Catholic Courier

VOL. VIII MAY 21, 1936 No. 21

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

MEMBER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION
SUBSCRIBER TO N.C.W.C. NEWS-SERVICE

REV. LEO C. MOONEY ..... Managing Editor
REV. JOHN E. MASSETH ..... Editor
HOWARD W. KLIPPERT ..... Manager
THOMAS H. O'CONNOR ..... News Editor

MEMBER OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Subscription, $2.50 per year in advance, postpaid. Single copies, five cents. Foreign, $3.00 per year. In many instances subscribers prefer not to have their subscriptions interrupted in case they fail to remit before expiration. It is therefore assumed that continuance is desired unless discontinuance is ordered either by letter or personal call.

National Advertising Representative
Callahan's List of Catholic Newspapers
(George J. Callahan)
51 Chambers Street, New York City

Entered as second-class matter in the Postoffice at Rochester, New York, as required under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Published by
CATHOLIC COURIER and JOURNAL, Inc.
50 Chestnut St. Stone 1492. Rochester, N. Y.
Courier Established 1929—Journal Established 1889

I earnestly bespeak for the CATHOLIC COURIER the united and generous support of our priests and people, and I fervently hope that it may carry into every home in the diocese the salutary influence of the Catholic Press. If Pope Pius XI could say for the whole church "anything that you do for the Good Press, I will consider as having been done for me personally", I feel that for this diocese I can and should say, "Anything that you do for the Catholic Courier, I will consider as having been done for me personally".

† EDWARD MOONEY,
Archbishop-Bishop of Rochester.

Editorials

THE SIGN OF THE BULL

Astrology is a racket. Selling knowledge that they do not possess, star gazing charlatans annually swindle the American public out of one hundred and twenty-five million dollars. Modern Merlins have cleverly converted the music of the spheres into the jingle of the cash register. Rochesterians—Catholics among them—contribute their share.

"American Astrology" is a monthly published "in the interest of scientific astrology and the practical application of Cosmic Law (whatever that is!) to the problems of everyday life." It has a large local circulation; at least a thousand copies are sold on news stands each month, while many more are obtained by direct subscription. This magazine shares the astrological field with six competitors. Their combined paid local circulation is estimated roughly at three or four thousand.

During the fall and winter months, a local radio station features a program put on by a woman who dispenses advice derived from a consultation of astrological charts. In the lobby of one of our large theaters, up until a few weeks ago, patrons could obtain horoscopes from a slot-machine. This machine was advertised on the screen before the feature picture. Likewise a Rochester paper gives a double column daily to an astrological guide. Certainly broadcasting companies, movie houses, and newspaper syndicates do not maintain features lacking in interest to their public. Undoubtedly, therefore, local believers in astrology must number in the thousands.

But few men and women, when confronted by the silly stuff found in every horoscope, will admit that they believe in its predictions. Yet it is a fact that astrology is the soft-spot in many a hard-headed business man. Stock brokers seem particularly susceptible. Apparently their motto is "Hitch your wagon to a star-gazer."

New York, Chicago, and—of all places!—Washington, D. C., are great centers of astrology. In New York a certain woman astrologer asks—and gets—from $25 to $100 for a "reading". Every month she makes $10,000 from mail orders alone! One Chicago star-gazer has a clientele of at least one hundred big business men, each paying his $1,000 a year for a monthly business forecast.

Each individual thinks that he is receiving a personal prediction, precisely calculated according to the position of the planets at the time of his birth. Actually, he gets a form letter, sent indiscriminately to butchers, bakers, and candlestick makers. Each one seems to think that his business is being given special attention; but now shovelers and grass cutters, if born in the same month, get the same business forecast!

Hundreds of practitioners still circulate a pamphlet of monthly horoscopes that was originally written as a joke. Its author was a popular stage magician. Another book sold by some astrologer for $1.00 a copy costs him only $.08 wholesale.

The whole fortune telling racket is full of fraud, and certainly the mails should be closed to those who cheat the public by unscrupulous trafficking in valueless junk.

Unfortunately we have to face the fact that a surprising amount of Catholic cash finds its way into the pockets of astrologers. The "just for fun" excuse is over-worked. It won't hold for those who month after month buy astrological magazines or consult [illegible]

[illegible] experience with such nonsense is [illegible] healthy mind. For example, [illegible] under the sign of Taurus (the [illegible] the following advice for his [illegible] from "American Astrology" [illegible] issue): [illegible] Gosh! You seem to spend your Sundays meeting all the right people! Your social prestige is mounting."

If this inane advice did not satisfy him, the same individual might consult "Wynn's Astrology" (p 62, May issue):

"May 21—Watch for openings to improve financial, domestic, social intercourse during the next six days. A. M.: favors personal expression; good for mental work; be friendly to inferiors."

And people pay for this! Barnum was right, "there's one born every minute."

Astrology is a survival of pagan superstition, and as such has been condemned by the Church. It encourages fatalism; it disregards Divine Providence. Saint Thomas Aquinas declares that "If anyone applies the observation of the stars in order to foreknow casual or fortuitous events, or to know with certitude future human actions, his conduct is based on a false and vain opinion; and so the operation of the demon introduces himself therein, wherefore it will be a superstitious and unlawful divination."

To admit the validity of astrology is to implicitly deny our precious gift of free will. If our actions are predetermined by the planets, we are but slaves to inexorable necessity. Those of us who find the future fascinating must curb our curiosity; we must rely on the providence of God. To consult astrologers, or to use any other form of divination, is a direct violation of the first commandment. It is not simply silly—it is positively sinful.

STILL AT IT

It's hard to kill a snake. Just when you think the thing is dead, it begins to wiggle again. So it is with the so-called Birth Control Movement. After a period of comparative inactivity, contraconceptionists have broken into the headlines once more.

In the current issue of a national weekly publication, Mrs. Margaret Sanger, Mrs. Thomas Hepburn, the Young Women's Christian Association, and a conference of Methodist Episcopal Churchmen are given a place in a column captioned "Birth Control's Week."

Last week Mrs. Sanger returned to New York after a world tour. In an interview with newshawks, this crusading controller gave the impression that Mahatma Ghandi had endorsed her views on contraconception. Ghandi, says Mrs. Sanger, believes "that women should control the whole question of family — how many children and when. He went me one better on that score: I believe that men should say how many children and the women should say when." But the Mahatma immediately flatly denied the implication of this statement, saying, that he in no way supports Mrs. Sanger's doctrine.

As if one misleading statement was not enough she added that she "found no opposition in India from any religious group." Evidently she did not consider the 4 million Catholics of India. We know as a matter of fact that missioners had anticipated Mrs. Sanger's propaganda by preparing a Catholic counter blast.

While Mrs. Sanger was unpacking in New York, the YWCA was holding its 14th national biennial convention in Colorado Springs. These Christian young women voted unanimously to support legislation to allow doctors to disseminate contraconceptive information.

At the same time, in Columbus, Ohio, the 32nd quadrennial conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was considering a memorial urging the delegates to indorse "the principles of birth control legislation now pending in Congress." Other Protestant denominations, some Jewish groups, and a few Methodist regional conferences had already approved this memorial. Fortunately, however, a sub-committee killed the resolution; but the value of their repudiation is questionable.

Catholic opposition to birth preventive measures is not due to any arbitrary ecclesiastical notions. It is based on a foundation of facts that should appeal to all reasonable minds, Catholic, Protestant, or Jewish. All are bound by the law of nature; and birth control is contrary to this natural law.

Many of the young men and women who think they believe in birth control know nothing of its vicious nature. The sight of a large family, poverty-stricken parents with many children, moves the emotions of the would-be-social reformer. If these individuals would only direct their efforts to bring about a change in the social order that would eliminate hunger in the midst of plenty, the world might profit by their work. But as things stand today, too many reformers are working at the wrong end.

Chesterton, in a passage full of irony and common sense, sums up the situation: "There are ten little boys whom you wish to provide with ten top-hats and you find there are eight top-hats. To a simple mind it would seem not impossible to make two more hats; to find out whose business it is to make hats and induce him to make hats; to agitate against an absurd delay in making hats; to punish anybody who has promised hats and failed to provide hats. The modern mind is that which says that if we only cut off the heads of two of the little boys they will not want hats and then the hats will exactly go around. The suggestion that heads are rather more important than hats is dismissed as a piece of mere mystical metaphysics. The assertion that hats were made for heads and not heads for hats savours of antiquated dogma . . . The popular prejudice would prefer the lives of boys to the mathematical arrangement of hats."

We have cited so much evidence of the persistent propaganda of birth control fanatics because Catholics must not relax their vigilance. Concentrated efforts to influence legislation are being made. The fight is still on. We must hold the fort.

Current Comment

[illegible]

WAGES AND OUR IMMORAL ECONOMIC ORDER

By Ignatius W. Cox, S.J.
In the Catholic Mind

After the new King of England Edward VIII had visited the slums of Glasgow and then the new gigantic and luxurious liner the Queen Mary, he turned to one near him and asked: "How do you reconcile a world that has produced the mighty ship with the slums we have just visited?" The luxury of the Queen Mary and the dark destitution of Glasgow slums can only be reconciled in the mentality of those who prefer matter to mind, magnitude to men. The modern mind has made a god of bigness in business, in production, in profits. To these the modern mind has sacrificed man himself as the ancient Pharoahs sacrificed an army of slaves to the bigness of the pyramid. The problem we have today is to teach the modern mind to prefer men to money and the perfection of man to a pyramid of profits. That is our task to work for man and humanity to make man better and by better men to make a better universe.

God puts every individual into this [illegible] universe [illegible] with the obligation to develop himself physically, intellectually, [illegible] all morally. Virtuous living is the supreme end of man in this world in order that by virtuous living man may win everlasting happiness in the world to come. Now for the fulfilment of [illegible] duty on earth a sufficiency of material goods is a normal necessity for man. No less an authority than the standard bearer of Catholic theologians, St. Thomas Aquinas, points out the close connection between material goods and sufficiency and the life of virtue demanded by the natural end of man.

St. Thomas Aquinas declares: "A superabundance of riches and beggarly poverty must be avoided by those who wish to lead a virtuous life in so far as both are occasions of sin. Abundance of riches furnishes occasion for pride and poverty is the occasion for thieving, lying or even perjury."

I wonder what St. Thomas would say of the spectacle of so many Christians, even Catholics, either unable to understand or indifferent to the close connection between a sufficiency of material goods and virtuous living for the masses.

When oh when will intelligent men, God-fearing men, above all Catholic men see that the present economic order is a mechanism of anti-Christ for the destruction of human souls. When will they wake up, blinders off from their eyes? [illegible] they can appreciate and remedy the situation so graphically described by Pius XI: "Not [illegible] the conditions of social and economic life are such that a vast multitude of men can only with great difficulty pay attention to that one thing necessary, namely, their eternal salvation."

What must amaze and disgust right thinking men and women is the whole wage question throughout the country is the blindness and stupidity of [illegible] [illegible] pay [illegible] and generous wage, and deny it at a moment when the red serpent of Communism is stalking through the land, making trouble and seeking trouble and waxing fat and bold on economic distress. Such employers are harvesting Communistic fodder by a denial of a living wage. As Pius XI says: "Even more severely must we condemn the foolhardiness of those people who neglect to remove or modify such conditions as exasperate the minds of the people and prepare the way for the [illegible] and overthrow of the social order."

Today as is evident, the only [illegible] the multitudes of men [illegible] [illegible] access to the material goods they need for support of life and for virtuous living is by letting out their labor by a wage contract to property owners, that is those who control the great ultimate sources of material goods. Remember this and keep it well in mind. All men have a right to the use of material goods in the sufficiency necessary for virtuous living. Ownership of property cannot and does not mean the right to deny men the legitimate use of these material goods. Ownership by a few to the exclusion of use by the many is indefensible. The only way that the vast majority of men can get access to these goods for use is by working for a wage.

Let us change the mentality of the masses and the war is won. Neither perverted capitalism nor perverted Communism can resist for long a correct mentality of the masses. Ballots not bullets supporting this correct mentality on social justice will win the day. Legislators will not dare to resist the ill of an aroused right thinking electorate. And there is need of quick action. Speaking of the need of an ample sufficiency for the workingman and his economic security, Pius XI says: "We emphasize them with renewed insistence: for unless serious attempts be made with all energy and without delay to put them in practice, let no one persuade himself that the peace and tranquillity of human society can be effectively defended against the forces of revolution."

STRANGE BUT TRUE
Catholic Facts But Little Known

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

By M. J. MURRAY

THE LIBRARY SIGN POST

As a service to patrons of the Catholic Evidence Library [illegible] of all the books added to the Library within the last six months will be published in this and [illegible] coming issues of the Sign Post [illegible] in November.

Novels:
Stand and Give Challenge. By Francis MacManus
The Doctor's Wooing. By Charles Phillips
The Scandal of Father Brown. By G. K. Chesterton
Time's Door. By [illegible]

Biographies:
Edmund Campion. By Evelyn Waugh
Dollfuss. By Edward [illegible]
Sunshine and Saints. By [illegible] H. Moseley

Belles Lettres:
The Poems of Alice Meynell
The Essays of Alice Meynell
The Poems of Padraic Colum
Religion and Philosophy:
The Unfinished Universe. By T. S. Gregory
God's Amazing World. By [illegible] Toth
An Anthology of Mysticism. By Paul de Jaegher
Sociology and Economics:
The Citizen and His Government. By Alfred E. Smith
A Survey of Sociology. By Eva J. Ross
College Men: Their Making and Unmaking. By Dom Proface
Medieval Socialism. By Dom Bede Jarrett

I submit the following quotation from Christopher Dawson's Religion and the Modern State as a profoundly thoughtful marginal note to all that you are reading these days in connection with the [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] encyclicals:

"Today the world is ripe for renewal. The liberal and humanitarian ideals that inspired the civilization of the last two centuries are dead or dying and there is nothing yet to take their place. . . .

This we may expect not merely the passing of the Liberal capitalist order but the End of the Age, a turning point in world history which will alter the whole character of civilization by a change in its fundamental direction, a turning of the human mind from the [illegible] to the [illegible] from the [illegible] of modern civilization and progress to the [illegible] spiritual reality which stands all the time looking down on our ephemeral activities like the snow mountains above the jazz and gigolos of a jerry-built hotel."

Ralph Adams Cram calls Dawson's Religion and the Modern State one of the latest and best of the great sequence of commentaries on contemporary civilization. You can find it in the C. E. Library.

THE CATHOLIC EVIDENCE LIBRARY RECOMMENDS

[illegible]

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. *Phone, Stone 2837*

The Ascension

At that time Jesus appeared to the eleven as they were at table: and He upbraided them with their incredulity and hardness of heart, because they did not believe them who had seen Him after He was risen again. And He said to them: Go ye into the whole world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved: but he that believeth not shall be condemned. And these signs shall follow them that believe: in My name they shall cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they shall drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay their hands upon the sick, and they shall recover. And the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God. But they going forth preached everywhere, the Lord working withal, and confirming the word with signs that followed.

GOSPEL—MARK XVI 14-20

TOPICS

Among seventeen hundred million persons in the world today only a very few live other than ordinary lives. The newspapers expose the few, the vast majority of mankind remains obscure; they are the salt of the earth. But it takes thinking and not thinking only but active resistance as well to the constant expert exploitation of the few in newspapers for us to appreciate who are the salt of the earth.

In Ethiopia are ten million souls. In Mexico, besides Cardenas and Calles are fifteen million souls. In Europe besides Anthony Eden, Hitler, Mussolini are so many millions of souls as cannot be numbered. They all live their lives in the ordinary way of life; most all of them being honest in their relations, dutiful in their observances, respectful of authority, and obedient to law, working out in the ordinary ways of life their destiny. They build churches and schools and hospitals, they look after the orphans, the aged, and the poor; they do everything in the way of charity and love that comes to them; only they do not undertake to make over the world again, they do not undertake to build another Tower of Babel. They do not put themselves in the attitude of the man biting the dog, and therefore none of their activities is news.—Record, Louisville.

Time is eternal life.—Bishop Bernard Ward

Give me grace to labor for the things that I pray for!

A sign of true charity in a soul is its being able to put up with everything.—Saint Louise de Marillac.

Diocesan Recordings

IN THE PASSING of the Rev. Francis X. Kunz, pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church, Rochester, there is a great void created in, not only his parish with its two Churches, St. Francis and St. Philip Neri, but in many another field in which his influence left an indelible mark. Father Kunz, kindly, zealous, pious priest, was a busy man from the day of his ordination. He took a special interest in the missions at home and abroad. His unit of the Order of Martha composed of lay people all over the city had won wide attention for support given the missions in the United States, Puerto Rico and China. He was deeply interested in social justice. When the Windthorst Study Circle was formed several years ago Father Kunz was one of its active sponsors. The group grew from a handful to over 300. He was an active member of the Catholic Central Verein. He led the Rochester party to the Eucharistic Congress in Chicago. When the Knights of Columbus decided on a Catholic Action program they chose Father Kunz to explain the Papal Encyclicals which he did in his capable manner. He had great concern for the Italian people and was called upon by Bishop O'Hern to take care of the building of the Churches of St. Philip Neri and St. Francis of Assisi. He was particularly interested in the Catholic press and during our 12 years friendship with him he constantly offered advise, counsel and aid. The writer feels a real personal loss in the death of Father Kunz. May his soul rest in peace.

A SIGNIFICANT fact was learned from one of the members of the Nocturnal Adoration Society of Rochester, which group received Holy Communion in a body and attended a Communion breakfast last Sunday. Of the 169 original members of the Society whose purpose is to keep all-night vigil before the Blessed Sacrament and which was started Sept. 28, 1929, 129 have been faithful to the requirements of the society and several have a perfect attendance record. These Catholic men on one night a month sacrifice sleep to spend one hour in adoration. The Society has grown to 670 and is adding new members. It is an inspiring sight to see these men in the late watches of the night gathering, entering the Cathedral or Lady Chapel and quietly meditating and praying for the world without. The same scene is duplicated in the important cities and towns of the diocese. Faith of our Catholic laymen is greatly strengthened not only among those who take part but among those who see this fine example of Catholic practice.

NEW NAMES coming to the fore among Catholic lay speakers: Charles J. Kellar who spoke at the Nocturnal breakfast; Louis J. Lange who addressed the Holy Name Society in Auburn and William A. Lang, recently a speaker at the Holy Name breakfast in LeRoy. Products of our Catholic High School, these younger men will be heard from as their capabilities become recognized in the public speaking field.

MOST ENCOURAGING was the public mass meeting to mark the Papal Encyclical's anniversaries in Rochester. The speakers well represented the case to an audience in which were well represented the Catholic citizens of the community. Making the full value of the two great Papal Encyclicals of Pope Leo XIII and Pope Pius XI widely known is not a one day nor a one week task. It takes years, but as the work progresses results will be forth coming assuring justice to all for as Dr. McGowan said they are just the 'Common sense' way of man dealing with man.

IN OUR CATHOLIC CAMPS, Camp Madonna and Camp Stella Maris the Catholic girl and Catholic boy get the full advantages of other camps plus the atmosphere that provides wholesome effect for their spiritual progress. They swim, rise, fish, play and eat as heartily there and the religious influence in the background brings them home healthier in mind, body and soul.

WIVES, SISTERS AND MOTHERS will get busy now encouraging Holy Name members to plan attendance at the forthcoming Holy Name rally on June 14.

A SUBSCRIPTION renewal received from the Rev. Edward J. Crotty, C.SS.R., at Frederiksted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, U. S., lets his friends know that Father Crotty, widely known for conducting Our Lady of Perpetual Help novenas at St. Joseph's Church, is carrying on similar work in the United States possession.

A FALSE PICTURE

The recent epidemic of homicide in this country has made the papers impossibly morbid. It is to the credit of the Cleveland News that it gave only two hundred fifty words to the execution of Bruno Hauptmann. It is feared that if the papers continue their play on murder, the future traveler reading a five hundred-year-old paper, will think that we have lived in an era of nothing else but mayhem and murder.—The New World (Chicago)

I had rather put my life of body to suffer pain for a little while than my soul to perish forever.