

## Catholic Courier

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## The Yardstick

### What Place Should Government Hold?

By The Rev. Raymond McGowan  
(Assistant Director, N. C. W. C.  
Dept. of Social Action)

If Economic Morality, Guilds and Government, and Christian Brotherhood are the bases of the Christian reconstruction of society, what place should government hold? What place now? What place when the guild system has come?

Put very summarily, the position of the Encyclical is this: (1) Labor legislation, legislation to make property ownership serve the common good, regulation of both competition and labor unless jointly, upon common regulations, even in their present development. (2) Government to help bring a new guild system into life. (3) Then "the commissions suggest or recommend" government to direct, guide, stimulate and restrain the guilds.

Now, again, governmental provision for those unjustly treated, protection for labor to organize, and regulation of the new economic dictatorship and organized business, are being attacked. In effect, this is a demand to go back to the old days. It is a demand for the free right of the economic dictators and organized business men to rule the country. Catholic social teaching puts it out for neither individualism nor dictatorship of finance is able to bring social justice to a country or a world.

But it is said that if we keep on throwing more and more power upon the government, the result is the totalitarian State and Catholic social teaching is opposed to both cultural totalitarianism and economic totalitarianism. The answer is in this: The reconstruction of the Social Order. The principle is in the second of the three statements above—throw on democratically organized industries and professions as much of this work and responsibility as possible under government stimulus and even compulsion.

The Encyclical takes up this very problem of modern government. Individualism wrecked the guild system, and the result is that people could largely care for themselves; "the highly developed social life which once flourished in a variety of prosperous institutions organized for the benefit of each other has been damaged and, but ruined, leaving thus virtually only individuals and the State." Isolated people go to the government for help.

To use as much as possible economic organization under governmental guidance is the Encyclical's answer for both a sound governmental life and a sound economic life. The conclusion is that the legislation needed for social justice, but get as much of it as you can to work with and through the organizations of the industries and professions, and let the State have a full place for labor unions and farmers' associations.

(N.C.W.C. FEATURES)

### A Dictionary of Catholic Thought

(Compiled by the Rev. Walter F. Loeck)

#### JESUS CHRIST

He spent thirty (years) proving that He was man, only sparing the last three to prove that He was God. His God, He proved it; but to our shy hearts, it would seem so hard to grasp that God could be man. So He proved it slowly, with tender daily delirium, with His own baby and child, boy and lad and man, with one set purpose moving on unhurried from windy cradle to hard cross.—John Ayscough.

His, Who is the Eternal Amen.—Abbe Constant Fournier.

The Prince of Life, handling at His sovereign pleasure, the keys of the Kingdom.—Fournier.

The Word (what a noble name), that is the expression of God's love, the extension of His wisdom, the evidence of His power, the very breath of His Life-giving Life, which is Himself.—Cardinal Wiseman.

The flawless mirror, reflecting perfectly the infinite perfection of the Blessed Trinity.—Reflexion.

I know Christ well; and I say that Jesus Christ was not a man.—St. Augustine.

As the price of the soul on the cross is the precious blood of the Lord, so the price of the soul on the cross is the precious blood of the Lord.—St. Augustine.

Jesus Christ is a God to whom we owe our lives, and to whom we owe our souls.—St. Augustine.

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## STRANGE BUT TRUE

Catholic Facts But Little Known

By M. J. MURRAY



## THE LIBRARY SIGN POST

How and to meet Catholics so little indoctrinated with the elemental vitality of their Faith. The calendar of the Church here was manifestly, here was vigorous energy amidst storm and stress of turbulent circumstance which surrounded this "greatest of the Borgias."

The same strengthening of character which Christian virtue accomplishes in the heart is also to be found in the mind under the influence of Christian faith. Far from the flashy, spongy thing which the Catholic mind has been imagined by its enemies to be, it is strong, muscular, receptive, girded for the great adventure of universal reality. As Chesterton puts it: "A convinced Catholic is easily the most hardheaded and logical person walking the earth today."

The Catholic Worker for October is now in the Library for distribution. Anyone is welcome to come in and take a copy free. If you know of any people, Catholic or non-Catholic, sincerely interested in social problems, take copies of the C. W. to them. Do not hesitate to be a Catholic propagandist. Communists have the "push" but not the "stuff." Catholics have the "stuff" but very often not the "push." Is that as it should be?

A little like Margaret Yoo's "The Greatest of the Borgias" might imply "the roses and raptures of vice." It's just as far from that as it is from "the hills and langours of virtue." The book is the kind of virtue.

## THE CATHOLIC EVIDENCE LIBRARY RECOMMENDS

THE THINGS THAT ARE NOT CAESARS. By Jacques Maritain. People who look solely to politics or governmental reform for the cure of social ills act in effect as if they had "no king but Caesar." But Christ is King and has His rights upon which the State may not trespass. Aligned to these divine rights are certain fundamental rights of man which the State must hold as sacred and beyond its encroachment. In these days when the omnipotent totalitarian State is an actual issue in certain European countries and a potential threat in several others, it is urgent that Catholics understand what are the limits of human authority and the scope of both human and divine rights. Maritain's book is a lucid study of the problem. It avoids the emotional jargon and bombast which so many people bring into the discussion of politics and religion. It is an excellent book for studious spiritual reading during this season of Christ the King.

THE OPEN LETTER OF ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON TO THE REV. MR. HYDE. This is one of the classic letters of all literature; and yet, although a copy has been in the C. E. Library for the last three years, it has been taken out by only two or three people. It was written by the famous author of "Treasure Island" in answer to a Presbyterian minister of Honolulu who had written disparagingly of Father Damien, the apostle of the lepers of Molokai. For the "retort courteous" and the "reproof valiant," this letter is a miniature masterpiece. As from one Presbyterian to another in impassioned defense of a Catholic priest, it has a human interest in proportion to its literary power.

CATHOLIC EVIDENCE LIBRARY  
PLACE—Lobby of Columbus Civic Centre Building, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester, N. Y.  
HOURS—Afternoon—3:30 through to 9:00 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.  
DAILY RENTAL—One cent for each book. Phone, Stone 2837

## Diocesan Recordings

Diocese of Rochester

DRAW THE COLOR LINE when anyone tries to tell you that the red in the Stars and Stripes should eclipse the white and blue.

### KNOW YOUR SCHOOLS

It is a good idea. Our Catholic parents should know their schools and that is one reason why we have inaugurated the School Page in each issue. Parents of high school children should be interested in knowing that the teachers are over on the alert to advance in secular as well as religious knowledge. The organization of science teachers of Catholic and secular high schools of Rochester, Auburn and Elmira as a group of the Catholic Round Table of Science is an evidence of the spirit of our Catholic teachers in this diocese. The purpose of the High School Round Table, according to the Rev. Francis P. LeBuffe, S.J., business manager of America, "is to get the Catholic teachers together so as to further a research attitude of mind and an advanced study idea of mind. There is a crying need for Catholic teachers to think in terms of research. Our status is judged by what we put out in our various branches. We have had some rather remarkable achievements in this country." It is interesting to note also that this high school group is the first in the country to be formed in the national organization.

### CHRISTMAS COMES ON

space for those who must furnish Christmas with the necessary funds to take care of the bottom of the Christmas tree but it is not too early to talk of Christmas cards. A growing movement launched by the Salvatorian Fathers of St. Nazaria, Wis., for the use of appropriate religious cards which at the same time are beautifully designed has interested more and more in the use of these cards. Sending out a pagan card on the greatest of Christian feasts is most inconsistent.

### A GREAT TO-DO

is being raised over the "interruption" of a political debate on the air but the difficulties of Station WLWL, operated by the Paulist Fathers in New York, and dedicated since 1925 to the cause of culture, education, religion and labor get small consideration. Recently Station WLWL had opportunity to purchase Station WOV to give the Paulist Station more adequate time. Into the picture stepped Mr. Arde Bulova, chief owner of the Bulova Watch Company and according to Light, publication of the International Catholic Truth Society in Brooklyn, Station WOV broke its verbal agreement with WLWL and Mr. Bulova was to become the owner of WOV at the price offered by WOV to WLWL. Light has called upon Mr. Arde Bulova, chairman, Bulova Watch Company, 580 Fifth Avenue, New York, to help Station WLWL by withdrawing from the picture. Unless he does the largest and oldest Catholic radio station in America is in a sorry plight. This is a type of suppression that needs fair and full consideration by those able to see that justice is done.

### THE SPOTLIGHT

focused on Communistic activities may leave in the shadows some anti-Catholic forces as the Ku Klux Klan. In an Elmira paper recently under the date line of Columbus, Ohio, it is announced that the Klan is being revived in Ohio ostensibly to work against appropriating state funds for aid to parochial schools. Such movements will not die until every man, woman and child in America knows the Catholic viewpoint and principles. It is a large order but the job must be done if the Church is to achieve the goal among "all nations." Spreading Catholic information is a task every lay society should begin.

### Spiritual Thoughts

No words are needed for a kindly speech. The loving thought will live when we have perished.—John Boyle O'Reilly

Words are but pictures of our thoughts.—John Dryden.

Unspoken words, like treasures in the mine. Are valueless until we give them birth.—John Dryden.

Like unfound gold, their hidden beauties shine, Which God made to bless and gild the earth.—O'Reilly.

We are a heterogeneous group joined in the homogeneity of Christianity.—Father Lord, S. J.

"See how these Christians love one another!" Who says that now?—Cardinal O'Connell.

## QUESTION BOX

Q—A Catholic man left the Church some years ago and joined the sect to which his wife belonged. His wife is dead now and he would like to return to his Catholic faith. Can he?

A—Certainly. Let him go to confession and the priest will obtain whatever facilities are needed to absolve him. If he wishes to explain the situation, the Church is always ready to receive back those who are really repentant.

Q—What is meant by phrenology? Is it wrong to believe in it?

A—Phrenology is the theory that a man's mental and moral qualities can be detected by the size and shape of the head. It contains little truth and much falsehood. There have been startling characters with peculiar heads and homely faces and on the other

hand notorious criminals with angelic countenance and heads worthy of an Adonis. We should, therefore, take no stock in phrenology, as there is great danger of rash judgment.

Q—A non-Catholic friend of mine attended a Requiem Mass recently. He asked me why the lighted candles surrounded the remains and also why did the priest spread incense over the casket? I made some reply to these queries but I would like to know through your paper just what your reason would be?

A—The lighted tapers express the desire that the departed may be admitted into the realm of perpetual light. The incense, that is, burned, expresses the desire that our prayers for the deceased may ascend to the throne of the Most High even as the smoke that ever goes upward.