

Catholic Courier

Official Newspaper of the Diocese of Rochester... Most Reverend Archbishop Edward Mooney, Bishop of Rochester.

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Editor: JOHN E. MASSETH... Manager: HOWARD W. KLIPPERT... News Editor: THOMAS H. O'CONNOR

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I earnestly bespeak for the CATHOLIC COURIER the united and generous support of our priests and people...

EDWARD MOONEY, Archbishop-Bishop of Rochester.

Editorials

CHURCH MUSIC

The purpose of music is to educate to virtue, said Plato.

The purpose of liturgical music is to express the fundamental relations that exist between God and man according to the rules of the Church.

Our present Holy Father clearly states that "Liturgy is certainly a sacred thing and by it we are elevated to God and joined with Him."

The music of the Church therefore must have a "liturgical spirit."

It follows then that we must have an understanding heart to enter into the spirit of liturgical music.

It is the music which, if properly rendered, is most willingly heard by devout Catholics.

As the Reverend John M. Duffy said in his address at the music demonstration in Elmira and Auburn "The music which is fit to accompany the unbloody renewal of Christ's sacrifice on the altar must of necessity be imbued with the same spirit of reverence, humility and mortification."

"ROME'S DIVORCES"

"Rome's divorces are auctioned off to the highest bidder."

Every now and again we read, or hear, the above statement. And as proof of the assertion, the "famous Marlborough and Marconi" cases are ruthlessly dragged from their graves and flaunted, like a Red flag, before the eyes of Catholics who are expected to show great consternation and embarrassment at mere mention of the two names.

A good deal of blindness, prejudice, bigotry and downright stupidity has been manifested in the past two generations regarding the activities and decisions of the Tribunal of the Sacred Roman Rota.

The many malicious charges hurled at it can be reduced to two basic accusations: First, that there is no distinction between an ordinary divorce and a declaration of nullity by the Roman Rota. That the Rota is a court which the Church claims is so infallible that only a mental acrobat can

demolish its decrees. Second, that the Rota is a court which the Church claims is so infallible that only a mental acrobat can demolish its decrees.

A legal dissolution of a valid marriage. A declaration of nullity by the Roman Rota is not a legal dissolution of valid marriage.

It is merely an assertion that the supposed marriage is no marriage at all, that the marriage never existed, that an essential defect at the very beginning invalidated the marriage contract, in short, that there never was a marriage contract.

In the one case there was a valid marriage. In the other there was no marriage at all. In the first instance, the parties concerned are seeking a divorce, a legal dissolution of a validly existing marriage.

In the second instance, the parties are not seeking a divorce, the dissolution of a valid marriage contract, but are merely trying to find out if a valid marriage contract exists.

The second accusation charges the Rota with being a rich man's court. It is a court where favorable decisions are granted to those who can pay handsomely for a decree of nullity.

In the year 1935 eighty cases were brought before the Tribunal. Thirty-five declarations of nullity were returned. In not one instance were the parties of great wealth or distinction.

In over fifty percent of the cases the parties involved were too poor to pay even the bare costs of the proceedings. The Tribunal itself bore the entire expense.

A study of the records of the Tribunal over a score of years shows that the validity of the marriage contract of persons of wealth and distinction was sustained in more instances than was declared null.

The blind, prejudiced and stupid will always believe that the Rota's declarations of nullity are auctioned to the highest bidder. A mountain of facts could not make them change their opinion.

You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink.

"LEFT-HANDED JUSTICE"

Is the right of the Catholic parent in the United States to live his religion subjected to penalty? This question is answered by the Rev. Paul L. Blakeley in an article appearing in the May 2 issue of America.

He says, in part: "The state compels Catholic citizens to pay their share of the tremendous costs of the public school system. It compels Catholic parents to send their children to school. But it does not provide schools which Catholic parents can conscientiously approve."

What particular brand of left-handed justice is this? The Catholic citizen must pay the costs of the school which he does not and cannot approve. And must also pay the costs of the school in which the teaching squares with his religious convictions.

To say there is no way of mending this injustice is a cowardly evasion. There is a way. Canada has found it. Germany, in the old days, found it. Likewise, to a certain extent, Great Britain and her colonies. But not the United States. And the reason is that definitely anti-Christian principles shape our public policy of education.

The United States has succeeded in devising and maintaining a system of elementary and secondary schools which, as Dr. Luther Weigle of Yale pointed out ten years ago, please no one but the atheist.

It has been objected that a policy permitting Catholics to use the money which they pay for the costs of the public school system to support their own schools, is by reason of its complexity, exceedingly difficult to formulate.

Many a difficulty, remarks Father Blakeley, is insoluble only until it is intelligently examined. And the difficulty in this instance is nothing compared to the one our present unjust educational policy is storing up for itself. For the beneficiary of all participation in school funds raised by taxation is not the school, as Chief Justice Hughes pointed out, but the child, his parents and ultimately the state itself.

As long as the state continues to support only those schools that please none but the atheist, it is merely continuing to raise up a progeny that will eventually turn on the state and strip it bare.

"THEY BECAME FOOLS"

Socially, politically and economically society is based on faith in mankind. Man trusts the butcher, the baker, the candlestick-maker. If he didn't he would sign his death warrant. He could not accept on its face value food, or medicine, or credit, or a neighbor or a stranger.

This distrust or want of faith would break down the very bonds of human society.

Man acts on faith every hour of his life. He accepts the doctor's prescription, the grocer's product, the path marked out by public leaders, the scientist's word and the newspaper's printed article. His actions are based on faith. His life is one of faith and trust in mankind.

Yet there are many who scoff at the very idea of faith. The agnostic and the atheist assert there is no room in this world for such a puerile phobia as faith. To them faith is wholly unreasonable.

That their very assertions are acts of faith in their own judgment escapes their attention. So blind and proud that they cannot read their own minds, they will have faith in their fellowman but not in the God who made them. They will trust human knowledge but scorn divine wisdom.

For professing themselves to be wise they became fools.

A \$100 dollar suit on his back, a \$1,000,000 deal on his mind—and his lunch in his pocket. That's Wall Street today.—Brooklyn Tablet.

Democracy is the right of every citizen to feel superior.—Geneva Daily Times.

Current Comment

CONVERTS AND CONVERTS

It is a common-sense observation that in the course of a long and successful career of journalism, one must learn to be a convert. It is not a matter of religion, but of a certain way of thinking and of handling oneself in a big world.

Human psychology won't stand for it. The best proof of this is that you yourself would not stand for it. You do not like to hear your friends, relatives, or your sacred beliefs ridiculed or disparaged. Nor does anyone else.

Courtesy Pays. Be as friendly as kindly, as courteous as possible. The way to most people's minds is by way of their heart. Little courtesies, little services often build a conversion.

John Moody, well known financier and recent convert, said that of all the men whom he questioned about the Catholic religion only one ever made a concrete suggestion. This man said, "Go and talk to a priest." But said Mr. Moody, he didn't volunteer to introduce me to a priest of his acquaintance.

Catholic Aptitude. If Catholics were so apt at changing the subject when question of religion are brought up, they would never have a following. It is the common-sense observation that non-Catholic friends, such as an invitation to attend Catholic services or an introduction to Catholic friends, are the best way to bring many more converts coming yearly into the fold.

GREAT AMERICAN PROBLEM

Americans are rapidly becoming crime conscious. The question of money required yearly to finance the law enforcement agencies of the country are beginning to hurt the taxpayer.

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An Immediate Solution. It is a common-sense observation that the study of criminal psychology and the nature of crime enforcement are the most important subjects brought forward by the public for effective and immediate solutions to the problem.

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

Catholic Facts But Little Known

By M. J. MURRAY

Advertisement for Ampere magazine featuring a picture of a woman and text about the magazine's content and subscription information.

THE LIBRARY SIGN POST

By all means, do not miss the latest issue of the Catholic Evidence Library. It is a book that will help you understand the Catholic faith better.

THE CATHOLIC EVIDENCE LIBRARY RECOMMENDS

Read the Catholic Evidence Library. It is a book that will help you understand the Catholic faith better.

Rambling Round

A collection of short stories and articles from the Catholic Evidence Library.

QUESTION BOX

A section where readers can ask questions and receive answers from the Catholic Evidence Library.

Diocesan Recordings

WISH of the world to be able to travel more easily to Europe and to visit the World Catholic Press Exhibition which opened Tuesday in the Vatican.

THROUGHOUT the Diocese of Rochester, the members of the Diocesan Commission for the Propagation of the Faith are busy with their work.

OUR NOMINATION of a group doing an excellent work in the field of music, the Rev. Paul L. Blakeley, has been accepted by the Diocesan Commission for the Propagation of the Faith.

SIGNIFICANT members of the Diocese of Rochester are participating in the Propagation of the Faith Exhibition in the Vatican.

WHILE THERE is a general feeling of satisfaction throughout the Diocese of Rochester, there is also a feeling of concern.

LACK OF READING is a serious problem in the Diocese of Rochester. Many Catholics do not read enough.

Let us make a habit of reading the Catholic Evidence Library. It is a book that will help you understand the Catholic faith better.

Q—Will you please tell me the regulation of the Church in the matter of making one's Easter duty? A—The Church requires that every Catholic who is of the age of reason should receive Holy Communion at least once a year.