I have come across on the whole now popular in the study club work, especially with its religious implications, did not emanate from a Catholic at all, but was delivered by Dr. Luther A. Wright, Dean of Yale Divinity School, who speaking in the New Jersey Synod of the Presbyterian Church October 15, 1931, said: "The Christian adult education, mark that phrase, is the only thing that is needed in such a radical transformation that it warrants the name conversion." (New York, October 16, 1931.)

In my humble opinion, this is all very true, and, in fact, in discussing, to me the first and foremost essential in preparing a Study Club leader is the awakening, the realization of the need of this particular educational work.

This "gift of realization" is an anonymous author calls it, is the power which enables a man to see what he is looking at, to be what he is listening to, to feel what he is touching and to understand the little he knows. And it is a wonderful thing when a person thus endowed comes into real contact with God. It is in fact, conversion.

Personally, then, I am convinced that to prepare a leader for a Study Club well, we should intensify his own religious spirit, and arouse within him a true desire to know himself, and then to engage actively in the work of our Stamford directors happily called "social sanctification" for the last analysis that is what the spiritual and educational and religious work will approximate.

By way of the byman's retreat, earnestly preached and earnestly made, or by way of spiritual reading or the right ghostly counsel, the candidate for Study Club work should be led to understand firmly into greater and greater active membership in the Mystical Body of Christ, genuine, a ambitious for both personal and social betterment, and a true understanding of the very well-known of Catholic Action is the heart of incarnate Love offered in the all-potent sacrifice of the Mass—the Liturgical movement is the informing spirit, the very soul of the Active Apostolate.

"Orator Freres" for June last, has a paragraph, aptly and meaningful. "These, therefore, who would be apostles of Catholic Action must realize that the degree of success crowning their apostolate will be directly commensurate with the richness, the intensity and the stability of the liturgical life of grace which they possess. They must perceive that the very well-known of Catholic Action is the heart of incarnate Love offered in the all-potent sacrifice of the Mass—the Liturgical movement is the informing spirit, the very soul of the Active Apostolate."

I recognize that I have in my statement so far pictured the ideal Catholic layman or laywoman. I have done so purposely because I am doubtful of the work of the man who gives what he hasn't got. And as far as I am concerned, Study Club work in religious matters will be as dull and lifeless and as barren of real fruit as the Church militant unless over and above all else, the Study Club leader catches the temper and spirit of the tremendous battle in which the Church is engaged in this country today.

One good leader can lead a host to Christ.

(Part Three next week)

STRANGE BUT TRUE Catholic Facts But Little Known

By M. J. MURRAY

Illustrations and text for 'STRANGE BUT TRUE' including 'An age-old custom in the AUSTRIAN TYROL is to place lighted candles around the graves of departed friends on All Soul's Day', 'Guy de Fontgalland the holy Pisan boy whose cause of beatification is now proceeding at Rome', and 'STORYHURST COLLEGE, famous Jesuit Centre near Buckham, England, says its records back to A.D. 1500. It is the only building in the world to be lit by gas in 1811'.

Diocesan Recordings

"Believe Them Not" Paraphrasing Dr. DeCiccare's title for certain press dispatches carried in daily papers last week, which we have again in reporting news from Vatican City and caused much concern among Catholics and even non-Catholics as to the Holy Father's position on the Italy-Ethiopia question.

How many parents talk over the subject of Christian Doctrine with the children they have in school? This thought came to us after attending sessions of the National Catechetical Congress of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine just held in Rochester.

Once again the effort is being made to renew and get new subscriptions for the Columbus Youth Association on the organization for boys and girls in Columbus City.

Two important sets of resolutions appear in this issue. One set summarizes and records the results of deliberations during the National Catholic Rural Life Conference and the other contains the action taken by the Rochester Diocesan Council, National Council of Catholic Women.

Bringing the message of Christ to the man in the street is a task to progress. Latest information is that a Catholic Evidence Guild has been formed in Buffalo.

Beauty is truth, truth is beauty—Keats.

The true work of art is but a shadow of the divine perfection—Michelangelo.

Despair is vinegar from the wine of hope—Austin O'Malley, "Keystone of Thought."

The true humble soul ought to be delighted above all things when his humiliation is manifest, and not his humility—St. Bernard.

THE LIBRARY SIGN POST

Sometimes a printer's blunder is more momentous upon the original text. At least it was so in that week's Signpost. Referring to Father Bede Jarrett's book on marriage, I spoke of the course of true love. The printed copy appeared with the course of true love. And thereby hangs a tale indeed and portentous!

"Change" is derived from the Latin word for "sheet." That is what Jesus meant when He said, "He of good heart." So many of us are tempted to lose heart. If we keep our love for Jesus strong, our courage will not fail us.

A man of great mental and spiritual gifts recently said to me: "I don't see how few people have a real affection for God, even among those who are really pious and sincere."

I heard a similar problem expressed in much blunter fashion by a priest in a recent conversation. "What bugs me up is to see the condemnation which wobbly and weak-kneed Catholics show toward the Faith, how, outside the Church, there is such a deep respect for it among thinking men and women."

THE CATHOLIC EVIDENCE LIBRARY RECOMMENDS

THE WELL AND THE SHADOWS By Gilbert K Chesterton. The brilliant Catholic philosopher once more surveys the contemporary scene with masterful eye in his first book of religious and philosophical essays in six years.

THE BROTHERHOOD By Alessandro Manzoni. A beautiful translation of the classic Italian novel with its setting in the sixteenth-century Milan of St. Charles Borromeo.

FROM THE VASTY DEEP. By Marie Berthe-Lowande. This symbolic title gives the key to one of the most moving novels ever written on the phenomena of Spiritualism; good November reading.

CATHOLIC EVIDENCE LIBRARY HOURS—Aftersnoon—3:30 through to 9:00 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. PLACE—Lobby of Columbus City Centre Building, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester, N. Y. DAILY RENTAL—One cent for each book.

ALL SAINTS On the first day of November the Church directs the attention of her faithful children to the blessed ones who have found peace and rest. She pictures to our minds the glory and happiness of that unnumbered army of the elect who form the Church Triumphant; that vast company who have passed through this vale of tears and limbed at last in the utmost peak of the mountain of bliss.

ALL SAINTS Day is an evident one. What they have achieved, by the grace of God we can also achieve. If we are travelling the road of self-denial and bravely carrying our cross, we are surely approaching that City of God which All Saints' Day commemorates.

How many points do you get for a little slam? "How many points do you get for a little slam?"

truth and sweeping away with great gusto the shallow puddles that stagnate on the road of modern thought. Advancing age is not dulling his brain or wearying the vigorous use of his brilliant pen.

Of very special interest in Chesterton's new book is a short series of essays which he calls "My Six Conversions." They tell of six different times since his conversion to Catholicism when, if he were not already a Catholic, he would most certainly have become one.

WASHINGTON LETTER

A new doctrine, which may have an important bearing on the maintenance of peace in the future, is gradually being forged by the United States.

The doctrine differs substantially from the long-established theory of freedom of the seas, over which the United States once wanted to war.

The doctrine differs substantially from the long-established theory of freedom of the seas, over which the United States once wanted to war. The difficulties which finally paved the entry of the United States into the World War also arose out of the maintenance of the United States government that ships of neutrals could not be molested if they were not carrying contraband.