

Catholic Courier

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interesting reversal of the supposedly traditional opposition to science and scientific scorn of spiritual values.

Time and time again Catholic apologists have exploded the notion that the Church is the sworn enemy of science. But now it appears that somebody must come to the fore and prove that science is not its own worst enemy. Dr. Gladston fears modern science as a Frankenstein monster, a blind Samson about to bring down upon itself its palace, destroying itself and humanity.

Expanding on this theme, the doctor declares "Scientists have gone on in the quest of truth, so called, caring never a fig for the human consequences because at rock bottom science is amoral, devoid of ethics, and not concerned with the good, the true, or the beautiful of Socrates or of Jesus."

Obviously Dr. Gladston has overstated the case. Of more accurately, perhaps, what he says might be true of purely physical science as such, but it is not true of most individual scientists. Science, as most moderns define it, deals only with material things—things capable of measurement, things that can be put in a test tube.

In his message to the members of the newly formed Academy, Pope Pius said "Especially during the past century there were those who thought with false and rash arguments that the findings of human science were in open contradiction of the teaching of divine revelation. It is, however, a source of profound joy to our heart that in our day these prejudices are so evidently ungrounded that there are now few who have really studied the positive sciences and who continue to sustain this error."

There are many scientists who, speaking in their own names and the names of their colleagues, do not hesitate to say that true science leads, prepares, and directs souls to the Faith.

Because Dr. Gladston has concentrated his attention on the terrific possibilities of evil latent in the misapplication of some discoveries of modern science, he has apparently lost his sense of proportion. He has looked upon an amazingly intricate, beautifully designed tapestry, but he has seen only an ugly spot.

Catholic scientists concur with Dr. Gladston's condemnation of a divorce between the application of scientific discoveries and the moral law; but instead of damning the discoveries, they seek to put the parts of truth disclosed by science into their proper place in the exquisite mosaic of the eternal unity of truth.

FASCINATING SUBJECT

It would certainly be expecting too much to think that all Catholic adults who would profit by the parish study club, would join such a club. To expect that would be wild optimism. But it is not wild optimism to expect the loyal earnest Catholic men and women of a parish to join a study club.

So far this year the reports from the parish study clubs are none too promising. It is because the subject is dull and drab? The Life of Jesus? One thing is beyond all question: No one will ever find a subject for study clubs with greater fascination than the present one. In fact, no one will ever find its equal. What is more, any other subject that will follow will be found more interesting and illuminating from a more intimate knowledge of the Life of the Founder of Christianity.

Although the autumn session for the parish study clubs began more than a month ago, new clubs still might begin and finish before Christmas by doing a little extra work. With eight lessons finished, the clubs will be ready to start the remaining lessons during Lent, 1937. The pastor will be encouraged and happy to see new clubs springing up, after the political static is out of the atmosphere. One parish has fifty-five study clubs in full swing. Will another match this record?

As Others View It

"CHAIN PRAYER" NONSENSE

Again and again Catholic newspapers have exposed the "chain prayer" nonsense and advised people to pay no attention to such rubbish, but it would seem, some people will never learn. Every once in a while some lunatic sends out a letter on the order of the following (to quote verbatim the latest brought to our attention):

"Dear friends: This is a chain letter of the Little Flower of Jesus. It was sent to me and I am sending it so the chain will not be broken. Make three copies of this letter and send each to a person to whom you wish good luck. This chain was started in January, 1930, and it is to go around the world three times. The fourth day after receiving this letter good luck will come to you. It is remarkable how this prediction will come true. With these letters before the fourth day and see what happens. Say three Our Fathers and three Hail Marys for nine days, trusting that this chain will never be broken. This was sent in good faith and is approved by the Sisters of St. Francis—From a friend."

It should be unnecessary to repeat that no ecclesiastical authority has approved or disapproved the circulation of anything so superstitious and idiotic. Neither the Sisters of St. Francis nor any others have any authority to approve prayers, and it is ridiculous to think for one moment that any order of nuns would have a hand in spreading such "guarantees of good luck." However, some deluded Catholics still, apparently, are susceptible to such nonsense. It is to be hoped that the Catholic press will continue to expose all such

The Yardstick

Can We Achieve Economic Morality?

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

What chance is there of the American people's establishing a system of guild-and-government to enforce economic morality?

The Communists have an easy theory; things are bad and progressively will get so much worse that a militant majority can get the approach so made that they will demand more and more. In the process the laborer's condition will be improved by the growth of mass production, enough of them will rise in revolt under the leadership of Communists. And there you are.

May we be right? Maybe that will happen. But things go that way, then the greater probability is not a Communist victory but suppression by monopoly—capitalism far a shorter or longer stage.

There are in fact three main elements in the Communist prophecy. One is the admitted contradiction between large profits and mass production: you can't gear a producing system to turn out mountains of goods and then by large profits to the few not let them have them.

You can correct that in part by diffusing the profits so widely that more of the goods can be bought. In that case you have to have, besides high wages and lower prices, widely diffused ownership, limited profits on ownership, and a profitable share to the workers. Where the workers in an industry are few and the capital invested large, the thing to do is to have public ownership, if the product is important to the community. Otherwise you cannot control it for the common good.

The greater Communist reliance is on two other elements. On one side stand the demands of the employees and the unemployed. The other is the refusal of the owners and the capitalists to let the crucial thing is what labor will demand and what employers will accept.

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

Catholic Facts But Little Known

By M. J. MURRAY



An Unbeliever's Punishment was to Renovate this Calvary!

The beautiful Calvary on the ancient Charles bridge in Prague, Czechoslovakia, records on a tablet that IT WAS RESTORED IN 1707 WITH THE FINE IMPOSED ON AN UNBELIEVER WHO INSULTED THE CRUCIFIX.

THE FACTS ARE THAT A HEISTED SPAT UPON THE CALVARY AND THROUGH HIS APPEAL AGAINST HIS PENALTY TO THE HIGHEST COURT IN THE LAND IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT HIS FINE SHOULD PAY FOR THE RESTORING AND REBUILDING OF THE ENTIRE STAIRWAY!

ISLANDS 100% CATHOLIC

THE POPULATION OF THE ISLANDS OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS 400 MILES FROM FIJI IS ENTIRELY CATHOLIC. First visited by missionaries in 1837 they have now each native Seminary and have already supplied 30 priests for the missions.

THE CRUCIFIX IN NORFOLK

THE CRUCIFIX IN NORFOLK, ENGLAND, HAS BEEN THE SCENE OF A WONDERFUL STORY. A man who was a great sinner and a great drunkard, after a long and painful life, died and went to heaven. He was a great sinner and a great drunkard, after a long and painful life, died and went to heaven.

THE LIBRARY SIGN POST

A Dictionary Of Catholic Thought

(Compiled by the Rev. Walter F. Litch.)

SELF-DENIAL

Psychologically, self-denial is the price of self-control. In fact, it is the price of real adulthood. Without self-denial I shall always do what I want to do, and when I want to do it, and that is what a child does. With self-denial, I shall learn to do what I ought to do, and when I ought to do it, and that is to be grown up. Father Francis LeBuffe, S. J.

The worst education which teaches self-denial is better than the best which teaches everything else and not that Ave Maria.

It is attested by the history of all mankind that of men who have been fired with the ambition of gaining conquests in the field of glory or in that of literature, have voluntarily subjected themselves to a life of self-denial.

very tolerant of individuals. So he fought for the great cause of church charity, and with many a great of rumbling laughter. (C. J. Eustace, Commonweal, October 16.)

Spiritual Thoughts

Frank words often offend the ears, but they are good for character.

No created thing can give the soul joy equal to the joy of the Holy Spirit.

Those who love the poor in life shall have no fear of death.—St. Vincent de Paul.

God often defers to grant our petitions because He rejoices in the homage which we render Him by them.

Diocesan Recordings

APOLOGISTS and not apologists is now the order of the day for Catholics.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK have brought to the fore more forcibly than ever that Catholics must get over their inferiority complex in the coming days to combat subversive forces seeking to undermine the strength of the Church and to bring to many willing the rich treasures of Catholic doctrines and principles as applied to every day living.

PRIESTS AND LAYMEN in our presence in the past week in public speeches and in private conversation have strongly urged the Catholic to awake to the new possibilities and to stir himself in correcting misinformation that unreliable sources through the regular press disseminate. They urge providing first hand, authentic knowledge not only for fellow-Catholics but for those outside the faith now in a receptive mood.

THOSE OF US who have a report on Communist activity or on events in Spain that do not come from reliable sources should be hesitant in passing along such a report until verified. The difference between a man who is advocating the principles of social justice as advocated in the Holy Fathers' Encyclicals and one who is an out and out Communist must be determined before passing judgment and scoring such an individual for Communist leanings.

IN THIS DIOCESE a golden opportunity to know the Church's stand on economic problems now confronting the people of the United States will be offered at the Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems to be held in Columbus Civic Centre, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. The Catholic man or woman who attends these sessions and hears capable well informed speakers discuss current questions in the light of the Encyclicals can go out in his or her community and take the lead in discussing such questions. Back of your discussions will be the apostolic wisdom of the church which is becoming recognized as the only sound basis for solving the perplexing problems of the day.

OUR CATHOLIC WOMEN of the diocese this week are gathering at sessions of the Rochester Diocesan Council, National Council of Catholic Women to receive knowledge that should make them leaders in their communities. The work of the Catholic layman or laywoman is cut out for them these days in a pattern that means capable well informed speakers discuss current questions in the light of the Encyclicals can go out in his or her community and take the lead in discussing such questions. Back of your discussions will be the apostolic wisdom of the church which is becoming recognized as the only sound basis for solving the perplexing problems of the day.

MANY SAY where can they get information to pass along to non-Catholics? There are several sources. One is the Catholic information of Narberth, Pa., another in the International Catholic Truth Society, 477 Bergen Street, Brooklyn, and another The Queen's Work, 3742 West Pine Boulevard, St. Louis, Mo. where pamphlets are available that Catholics can well afford to read before passing them on to non-Catholic friends.

AN OPPORTUNITY to learn more of the Church's stand on Communism will be given in Rochester, Dec. 6 and 7, by Daniel A. Lord, S. J. and the Rev. Edward Dowling, S. J. conduct a forum. Both noted Jesuits have investigated the trend of Communism in this country, and both are most competent to speak on the subject.

A Columbus Youth Association sponsoring membership may mean keeping some worthwhile young man or young woman on the right path. "Carry Youth Along."

One secret act of self-denial, one sacrifice of inclination, one duty, worth all the mere good thoughts, warm feelings, passionate prayers in which idle people indulge themselves.—Cardinal Newman.

Self-denial is the indispensable condition of progress in every department of human enterprise. It is the first step in the following of Christ.—Bishop J. J. Lawler.

QUESTION BOX

Q.—Will a person be damned who knows the teachings of the Catholic Church but will not accept them although he leads a good life?

A.—If a person knows and is convinced that the Catholic Church is the Church established by Jesus Christ for the salvation of souls, he is bound in conscience to enter the Church. If he willfully refuses to embrace the Church, he sins against his conscience and against the Holy Ghost and therefore will not be saved. As the Holy Scripture says: "He that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved; he that believeth not, shall be condemned. If he will not hear the Church, let him be to thee as the heathen and the publican."

Q.—What is Limbo? Was that the hell to which our Lord descended after His death?

A.—The word Limbo is of Teutonic derivation, meaning literally a hem or a border. In the theological sense it is used to mean either the temporary place or state of the souls of the just who although purified from sin were

excluded from the Beatific Vision until Christ's triumphant Ascension into Heaven, or the permanent place or state of those unbaptized children and others who, dying without grievous personal guilt, are excluded from the Beatific Vision on account of original sin. The hell to which our Lord descended after His death was the Limbo in which the souls of the just were detained until the triumphant Ascension of Christ into heaven.

Q.—How is the Eucharistic fast broken?

A.—Three conditions are required to break one's fast before going to Communion. Whatever is taken must be real food or drink. For instance, the swallowing of a small piece of metal would not break the fast because metal is not digestible. Secondly, whatever is taken must come from outside the mouth and enter the stomach. For instance, blowing gum, would not break the fast. Lastly, it must be taken as food or drink. Thus, rain, snow, or dust swallowed accidentally would not break the fast.

THE CATHOLIC EVIDENCE LIBRARY RECOMMENDS

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF GILBERT K. CHESTERTON. Here, at last, after long expectation, is the publication of the interesting manuscript which this greatest of contemporary English writers had completed two months before his death last June. Reading its vivacious, sparkling, and frequently powerful pages brings back again the poignant sense of bereavement over the loss of this splendid and happy warrior. It is the personal record of one of the few geniuses of our time; never blatant or boastful or morbid; always humble and deprecative of self even in his highest talents. In its rich tapestry of anecdotes and reminiscence, its unflagging humor, its incisive wit, its penetrating commentary on almost all the things that men have been interested in for the last half-century, its psychological insight into the changes of life from childhood to declining age, its reverent piety toward the sacred virtues of life, this autobiography takes its place as a masterpiece of its kind in our language. All the virtues that give a well-merited fame to Boswell's Life of Samuel Johnson are to be found in this personal record of a later and greater Johnson, as Chesterton has been called. In this book it is your privilege to commune, conversationally and informally, with a most interesting and witty mind. To meet the demand of public interest, two copies are in the Library, and the rental of them will be limited to seven days, without privilege of renewal.

AUTUMN IN THE VALLEY. By Mrs. Winthrop Chandler. The genial and cultured author of "Roman Spring" here presents the sequel of that charming record with an equally fascinating account of the autumn of her life at Sweet Briar Farm in the Genesee Valley. Because of widespread interest in this book, its rental will also be restricted to seven days, without privilege of renewal.

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