

The Courier

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The Yardstick

Sincere Tribute To A Great Man

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

Father McGowan, writer of the special articles that appear in this column, each week, will be a featured speaker at the Catholic Conference for Industrial Problems to be held Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at Colquhoun Civic Centre, Rochester.

Monaghan Burke, or Father Burke as I knew him best, was at once the greatest and kindest man I've had the good fortune to know. I'd taken a short trip to Europe a few days after the ceremony that elevated him to Monsignor—a happy day from beginning to end. He seemed to me better in health than in several years. I figured he stood by his coffin in the Paulist mortuary in New York.

I had known him since 1919 and had worked with him since then. I had lived with him since 1924. Yet the personal loss is comparatively little. The real loss is the loss of a great leader in the Catholic Church in the United States who was as thoroughly catholic as he was American.

How can one give the flavor of his character to persons who might not have known him? Shall I speak of those anecdotes of his of New York of the Nineties when he was a boy, or of the Lake George country where he did part of his work, or of his life as editor of the Catholic Worker, or of his life in the Paulist community, or of his work as secretary and real organizer of the National Catholic Welfare Council, or of his long third year as director of the National Catholic Welfare Conference? As one thinks of them they each bring out facets of his character, but a facet is still not all of one phase of a man.

Shall one speak of those strenuous days shortly after the war when the Bishop's Program of Social Reconstruction was issued and the controversy ran high, even if behind the scenes and back of the headlines? When the history of the Catholic Church in the United States shall have been written a whole chapter upon that program will be needed and Father Burke, and that other great and kind man, Dr. Ryan, will be its heroes. That document advocating in pioneer fashion many truths now become commonplace and many others not yet accepted is a monument to him—and to Dr. Ryan.

Of those for whom the work that more dramatically brought out his character was the more than ten years during which the problem of the Mexican persecution lay upon his mind. He approached it with a delicate sense of Mexican rights, with a keen perception of the unifying importance of the Catholic Church in the ultimate future of Mexico, with humility, with kindness to all involved, with a determination that for his part he would throw his influence toward a peaceful resolution of the Mexican life which should bring justice to the Mexican people and keep the Church in their hearts.

He was the general secretary of Catholic Action in the United States and to him more than to any one man is due the organization of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. I know that particular organizations came and go. But in our time by his work in organizing it, he did one of the lastingly constructive things of our time in the American Church. He was, in fact, a world pioneer for other countries have followed in our footsteps.

Our United States in Christ. Or should I go on to speak of his tremendous capacity for work even in sickness? Or of his appreciation of the beautiful in nature, in poetry, in sculpture, in buildings and bridges, in flowers, in the beauty of the altar? Or of his marvelous spirituality? Or of his sense of the unity of all in Christ? Or of his great sense of humor? May God be merciful to his imperfections and may we have his intercession forever!

(N.C.W.C. FEATURES)

A Dictionary of Catholic Thought

(Compiled by the Rev. Walter R. Inge)

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The rose, the Virgin Mary, the living embodiment of Jesus—Fr. A. Levatois S.S.

Above Mary, God only beneath her, that is not God—St. Anselm

He who loves Mary will persevere in the end—St. John Berchmans

He who serves Mary worthily will be loved by God—St. Bernard

God wills that Mary wait through all states of life so that all states of life might have in her a model and a help—St. Bernard

(N.C.W.C. FEATURES)

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Catholic Facts But Little Known

By M. J. MURRAY

CATHEDRAL without FOUNDATIONS
The immense Cathedral at SAINT ALBANS, ENGLAND, has NO FOUNDATIONS according to a recent discovery.
THE BUILDING WAS ERRECTED IN THE 12TH CENTURY.

This relic of the TRUE CROSS in the Ursuline Convent, Cork, Ireland, was formerly owned by DONALD O'BRIEN, KING OF LIMERICK in the 12th century who created HOLY CROSS ABBEY, THURLEIGH, for its reception.

Saint Vincent de Paul has an indestructible letter written. HE IS SAID TO HAVE WRITTEN OVER 30,000 LETTERS!

CRUSADERS ENGINEERING FEAT:
THIS CHASM AT SAHUN, NORTHERN SYRIA 700 FEET LONG AND CARVED INTO THE SOLID PLATEAU IS ARTIFICIAL!
It served as the moat of a walled castle nearby which belonged to the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem. The pinnacle rock—likewise cut out of rock—supported a drawbridge!

THE LIBRARY SIGN POST

Back in the third century, the great Christian writer Tertullian stated that Christian charity was as patent to pagan observers that it forced the comment: "See how those Christians love one another."

Charity was their distinctive mark, in keeping with Christ's own prophecy: "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another." How different is the spectacle of the religious and secular spokesmen of the Catholic Church in the United States today! Let's be fair, and admit that much, no matter how much we may question his further tactics.

And if these tactics must be brought to public account by those of his own household, it must be done as to maintain Christian charity before God and man. If St. Paul was shocked that some of his Corinthian converts had arranged their fellow-Christians before a pagan judge, we must be very circumspect about arranging our fellow-Christians before the bar of public opinion which is so definitely hostile to us.

All Rochesterians who are interested in the Christian answer to the economic problem for a better reason than the scrappy controversy over Father Coughlin should attend the meetings of the Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems being held in this city next Monday and Tuesday.

Rev. Benedict Krumm
God will do anything to save a soul that loves His mother, or has loved her—Father Dignam, S.J.
For the sake of Jesus, we must learn to increase in our love for Mary—Father Faber.

THE CATHOLIC EVIDENCE LIBRARY RECOMMENDS

GONE WITH THE WIND. By Margaret Mitchell.—Most novels go with the wind, but this one is taking deep root in public favor. Its author is a Catholic, its leading lady is nominally Catholic, but the novel itself can hardly be called Catholic in that deeper sense in which human wills and passions are depicted meeting the challenge of Catholic faith in their conflicts. Nevertheless, it ranks high in its delineation of human nature and in the strong witness it bears to the verities of human life. For this reason it has been placed in the C. E. Library. It will not be for this reason that people will read it, but because it is a highly entertaining (if long) story of the Civil War and its aftermath as seen through the eyes of a strong-willed woman on the Confederate side. It represents with powerful strokes the conflict of ideas and manners which was inevitable in the replacement of an old and venerable culture by a new economic order. Perhaps best of all, it is a damning indictment of the toll of war upon the women of a nation. (Ready Monday night.)

THE SPANISH TRAGEDY. By E. Allison Peers.—The Newsletter of the Catholic Book Club has this recommendation: "After years of residing in Spain and studying Spanish history, Professor Peers is well qualified to tell the events which plunged that unhappy country into its present chaotic state. Avoiding partiality, he traces the divisions of political thought, embittered by religious antagonism, which have turned Spain into two armed camps of extremists, Bolshewiks on the one hand, Fascists on the other, and have forced the more moderate Catholic party to make a rather grim decision." The intensity of current interest in the problem of Spain and the rather universal ignorance of its true nature demand that an impartial and well-informed study of the situation be made easily accessible to the reading public. (Ready Monday night.)

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

A King's marital plans do not concern us but the approval given divorce by one who is nominally the head of a Christian Church does not seem to be good example to those in that church.

Would you say that many sermons heard on Sunday are "Gone With The Wind"?

Many changes have been wrought in the industrial and social structure of the United States during the past six years. It was in 1931 that the Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems was held here for a one day session and at that time a large crowd turned out to discuss and to hear discussed the problems then confronting all of us in the United States.

Now with the rising tide of communicative philosophy, the trend in other countries towards a fascist state, the complications arising in labor organizations, the growing need for distribution of wealth and the many other pressing problems facing us, the coming Conference on Industrial Problems to be held at Columbus Civic Centre, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 will attract a large number of persons, Catholic and non-Catholic alike from all over the diocese. To many of our own there is still a vague idea of what part the Church plays in the economic and social side of our existence.

Many do not believe the Church has a right to even offer suggestions. They do not realize that the moral questions involved are as much a concern for conscience as are the economic ones. It is to bring out in the open in frank discussion these questions and to shed light on them drawn from the beacons of the Holy Fathers great Encyclicals. On the Condition of Labor and On Reconstructing the Social Order, that the Conferences are held. No resolutions are passed but no one at attending each of the sessions can come away without the firm conviction that the Church in her wisdom sees deeply into the doings of men and points the way for a better life depending upon the moral stamina of those who are willing to accept her teachings.

A commendable turn-out at a recent social has given impetus to St. Gerard's Maternity Guild one of six in the country promoted by the Central Bureau of the Central Verein and the National Catholic Women's Union.

The Maternity Guild here as have the others, has a three-fold purpose, to inculcate a high regard for the nobility of Christian motherhood and the duties of parenthood to offer instruction on secular topics of particular concern to married people and, most important, to defray the expenses of confinement for mothers who have contributed to the common fund established for this purpose on a truly cooperative basis.

The Guild is answering the need for an antidote for birth control clinics. In St. Louis recently a reception was tendered by members of the Maternity Guild of St. Francis de Sales parish to the infants born to members of the Guild under its sponsorship. Forty-five mothers add their infants were present, 23 having found it impossible to attend. Similar Guilds are being organized in San Antonio, Tex., Milwaukee, Quincy, Ill., and Pittsburgh. Great publicity is attending the efforts of the Sangerites, Hupburnites, etc., but quietly and effectively the Maternity Guilds are working to offset in a truly Christian manner the pagan practices of those to whom morality is as extinct as Alroy Oop's dinosaur.

If you do not belong to a Catholic lay organization can you expect that lay organization to do much for you and your children?

Don't crowd the "deadline" and do all your Christmas shopping on Dec. 24.

Defending the Faith

Questions and Answers

By ARNOLD LUNN

In this column the noted convert and apologist, Arnold Lunn, solves religious difficulties proposed for the most part by young people who are neither Catholics nor Christians. His questions and answers appeared originally in the Notre Dame "Religious Bulletin."

QUESTION
Psychologists teach that religion is just a case of wish-fulfillment? People who are frightened of death invent an imaginary world beyond?ANSWER
To begin with, always suspect boah when you see a sentence beginning, "Psychologists teach." "Science teaches." There are all ways of saying, "I think." A real scientist doesn't say, "Science teaches." He says, "The evidence suggests..."

So Christianity is a case of wish-fulfillment, is it? People invented the nice, cheery warming belief in God because they wanted to go there? But this wish-fulfillment argument cuts both ways. If a man specializes in adultery, his form of wish-fulfillment will lead him to disbelieve in a future life in which he may be called to account for his sins. Nor is a belief necessarily false because it's pleasant. This attitude against pleasure in belief is just a throw-back to our puritan background, a new form of prohibition. Don't drink wine because it's intoxicating. Don't believe in

immortality because it's heartening. And do you prove that cows are frightened by wish-fulfillment because a hungry man's mouth waters at the sight of beef? What would you think of a lawyer who opened his case: "Please pay no attention to the lawyer on the other side. You see, he is very anxious to win this case. His arguments are merely due to a wish-fulfillment complex." In religion as in the law courts, arguments must be met by arguments. "No case. Abuse the attorney," was the old motto. The new tactic is, "No case. Psycho-analyze your opponent." What we need in the modern world is a return to the old medieval practice of meeting arguments with arguments. It is the arguments for the Faith that matter, not the psychological motives which induce people to join (or to leave) the Catholic Church.

NEXT WEEK'S QUESTION
What does it matter what a man believes, so long as he believes himself?

(N.C.W.C. FEATURES)