WHAT TWO POPES THOUGHT OF THE CATHOLIC PRESS

"In vain will you found missions and build schools if you are not able to wield the offensive and defensive weapons of a loyal Catholic press."
POPE BENEDICT XV.

"I would make any sacrifice, even to the pawning of my ring, pectoral cross and soutane, in order to support a Catholic newspaper."
POPE PIUS X.

Catholic Courier

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Most Reverend Archbishop Edward Mooney,
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MEMBER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION
SUBSCRIBER TO N.C.W.C. NEWS SERVICE

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REV. JOHN E. MASSETH.....Editor
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MEMBER OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Editorials

IF I WERE EDITOR . . .

If I were the editor of a Catholic daily, there are a lot of things I would try to do. I would want to make the paper an interesting one, a paper that people in the country would subscribe to, not merely as an expected duty, but because it meant something for them. I would not want my paper to lie on the hall table, unopened, unread.

The first aim would be to have the paper read. Unless it is read, it is doing no good, and in fact may do positive harm. If a man opens one Catholic publication, be it newspaper, magazine, review, and finds it poorly edited, uninteresting; thrown together in appearance, it will be difficult to get him to read another which may be in fact the antithesis of the first.

Therefore I would print news that would interest the reader. I would try to cover local affairs, and by that I don't mean only the Cathedral bridge parties and the K. C. sports night. I would try to follow the actions of the city government in the matters that affect Catholic citizens.

And the same for the State and National governments. Most secular papers, especially those in smaller cities and towns, do not devote much attention to activities of national government. This is especially true of the important bills being considered by Congress. True, they carry news stories, but the details of the bills are not discussed. The average citizen does not know how those bills may affect him; often, unless he reads some good metropolitan newspaper, he does not really know the approximate contents of those bills.

A Catholic daily newspaper editor, following these matters, and commenting on them in the light of Catholic principles, would give his readers something they would get in no other newspaper. The same is true, though not in the same degree, of State matters. The Catholic editor, alert to the significance that new State legislation and governmental actions have for Catholic institutions and principles, would be serving an essential purpose in studying these matters, analyzing them, and discussing them in his paper.

Of course the N. C. W. C. News Service would be a vital part of the paper. Only through it is it possible for a Catholic newspaper to get the foreign and even the national news. It certainly would not have the resources to secure the information itself; it could not, just as certainly, get it from the secular press. Mexico today is a case in point.

But I would not be content with slapping syndicated news into the paper, in the way that some small-town newspapers use "boiler-plate" material. It would be my business to study typography and make-up and try to brighten the appearance of the newspaper. It should be easy to read. The more important features each week should have attention-attracting positions. For instance, if I had an important editorial, one that referred to a matter of overwhelming interest to the readers, it should go onto the [illegible] page with freely leaded lines, so that it would stand out from the rest of the page [illegible] article in the Fellowship Forum praising America.

There are a lot of minor things I could do to build up good will for my paper, to increase interest in it, and thus foster the [illegible] Catholic press—not alone my own paper, but the whole Catholic press, magazines, reviews, etc.

[illegible]—at least to those mentioned. As an effort [illegible], when a non-subscription [illegible] was mentioned, I would see that a [illegible] to him or her. I [illegible] easy, not just the [illegible] themselves, so that they would become familiar with it. It might not be a bad idea to enclosed a subscription blank, too. It might be a stimulating plan. It has proven so in the secular magazine field, and there is no reason why it could not be transplanted.

If an excellent speech were made, and I found it worth reprinting in whole or in part, I would send a half-dozen copies to the speaker. He would feel a sense of appreciation toward the newspaper that might prove worth while later; and he would send copies to his friends, who perhaps might not be readers—and thus they would get acquainted with it.

If it were at all possible, I would try to establish a reading room alongside the newspaper offices. I would try to keep in it the current Catholic magazines and important newspapers, the ones that are really doing significant work and enlightening their readers, the ones that take an active interest in local, State, and national affairs.

I would try to build up a reference library, not alone for the use of the newspaper, but also for the use of the Catholic community. The standard Catholic reference works would, of course, be essential, but I would try to add to those the significant current books as they were published, to the extent of the newspaper's resources. If it were possible, I might review some of these for magazines and other papers, and thus be able to add them to the staff reference library.

This reference library would serve a selfish purpose also, because it would create a continuing interest in the newspaper and help keep it before the minds of Catholic citizens. Students would be able to study there references that might not be available in school or public library. It would be available to anyone—and thus non-Catholics, when they wanted information about Catholic matters, would be welcomed.

As a continuation of this idea, and almost in competition with it, I would cooperate with the local public library in this way. It is always possible to secure from them lists of new books. Usually these are released monthly. As I secured each monthly list, I would check it to see which of the new books were of especial Catholic interest.

Since it would not be possible for me or the other members of the staff to be familiar with every new book that was published, a little extra work on the part of the office force would be required. That extra work would take the form of a card index of Catholic book reviews.

As the current copies of important Catholic magazines came into the office, the book reviews would be listed on cards, one card to each book, and filed. If a book, for instance, were reviewed in America, the Commonweal, and the Catholic World, the card would contain the dates of the three reviews. Thus if I wanted to know whether a new book was good, bad, or indifferent from the Catholic viewpoint, I could look up the book card for the dates of various reviews, consult them, and know whether to recommend the book or not.

Then, from the public library list, I would publish the titles of books that would interest Catholics. Under each I would quote from reviews, so that the Catholic community would know what important books had come into the library and what competent Catholic critics thought of them. This should stimulate Catholic reading of Catholic books in the public library, and the books would not gather dust on library shelves—and that is a common complaint that has been made about Catholic books. The final result would probably be an increase in Catholic books on library lists.

The editorials should receive especial attention. They are perhaps the most important section of each individual Catholic newspaper. It is there that they show life or stagnation; it is only in the editorial section that each Catholic paper shows its individuality. Take twenty-five or thirty Catholic newspapers of this country. In their news stories they are all alike, simply because they have but one news services, the N. C. W. C. But their editorials are, or should be, different; they should reveal the flaming spirit of the Catholic press.

All these things cost money, you (and a score of present-day Catholic editors) will say. Not all, any of the good-will-sprouting devices can be accomplished without a cent of money. They mean work, but the Catholic editor is accustomed to that—he would hardly be one if he were not willing and able, often without sufficient financial return from that exhausting and yet absorbing work.

If I were a Catholic editor . . . perhaps I'd find that some of these ideas would not work, would not be practical. But I'd at least try to work them out, to salvage the good from the bad among them, to stimulate an interest in the Catholic way of life among the Catholic community, to keep them alive to what Catholic intellectuals are thinking, doing, writing all over the world, to help weld that particular Catholic community with the whole great Catholic community of the world.

FLOYD ANDERSON,
In "America."

Current Comment

STURDY HALF-TRUTHS

If all the collectors of half truths were put end to end Half-truths seem to have an appealing air about them and an exceedingly sturdy constitution Most are at the very least nonagenarians, and a choice few even antedate Charlemange Which merely bears out the old adage that evil lives long

It is not implied that a half truth is evil in itself By no means It is true as far as it goes But it doesn't go far enough In its implications and ramifications it is false and frequently in a low, mean way

It is quite true for example to say that man is an animal He is an animal But that is only half true The obscured element in the statement is the rationality of man Man is a rational animal, the only rational animal There are those who so emphasize the animality of man that some are led to believe he is only animal The moral and economic repercussions of such a doctrine are so evident in our present-day civilization they need no further mention

The one case above others in our civic life in which the damaging effects of half-truths cries for vengeance is in the case of private one-sided interpretation of national policies and administration measures

The great American sport of political campaign mud-slinging will soon occupy the national limelight after a four years' hibernation For some time past the participants have been limbering up their stale muscles They want to be in rare form when the newspaper spotlight is thrown on them Rumor has it that the national political league is going to put on the best show this country has ever seen

Half-truths will then have their day Why, no one knows No upright, intelligent man wants to harbor a half-truth They only clutter up the mind And the mind was not intended as a warehouse for every piece of warped and woofed misinformation floating through the atmosphere

Why, it is honestly asked, does not some astute politician honest to set forth his case and let it rest on its merits? Is it because he fears that the truth will harm his cause? If this is so then his cause is not worth promoting and to promote such a cause gives no man a deep abiding satisfaction No man, regardless of who he is, can find happiness in working on the wrong side of the fence The trouble is that they find it out too late, when there is no remedy for the evil done

Every administration in Washington had had its faults That is true But only half-true The other part of the truth is that every administration in Washington has had its good points And to pay attention to political demagogues who harp only on the faults is to join the collectors of half truths

Before you become vindictive, or allow someone else to ease you into such a mood, add up the faults and the virtues, and strike a balance Then and then only will you know what attitude to take, because only then will you know the truth

Don't be content with half-truths You have before you the example of what one half-truth accomplished

Many centuries ago there appeared a good honest Christian, who sincerely believed that the Bible was the word of God Although produced by human agency it contained the word of the Supreme Being But this individual decided that Christ did not intend us to believe that He is the real Son of God He merely used the word Son in the sense in which all men are sons of God This half-truth proceeded to gain momentum until finally there appeared those who asserted that Christ wasn't a son of God even in the sense in which all men are sons of God. Christ never really lived, they said He is but the conception of an over-fertile imagination

The whole truth is that Christ is the Son of God, that He possesses the divine nature. The half-truth is that He is man And the half-truth paved the way for complete denial of his existence

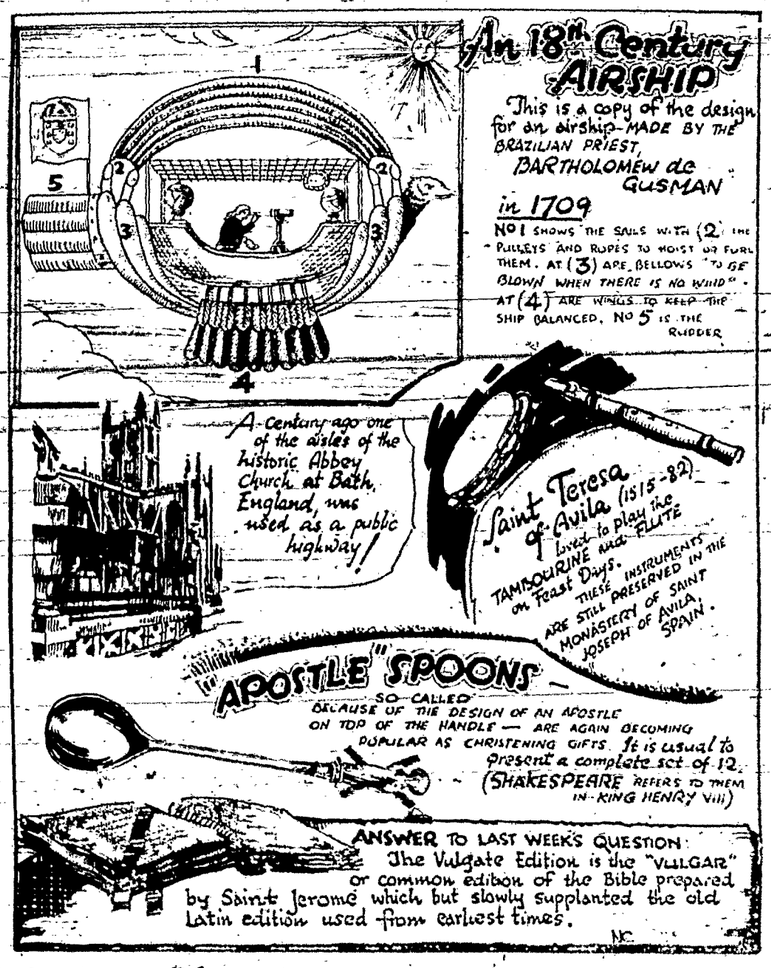
That is the devilish thing about half-truths. Perfectly all right in themselves, they pave the way for the most pernicious errors and falsehoods the human mind can conceive. That is why they must be shunned and held in greater fear than a contagious disease. No one knows to what they will lead, least of all their author. For if he did he would not have the courage to whisper them to himself in a darkened, secluded room.

Dont think your acts of self-denial small because sometimes they don't cost you very much. It is the love which they express that is invaluable.

STRANGE BUT TRUE
Catholic Facts But Little Known

(c) 1932, by N C W C News Service

By M. J. MURRAY



The WHAT? WHY? and HOW? of a Catholic Newspaper

[illegible] managing staff of [illegible] weekly newspaper is called [illegible] from time to time to answer [illegible] questions concerning [illegible] the opposite column [illegible] to all of the readers [illegible] one's place in [illegible] A few pertinent ones can be answered briefly [illegible]

Question Who does and the CATHOLIC COURIER pays [illegible] local [illegible] international news [illegible]

Answer No one newspaper particularly if it is of the smaller variety can adequately [illegible] the wishes of all its readers Its endeavor must always be to fulfill its specific function to the satisfaction of the majority of its readers The greatest need for the greatest number is [illegible] the guiding principle to be applied within the limitations of space and basic editorial policy

Question Who does the CATHOLIC COURIER in the diocesan newspaper carry advertising

Answer This question indicates unfamiliarity with publishing [illegible] Advertising [illegible] advertising [illegible] advertising produces a major portion of the revenue needed for

Spiritual Thoughts

Kindness is the overflowing of self upon others Father F W Faber

* * *

There is nothing so kind as kindness there is no winter in the heart of him who doth a kindly deed

* * *

Kindness is the real law of life the link that connects earth with heaven Father W G Hurley, C S P

* * *

Gratitude for favors and gifts received is a thing loved and esteemed in heaven and on earth Saint Ignatius Loyola

* * *

Throw the dog a bone, but a lamb and you will always be a conqueror St John Chrysostom

* * *

Youthfulness at its best is spiritual quality It is magnificent to grow old if one keeps young in spirit

* * *

Suffer the little children and forbid them not to come to Me for the kingdom of heaven is for such. St. Matthew

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TURN TO SIGN POST

The LIBRARY SIGN POST with an important message and the list of books recommended by the Catholic Evidence Library appear on Page 7 of this issue.

QUESTION BOX

Q.—Is gambling or betting a sin?

A Gambling or betting is not unlawful in itself provided certain conditions are present In the risk between the two parties to the bet must be [illegible] [illegible] is given [illegible] [illegible] the funds [illegible] [illegible] committed

Gambling is not lawful when the money involved could be used for the support of one's family And in the long run it is gambling for betting is to be encouraged since such great harm results from the [illegible] They easily inflame a person with the passion of covetousness and cause grave disorders to ensue to the detriment of the person involved and those dependent on him

* * *

Q.—Why does the Catholic Church allow re-marriage? I know a couple who on their golden jubilee were re-married in the Church with the Catholic services.

A The couple to which you refer were not, as you call it, re-married. They were a worthy Catholic couple who wished to thank God publicly for the many blessings vouchsafed by Him on [illegible] married life They renewed their marriage vows [illegible] [illegible] At the [illegible] the officiating priest asks [illegible] to join hands while he [illegible] them and gives them [illegible] to renew the [illegible] [illegible] death [illegible] [illegible] first promises

* * *

Q.—What is a morganatic marriage?

A A morganatic marriage is contracted between [illegible] royal birth and a commoner with the express stipulation that the wife and children will be excluded [illegible] certain portion of the paternal inheritance Like any other marriage it is a valid one, differing only in the civil effects which involve renunciation of the husband's rank, titles and properties

* * *

Q.—What do the letters I H S. and I. N. R. I. mean?

A—The letters I H S are an abbreviation of the Greek name of Jesus Christ I N R I are the initials of the inscription placed over the cross by Pontius Pilate, meaning Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews

Diocesan Recordings

[illegible]