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Current Comment

REASON FOR R. C. PROTEST
 ON MEXICO GIVEN

By Michael F. Walsh,
 State Deputy
 In the Brooklyn Tablet

In reports and comments upon the recent correspondence between the President of the United States and the Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus and from statements by esteemed members of the Hierarchy, some newspapers have colored the news and distorted the facts. The obvious purpose of these misrepresentations is to give the impression:

- (a) That the Mexican agitation is a partisan move by the Supreme Knight who happens to be a Republican.
- (b) That Knights of Columbus are meddling in an affair not theirs.
- (c) That Knights of Columbus are endeavoring to induce our Government to interfere unlawfully in the internal affairs of Mexico.
- (d) That the Catholics are not united on the "Mexican question."

The "Republican Carmody" is one partisan tabloid designates the Supreme Knight, is only one of the Supreme Officers and Board of Directors of the Knights of Columbus, at whose instance all petitions were sent to President Roosevelt. That Mr. Carmody may be a Republican is unimportant. Probably the majority of these officers and directors are Democrats. One officer and three directors, residents of New York, New Jersey and Ohio are Democrats. The resident of Ohio was candidate for Governor of his State last month. The essence of the issue, however, is in the statement of implication that any of these men were motivated by partisan politics.

During the last 15 months I have been the chief executive and administrative officer in the State of New York. I have been a member of the entire membership of the Knights of Columbus. For more than 20 years I have been a faithful but not blind member of the Democratic party. Publicly and privately I have supported President Roosevelt and the New Deal—more recently with some reservations. The present agitation by the Knights of Columbus started in the State of New York more than a year ago. These facts are given merely to show the influence of the accusation of partisanship.

The Knights of Columbus is an international organization though confined to North America. Its possessions and protectorates. Hundreds of Mexicans are members of the Order. Supreme Knight Carmody and the other officers and directors are not the governing body. If the Knights of Columbus in the United States do not profess and endeavor to practice Christian Charity and Brotherly Love toward the persecuted people of Mexico, hundreds of whom are Knights of Columbus, who then, among the citizens of the United States, will be a good neighbor.

The action of the Bishops of the United States, from the Pastoral Letter of Dec. 12, 1928, to the statement in May, 1935, quoted in THE TABLET of Dec. 15, last issue, is a commendable and laudable authority, the action of the Knights of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus would not do anything on this question contrary to the wishes of our Bishops. It may be well also to note that in January, 1935, His Eminence Cardinal Pacelli, Secretary of State to Pope Pius XI, writing to Supreme Knight Carmody refers to the magnificent example of fraternal assistance and support which you are giving by your prayers and by your campaign of publicity to your persecuted fellow Catholics of Mexico.

The alleged demand for intervention has been so frequently and clearly answered one hesitates to mention it. However, following the cable correspondence, the New York Times again referred to the demand by the Knights of Columbus for intervention by the United States. In my message to the 265 Grand Knights of the State of New York, written in December, 1934, I urged:

"That we protest against the crimes of this anti-Christian tyranny and also against any intervention by the Government of the United States or its representatives in support of the National Revolutionary Party in Mexico." We still want non-interference. We would like to see an end to the interference, moral, diplomatic, financial and military, that has marked the history of the United States from Poinsett in 1823 to Daniels in 1935. Without this interference the radicals and more recently the Communists of Mexico could not have successfully robbed the great majority of the people of Mexico of fundamental human rights.

not only seek means to attain, but we also seek to remove all obstacles in the way of attainment. We have here sure tests of sincerity and earnestness. What united, definite, positive effort have we Catholics of America been making "so to re-order our economic and social structure as to make it possible for people to have children and to rear them in keeping with their needs?" What have we contributed to America in the way of "true social leadership"?

It is not easy for us of the rear to give orders to the front lines to advance. It is no easy to say that the front lines need no more than a prayer as they advance. The rear will also make an effort to shell out the obstacles that stand in the way of the advance.

One may be pardoned if one has grown weary of hearing day after day that in the principles given us by Leo XIII and Pius XI for the reconstruction of the social order, we Catholics have the goods, when, as everybody knows, we have been making no concerted and definite effort to deliver them.

THE COMMONWEAL of December 6 apparently catches a gleam of hope for better things. Referring to a recent pamphlet entitled "Organized Social Justice," and issued by the Department of Social Action of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, THE COMMONWEAL says:

By its means the scandalous state of uncertainty and the vicious divisions which at present exist among Catholics on the subject of social justice should be done away with. For it gives at least the outline of what the Catholic Church, speaking through its authoritative agency in such matters, desires and will that its laity should do in order to play their proper part in the reconstruction of our tottering society.

JOHN J. MASSETH

WHOM TO CONDEMN?

In the recent consistory wherein Pius XI created 20 new Cardinals, His Holiness refrained from discussing peace proposals because of the fear "our words either would not be well understood or would be deliberately misconstrued."

Members of these columns will appreciate how well grounded were the fears of His Holiness.

This did, however, "pray God fervently for peace with justice, with truth and charity."

You will note the qualifications. Peace at any price or under any conditions, is not desired.

In her contribution to THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE of December 16, entitled "The Pope Steps A Course Amid Storm," Anne O'Hare McCormick, writing in Rome, says of Pius XI that "through his thick glasses the policies of contemporary statesmen seem above all discordant and shortsighted, concentrated only on the immediate."

Of the League of Nations she believes that it "unquestionably is right in taking action against a breaker of the covenant; but is it right in making its first strong stand on the punitive side, enforcing Article XVI while ignoring Article XIX, which provides for revision of treaties and correction of injustices." No thoughtful observer in the world today can define the uneasy peace we labor to have as a just, even a possible peace. It is a peace established by war and designed to keep the world forever as the war left it. She holds that "in the long view it is equally certain that there must be war not all the sanctions in the world can stop it—until there is a league not to enforce but to create peace by working for a true, equitable, political and economic, and living all nations instead of a favored few a vested interest in the status quo. IF THE POPE CONDEMNED, WHERE WOULD THE CONDEMNATION FALL? (Capitals Ours)."

In his lengthy "John Bull's Holy War," published in THE SATURDAY EVENING POST of December 21, Frank Simonds represents the Italians, the Germans and the Japanese as saying: "We are caught in the vice of existing law; we can't get out of it peacefully and we can't remain and survive."

"What is there to be said on this point?" he asks. "Just this: First, that it is demonstrably true, and second, that Woodrow Wilson, to give him that justice which is due him, foresaw this difficulty."

Therefore, he caused to be inserted in the Covenant that Article XIX which provided that the assembly (of the League) may from time to time advise the reconsideration by Members of the League of treaties which have become inapplicable and the consideration of international conditions whose continuance might endanger the peace of the world."

But the French and the British have made a head letter of Article XIX ever since. And they have been able to do this because, in the League as in Poland before the Partition, change must come by unanimous consent and therefore the beneficiaries of law which work injustice and hardship as always by their liberum veto prevent their repeal or revision. That is why the great people, coming nearly 2000 years ago, are today not only in a position of existing treaty law but have made it their God.

All this if the Pope condescended to be has been urged to do "where the condemnation fall?"

STRANGE BUT TRUE
 Catholic Facts But Little Known

By M. J. MURRAY

On the highest accessible mountain in Europe - stands this fine statue of CHRIST THE KING. It commemorates the Alpine feats of the HOLY FATHER.

Was there SNOW in Bethlehem at the time of our Saviour's birth?

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

ETHIOPIA - the historic name of ABYSSINIA is derived from Greek words meaning "I BURN" and "FACE" and thus would signify the colored man's land of the land of the scorched faces.

A BIDDING TICKET IS ONE OF THE TREASURED POSSESSIONS OF THE KING OF SWEDEN. It is the return half of the ticket purchased by CARDINAL RATH when he was traveling from Venice to Rome for the Papal Election in 1922. AMONGST THE FIRST TO VISIT HIM AS POPE PIUS XI WAS KING GUSTAV OF SWEDEN TO WHOM THE POPE GAVE THE UNUSED TICKET WITH THE WESTRAL EXEMPT: "I shall not need it now."

Diocesan Recordings

"Pass in Review!" Many times, in the army, we heard the command "Marching the occasion an idea was born to have our diocesan newspaper, the CATHOLIC COURIER, as it appeared during 1935, pass in review.

Events recorded in the diocese during the year just closing need not be in tail. The Annual Diocesan Review and Calendarium took care of that. As the Review and Calendarium goes by in procession may be mentioned that skillful designing, improved typographical arrangements, comprehensive editorial treatment by distinguished writers and decorative effect produced by art work and photographs met with appreciative commendation here in the diocese and beyond.

With the advent of 1935 this newspaper came to you in new typographical dress and enlarged size. Encouraged by the reception recorded the change steps were taken to improve the newspaper in all departments.

Early in the year, the Rev. John E. Masseth joined the staff as editor. His editorials have greatly increased general reader interest. In the Reader Survey conducted during the year by this newspaper, editorials were first on the list for reader interest.

General news coverage of world events and outstanding happenings in the United States has been presented with accuracy, timely articles gathered by the N.C.W.C. News Service. Papal pronouncements, the Mexican situation, so prominent in the news now, the German problem, social justice articles, clear films, dramatic events throughout the universe of Catholic interest have appeared.

During the year aided by generous response of advertisers your newspaper has reached you in greater size. The Editor's column with 26 pages of news, feature articles, stories and articles selected to inform and entertain was followed by the Annual Diocesan Calendar and Review and now the Christmas City number of 22 pages. A Christmas greeting number, a special Catholic education number, a special edition given over to the 100th Anniversary of St. Francis de Sales Church, Geneva; and the number announcing St. Monica's new Recreation hall, all sent out with extra space and special reading material.

Highlights in news from the diocese included: Holy Name men called upon to offer Holy Communion for persecuted in Mexico; attack in Elmira address by Mexican purporting to be Catholic answered by Elmira priest; incident stage presentation at local theater denouncing the Communism taken to task for misinformation on Mexican situation, misstatements in local address promptly answered by special writers; vetoing of Rolly-Corbett Bill by Governor whereby Catholic school children were denied right to ride in public buses deplored; Catholic angle of devastating flood told with stories of heroic priests and lay people.

Spaced was devoted to publishing and recording among other worthy projects, the National Catholic Rural Life Conference and National Catechetical Congress; the Pius X School of Liturgical Music; Catholic mission activities, School Library Institute and Book Exhibit; monument dedication to early Franciscan missionaries at Mercy High.

Our Reader Survey conducted in May showed 92 per cent of readers peruse the entire edition each week and commended the many features such as the Rev. Dr. Owen B. McGuire's "Believe It, Not Column and other feature articles of special appeal to adult and children readers.

Were all the news and views of the CATHOLIC COURIER during 1935 spread out before you it would be a parade that would take hours in passing. The 1936 procession is about to start. We suggest that you watch it, each week. Before it starts may we wish you a Happy, Prosperous New Year filled with blessings.

"Your first duty is to your soul, and then other things may come, always remembering that the GOOD OF THE SOUL IS TO BE THE FINAL OBJECT OF EVERYTHING." St. Peter Favre.

THE LIBRARY SIGN POST

The sun rises and sets in its regular order, the wind blows and the snow falls as on any winter day, life continues to move in its appointed channel. But we mortals pass an inevitable milestone with the coming of each New Year. It is a time to assess past gains and losses, and to give ourselves for future advancement. Nature goes its way with an impassivity which pagans call Fate. But human beings are created the masters of their destinies, and in the Christian concept, Time is not a tide to carry us along willy-nilly, but a road to be walked with calculated and sometimes painful steps, enlightened and forward by God's assisting grace. We are not the sport and playthings of a blind Fate; we are children of a divine Father who has given us responsibilities and the requisite strength to fulfill them. Pagans may meet the New Year by a revelry which is strangely like whirling in the dark; Christians will meet it by Church, and against the consensus of a Catholic people, is also an incentive to the subversion of the social order, which is the aim of these organizations that profess to deny God."

There may be some difference of opinion on procedure but no informed Catholic denies that Mexico is "The Land of Blood Drenched Altars." The story of it should be told to awaken the sympathy and protest of fair-minded Americans.

Dated, Dec. 16, 1935.
 MICHAEL F. WALSH

THE CATHOLIC EVIDENCE LIBRARY RECOMMENDS

- As Key-Books for Reading during the Coming Year:
- THE SON OF GOD. By Karl Adam.
- THE SPIRIT OF CATHOLICISM. By Karl Adam.
- THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST. By Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen.
- PROGRESS AND RELIGION. By Christopher Dawson.
- Now I See. By Arnold Lunn.
- NOTE: The Library will not be opened on New Year's day.
- CATHOLIC EVIDENCE LIBRARY HOURS—Afternoon—3:30 through to 9:00 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
- PLACE—Lobby of Columbus Civic Centre Building, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester, N. Y.
- DAILY RENTAL—One cent for each book.

Spiritual Thoughts

"God does us great honor when He is pleased that we should tread the same path which was trodden by His only begotten Son." St. Paul of the Cross

Clipped For Fun

We still don't know how the New Yorkers tell when they have a riot in the suburbs.

Europe is noted for some of the finest old ruins in the world. France's debt to America, for instance.

Radio Dealer: You want a radio? Customer: Yes, but so machine, she must speak French.

Denver man discovers how to make gold out of raw material. What, another chain letter?

Washington says that 85 of its 10,000 babies have never been turned into Look in the pocket of that old vest you wore in 1929.

The average American family pays an annual crime bill of \$240. Well, it gets a lot of crime for its money. —Rochester Democrat and Chronicle

Restaurant Manager: Was the waiter a grey-headed man? Customer: Not when he took my order.

when we speak of "this our exile and valley of tears" in the prayer at the end of Holy Mass?

In the Catholic literary world, the opening of the New Year is signaled by the appearance of a new Catholic monthly. The Christmas Front, which in powerful and dignified language summarizes its nine-point platform with Leo XIII's "Christians are born for combat." Welcome to this strong fledgling of the New Year!

What Catholic Editors Say

What Success? Irreligion has been the boast of the last 50 years. Has it succeeded? The pre-war civilization of Europe was emphatically irreligious. Modern science scoffed at religion and modern science was the idol of Europe. Irreligious science was going to renew the face of the earth, cleanse the world of superstition and allow men to think for themselves. They had arrived at the acme of civilization, that men whose trammelled reason had been unchained would use their reason to settle their differences, that war was a relic of the superstitious past. The great war came: brute force clubbed reason, and blood instead of brains had to settle the argument. Irreligion did not save us from the war and therefore it lies open to the charge of failure. Even its most enthusiastic defenders have been shaken in their faith in infidelity. They lie prostrate amid the charred ruins of a world skeptical of their skeptic-

ism. They pulled down the pillars of religion with Samsonian rage and now grovel beneath the fallen superstructure of civilization with plenty of time to meditate on their foolishness. A sense of responsibility to God and for God's sake, to one's fellowman, must again become instinctive in the men and women of this country if national peace and welfare are to be ours—Catholic Standard and Times.

Be Prepared Every fifteen minutes of the day and night someone is killed in an automobile accident. This country. Almost a hundred people will be killed by this time tomorrow. You may be one or you may be at the wheel of a car that kills one of the hundred. You don't know, of course, so do the moment you will be killed. But if you should be one what of your prayer to be delivered from a sudden and unprovided death? The suddenness may be beyond your control, you need not be unprepared. —Milwaukee Catholic Citizen.