

Courier

NATION'S PATRONAL FEAST

No feast of Our Lady has more meaning for Catholics in the United States than the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Under this title Mary is the patroness of our country.

This is a point that is usually overlooked. We are living in an age that ignores things spiritual. An age that smiles at the supernatural. Unconsciously Catholics are affected by this modern attitude. Of course we are not in the fundamentals of our Faith, but we are losing some of the tradition of Catholic devotion. Four out of five have forgotten that America has a heavenly patroness.

In making this statement perhaps we have gone out on a limb; we hope that we have. But it is safe to say that the percentage of Catholics who think of Mary as our patroness is very, very small.

Supper may seem at this idea; but it is still a fact that "many things are wrought by prayer that this world dreams of." If we accept Mary as a practical patroness—a petitioner who has the welfare of our country close to her heart, we will pray to her incessantly. We do need her help, not only as individuals, but as a nation. We can begin by reciting the petitions in the liturgy: "O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin didst prepare a worthy dwelling-place for thy Son, thou dost preserve her from all stain, so too thou wouldst permit us, purified through her intercession, to come unto thee."

JOIN IN COMMON CAUSE

Inter-faith meetings such as the symposium held recently by the Rochester City League are certainly interesting. How much good they accomplish is debatable, but they do help in some degree to clear up a few of the mutual misunderstandings between Protestants, Jews and Catholics.

In no sense could this symposium be called a debate. Neither the minister, the rabbi, nor the priest participating set out to win points; each aimed only at answering satisfactory questions related to his creed. Doctrinal differences did not play an important part in the discussion. Political problems predominated. Some people are evidently quite worried about what will happen to the United States once the Catholics get control. Others are afraid of what the Jews will do with the country once they get control. Nobody seemed particularly perturbed because the Protestants are in control. For example, these questions were asked: "Don't priests tell Catholics how to vote?" "Don't the Jews control international banking and industry? Won't they soon own the country?"

One supposed-to-be skeleton in the Catholic closet was rattled into view—the Inquisition. Galileo, however, was not resurrected, nor did the massacre of St. Bartholomew's Day cause any difficulty. Catholic apologists have made some progress.

All three speakers shared the conviction that the real trouble in America is lack of religious rather than religious differences. Father Akers, S. J., made this comment: "Today, in America, sixty million people are without religious principles. The thing is to have religious convictions. Our difficulty today is plainly a moral one. It lies in delinquency, in denial of, or action against religious principles."

As Others View It

If social reconstruction does not start deep down in the hearts of men there will be no reconstruction at all. Social reconstruction must begin with spiritual reformation. What other meaning can be put into the words of the great Pope Leo XIII who said: "The loss of social reform is the principle of all social ruin." And what else did Christ mean when He said: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His Justice, and all else will be added unto you." Catholic Action will fail like all mere human enterprises if it does not build itself up on the rock of deep spirituality.—The Wanderer.

NAZIS FIGHT RACE SUICIDE

Proponents of progressivism in favor of racial control in Germany are to be punished by the new German criminal code. Presumptive racial control is under the ban. If an individual is found to be a Jew, he is to be punished. The Nazi motive is glorification of the race.

The Yardstick

Spain Furlishes Us With Lessons

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

Catholics in the United States in their attitude towards Spain seem to be holding well to two truths that have to be known. One is that Spain's trouble came upon it largely because of the failure of Catholics in Spain to do all that they could, although they did not do anything that was special or unusual in their country. The other is that the victory of the insurgents will not at all necessarily mean that enough Spanish money will be taken to cure Spain's poverty and injustice quickly enough to give any further satisfaction.

These two truths, the first the present position in Spain, the second the lesson to be learned, are the yardstick by which we should measure our own country.

They are: (1) Spain, our neighbor, is a nation that has been a model of Catholicism in the world. (2) Spain, our neighbor, is a nation that has been a model of Catholicism in the world.

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STRANGE BUT TRUE Catholic Facts But Little Known

By M. J. MURRAY

Advertisement for 'The Punishment fits the finger!' featuring a woman's portrait and text about 'Jesus cannot out-god' and 'Charitable Omnipotent Heavenly Understanding Everlasting Respected Raising Sacred Infinite Great Universal Savior Great Sinless Triumphant Divine'.

THE LIBRARY SIGN POST

We are using books wrongly if we do them all our thinking for us. They are not to be used as a substitute for our own minds. They are to be used as a guide, not a master.

The Faith Defending

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 not Catholics.

THE CATHOLIC EVIDENCE LIBRARY RECOMMENDS

THE POEMS OF G. K. CHESTERTON. It is hard to say whether the redoubtable G. K. interrupted his prose writings with diversions of poetry or interrupted his poetry with excursions into prose. At any rate, his poems are for the most part far more than mere diversions or excursions: some of them are the best in contemporary poetry.

Why Fight For Schools?

9. Systems of Education. 1. Any system of education which ignores the effects of original sin or the necessity of Divine Grace is unsound and false. 2. It is a curious sight to see the oracles spending their lives in search of a moral code for schools. One would think there were no Gospel and no Ten Commandments.

Diocesan Recordings

OPPORTUNITY for positive action in the Legion of Decency campaign for better films will be given members with the showing starting Dec. 11 of "Cloistered" at the Regent Theater, Rochester. When the Legion of Decency came into existence it was the important thing to do to shun the undesirable films.

COMMENTS HEARD during the Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems sessions and after, indicate that despite differences of opinion as to application, the principles of social justice as advanced in the Holy Fathers' Encyclicals are gradually becoming known. Catholics are thinking and talking the Encyclicals and the purpose for which they were written to bring their principles into the lives of all in the community is being served.

AN ENCOURAGING sign in the advancement of the Church's program of social reconstruction was the large number of Catholic college students who not only attended the various sessions of the Conference but took part in discussions. When these young men and women, students in our seminaries in Niagara University College here, and in Nazareth College go into the world they will at least be informed that such a thing exists as an Encyclical written by the Head of the Church for the guidance of all the faithful.

IT WAS FITTING that in a Conference seeking towards bringing about of social justice that the memory of the late Father Jacob Staab and his heroic efforts in that direction should be revived. At the morning Monday evening at which Monsignor Ryan spoke, the layman president, J. A. Corcoran, assistant industrial commissioner of New York City paid a glowing tribute to Father Staab's work.

AN EXAMPLE of the value of such a program as that being carried out by the Catholic Activities Committee of Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus was given Monday evening during the discussion period following Monsignor Ryan's talk. Among those asking intelligent and pointed questions were two who have been active in the K. C. program—Advocate Howard M. Woods and Arthur P. Farran. Training an inquiring laity is a purpose well served by the Knights of Columbus program.

WHEN SO MANY Catholic laymen and laywomen can get on their feet and discuss Catholic principles as was done during the Conference there is no need any longer for an "inferiority complex" on the part of the laity.

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