SPAIN SPEAKS

The so-called "Friends of Spanish Democracy" should have been in the ballroom of the Columbus Civic Centre Sunday night.

They should have heard Luis Bermijillo, youthful veteran of General Franco's forces, tell the real story of the Spanish revolt.

They would have been surprised in many ways.

In the first place, no collection was taken up "to aid the cause."

Secondly Senor Bermijillo flatly declared that the only true democracy in Spain is being espoused by the Republicans who are battling under the Franco banners.

Thirdly the speaker showed up the so-called Popular Front government for what it really is—a puppet dangling on strings which are pulled in Moscow.

But just imagine the surprise of these "Friends of Spanish Democracy" if they heard the Senor declare that the Spanish struggle is not a battle between Democracy as represented by the so-called government and Fascism as represented by the Franco forces.

They certainly would have winced if they heard the young veteran calmly paint the Spanish picture as a struggle on the part of Franco's men to throw off the Communistic yoke. You could have knocked them down with the good-sized Spanish onion when the good Senor explained the German and Italian aid for Franco as a step to prevent the setup of Communism in Western Europe rather than a move to make Spain a Fascist state. Then again the speaker reminded his audience that only after Russia poured thousands of troops into Spain did Germany and Italy act.

In the absence of these "Friends of Spanish Democracy" some 500 interested Americans gathered in the ballroom to mark the start of the anti-Communism Crusade of Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus.

There was no fan-fare to the gathering. There was no play to the emotions such as nurses in uniforms going among the audience. There was, however, presentation, in an atmosphere of culture, of indisputable facts.

The Knights of Columbus have made an auspicious start in their crusade against Communism. They are to be commended for sponsoring the appearance here of Luis Bermijillo.

Truly Catholic journalism is the highest degree of Catholic Action. [Bishop Joseph Imbuhl of Lincoln and Lincoln.]

SILLY SACRIFICES?

Publicity seeking preachers have a simple technique. By ridiculing what most people revere, by jibing at tradition, and peering at popular practices, these press-minded pastors easily break into the headlines.

A Baptist minister in Clifton Springs, furnishes the latest local example of this pulpit stunt. In his sermon last Sunday he said:

"Most of the so-called 'sacrifices' of Lent are utterly silly. To give up candy, meat, dances, parties, drinking, smoking and the like during Lent is not sacrifice at all in the Christian meaning of the word. Such a practise, in fact, is a poor substitute for the real thing which is demanded by the religion of Jesus."

The minister has missed the point. Mortification is a supplement, not a substitute. Catholics never forget the words of Christ "Not that which goeth into the mouth refileth a man: but what cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man."

Certainly it is not silly to give up parties, candy, smoking and the like during Lent. If we ever practise self-denial, if we never forego legitimate luxuries, if we never try to strengthen our will by disciplining our body, we will be poor specimens of Christian perfection, poor followers of Christ in the desert.

As a text for his next sermon, we suggest that the Reverend Minister preach on St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians, the ninth chapter, the 25 and 27 verses: "Every one that striveth for the mastery refraineth himself from all things . . . I chastise my body and bring it into subjection: lest perhaps when I have preached to others, I myself should become a castaway."

THE FIFTEEN OLD MEN?

The nation is now seething in political debate over a proposal by the President to change the complex of the Supreme Court.

The President's proposal covers a complete overhauling of the federal judiciary in an attempt to speed up the disposition of court cases. There is no serious dispute over his plan to revise the proceedings in the lower branches of the federal judiciary.

The fire of criticism is directed against the president's plan to appoint a new Supreme Court justice for every member of the present bench who is seventy years or more and does not retire. Under the present setup, six of the nine members are over seventy which means that the president would appoint six new Supreme Court justices if none of the present members who have reached the three score and ten mark would retire.

Opponents of the president charge he is trying to "pack" the court with men who would favor New Deal legislation in the event its constitutionality is questioned. Supporters of the president's plan argue that it simply remedies a long-standing defect in our judicial system and would make for a more liberal interpretation of the laws.

It is not our intention to take a stand one way or the other on this question.

We simply call it to the attention of our readers and stress the necessity of careful and careful study of the proposal before regis[illegible] approval or disapproval through the [illegible] opened to the voters.

A good Catholic is a good citizen. This then certainly is a question [illegible] should be

Diocesan Recordings

ALONG THE ANTI-COMMUNISM FRONT in the diocese, this week, found the Spanish forum at Columbus Civic Centre, Sunday evening the major offensive.

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Five hundred attentive men and women, including a large number of our priests heard the soft-spoken, gentlemanly defender of Spain oppressed by Communism relate first hand the condition his unhappy country finds itself in as a result of Communistic over-zealousness.

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He told them that when Communism entered Spain over 25 years ago, Moscow's agents began their program with the showing of motion pictures to propagandize the Red cause. (That is being done now in this country, the Legion of Decency reports.)

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He described the insidious methods used by Communism to foment the lower classes. (That goes on now in Rochester.)

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Unlike the bloody scourge Communism has brought to Spain, the fight against Communism here has reached a stage that calls for serious, intelligent discussion. (That was demonstrated Sunday night.)

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Those who attended the forum were not called on to shout their battle cry. They were, however, given ammunition to go out into their daily occupations to refute the misleading statements made to color favorably the Communistic cause.

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It was most significant at the Spanish forum, that the young Spaniard who espouses the cause of Right and the Rights sufficiently to offer his life for it, made no plea for financial assistance for his country. He asked only prayers.

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Idealists who believed that a greater representation could have turned out Sunday night reckon not with the lethargy that exists in opposing Communism. We believe the showing at the forum was highly indicative of a growing interest among clergy and laity in facing the fact that Communism is a world menace.

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Again it was demonstrated that Catholic lay societies will cooperate in a movement that is the concern of all Catholic men and women, whatever their affiliation. Leaders of most of the Catholic groups were present.

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Observation over 20 years of Knights of Columbus activities shows the Spanish forum to be one of their outstanding achievements. Spurred by the Crusade of the Supreme officers the Knights are working zealously to carry out their part of the program here. The Spanish forum success promises well for the future.

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Notre Dame men of Rochester are alert to the Red menace. These alumni of the University at South Bend have begun their work in a nation-wide campaign. Nor did they let pass the sophomoric editorial in the Campus of the University of Rochester scored in an editorial in the CATHOLIC COURIER last week under the heading of Campus Capers. The Notre Dame men protested immediately to the President of the University of Rochester against the lifted M.I.T. editorial in the Campus which attempted to chide the Notre Dame anti-Communism drive.

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Encouraging, report the Knights of Columbus, were the pulpit announcements calling attention to the Spanish forum, last Sunday and the previous Sunday.

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It is not too far-fetched to see in the gathering Sunday night to discuss the Spanish situation the effectiveness of the CATHOLIC COURIER'S crusade against Communism. Without the background furnished by the diocesan newspaper the interest in the subject discussed would have been far less. (We noted a great many subscribers of the paper in the audience.)

Why Fight For Schools?

20. Catholic Education Produces Saints

1. The value of Christian education is shown in the lives of countless saints produced by the Church—and by none other.
2. The saints are the greatest benefactors of human society.
3. They are models of every walk of life—for peasants and philosophers—for workmen and soldiers—for fathers and kings—for maidens and mothers—for housewives and queens.
4. Christian education has civilized the savages, spread the Gospel, educated the poor, founded innumerable institutes of teaching and charity; in a word, it has proved its worth both for the well being of the family and of the nation.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Catholic Facts But Little Known

By M. J. MURRAY

THE LIBRARY SIGN POST

THE CATHOLIC WORKERS

It is about time to say a good word of encouragement to the group of young people who call themselves The Catholic Workers and hold their meetings once a week in the Catholic Evidence Library. There are about forty or fifty of them, some from college, but most of them from offices and shops. Their organization is the result of the zealous vision of three young men (names given on request) who, interested in the ideals of the Catholic Worker movement was inspired by Dorothy Day's first talk in Rochester two years ago under the auspices of the Catholic Women's Club. In fact that visit of Miss Day was the impetus for several good works but of them all, this local cell of Catholic Workers is the most promising.

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Father George Vogt is their moderator. No priest in the diocese is more versed than he in the literature of the best contemporary writers on social and economic questions. With his wide view of the subject, he has outlined an admirably comprehensive list of lecture topics which covers the whole social front in its historical, philosophical, legal and religious phases. It is the most ambitious lecture course I have ever seen and would tax the energies of a whole university faculty. Father Vogt has followed the sound plan of inviting for each of these topics a speaker whose position or experience qualifies him to speak with authority. Thus, for a recent lecture on Roman Law, Common Law and Canon Law he engaged one of the best teachers of law in the city.

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It is the aim of this lecture course to give a sound foundation of intelligence on social questions to the Catholic Workers. Their work for social justice is not to be beating the air or, talking through their hats. Certain groups in Rochester (names given on request) might well follow their example.

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The Library is cooperating with the Catholic Workers by obtaining gradually (it is to be hoped, within a year) a collection of books on the social question which will rival, in quality if not in quantity, the collection on the same topic in the Central Library. Father Vogt has already prepared a comprehensive book list, which anyone may obtain for the asking at the Library desk. Anyone of good will, Catholic or non-Catholic, is invited to attend the Catholic Worker meetings, which are held Tuesday nights at nine in the Library. They consist of a lecture and a free-for-all discussion. Adjournment is never later than 11 o'clock.

Rev. Benedict Ehmann

THE CATHOLIC EVIDENCE LIBRARY RECOMMENDS

DIVERSITY IN HOLINESS. By Rev. F. H. J. Stewart, S. J. Holiness is the likeness of the soul to Jesus, practically it is the imitation of Jesus. It is not meant to be something exclusively for exceptional people. In the first days of Christianity, all the faithful were called "the saints", read St. Paul's letters and see for yourself. The fact that, in Christian history, there have been many exceptional men and women whose imitation of Christ was heroic enough to win them the public recognition of canonization, should not be a damper for the majority of the faithful who have souls of lesser calibre. We are not all called to be heroic saints, but we are all called to be saints. Furthermore, no one is holy in quite the same way as another. Personality, character, and temperament will give their special color to the imitation of Christ. One person will be temperamentally inclined to imitate the contemplation of Christ, another His works of mercy, another, His penance and fasting; still another, His zeal for souls. Thus there is diversity in holiness, and one of the special fascinations in studying the lives of devout Christian people is to discover the manifold possibilities of expressing the Christ-life . . . Fr. Stewart's book presents illustrative examples from the saints and holy people of more recent times. Among the better known are St. Bernadette, St. Therese of Lisieux, and the Cure of Ars. These chapters are not "lives" in the ordinary sense, but rather presentations of the distinctive mark which characterized each of these followers of Christ. They will make stimulating reading for Lent, and will help to clarify the way of holiness for men and women of good will.

THE QUEEN'S WORK. This is the monthly magazine of the National Sodality Union, and is full of wide-awake write-ups on religion and current events. It is a good investment for ten cents, and can be obtained at the Library.

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*

A Dictionary Of Catholic Thought

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

SACRED SCRIPTURES

What has become of those millions of once famous books written in past ages? They have nearly all perished. But amid this wreck of ancient literature the Bible stands, thanks to the Catholic Church, almost a solitary monument, like the Pyramids of Egypt amid the surrounding wastes. Cardinal Gibbons.

Read and read and read, but read those all the Holy Scriptures. Saturate yourself with its words and its spirit. All the best things that are found in modern literature are simple paraphrases of Holy Writ. And interweave all your sentences with the Sacred Text. Canon P. A. Sheehan.

The Scriptures are the light and life of the soul, its daily nutrition.

Who knoweth not the Scriptures, knoweth not Christ Himself. St. Jerome.

Truth is to be sought in the Sacred Scriptures, not eloquence. Following of Christ.

The Yardstick

Proposal on Judges Declared A Gamble

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

The Supreme Court proposal of the Administration is an indirect way of getting the federal and state governments to do what they ought to do to make America just. But if it we gamble on new judges as against the majority of the present judges. In the gamble we may lose. It is a gamble to take. But the better thing is also to pass a Constitutional Amendment which will instruct judges what to do.

Even then we fall back on what Americans will believe and will have strength of character enough to act on. That in turn calls for a very particular decision which may or many not be made by the American people. And so a more important matter than an Amendment or a change in judges is American public opinion. And in that, Catholics adherence to Catholic ideas is basic, so that the ideas will spread.

When we see a howling evil the usual first thought is. "There ought to be a law." Certainly in curbing injustices, government has a big part. But to pass a law is not usually the only step to take. The main thing is twofold. Organize around our work and also get government to help.

For example, most people are not getting. (1) Enough to support their families in decent comfort to say nothing of. (2) Enough so that their buying power will do its part to make the country prosperous and employment steady to say nothing of. (3) The same as to prices: to say nothing of. (4) Enough to share fairly in the increasing productivity of the company and the country. To say nothing of. (5) Enough to save and rise to ownership, to say nothing of. (6) A new status in which they share in the profits, the management or the ownership.

The problem is how to get these demands of Pius XI's Encyclical "Reconstructing the Social Order." No one expects a government to attempt them by itself, or if it did that it would succeed. Yet if the working people all tried to get them apart from the government what a turmoil there would be and what a howl from the country!

The Catholic approach is the common-sense approach. It is. (1) Get these step by step. (2) Get them by organizing into labor unions and owners' associations. (3) Set up permanent relations between the two, the unions insisting on advancing step by step and the owners conceding. and (4) Have the government help in this whole advance and in this construction of a social system of organized industries (and of organized farming and professions).

Why is this method Catholic? Because it is common-sense and reasonable. Because also it has people do the right thing directly, through organizing, rather than hopelessly turning over their conscience to a government, even though government should help.

Yet both our governmental system, and even more so the lawyers from whom the judges come, think usually either of individuals or of government, not also of organizations. So the proposed judges may be much like the older ones. A Constitutional Amendment may itself merely open the way to more legislation and not also to governmental help of organizations. And so while accepting both proposals as necessary, we turn to the people themselves. They think clearer on this than the Constitution or the judges. But certainly they, too, have a long way to go.

(N.C.W.C. FEATURES)

The Author and Finisher of the devotion which the Church perpetuates to the Blessed Mother of God was Jesus Himself. He founded it by His Own example and taught it to His disciples by His Own words and deeds. They who reproach us for the honor we pay her, reproach Him, for we have never honored her so much as He did. Cardinal Manning.

Defending the Faith

The Empty Tomb

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

Well, perhaps Joseph of Arimathea removed the body from the tomb?

ANSWER

This is one of the fantastic alternatives invented by skeptics in extremis. Those who prefer fiction to fact should at least try to make their fiction plausible. We Christians base our views on documents and on facts. The modernist feels under no such necessity. "The Empty Tomb," writes that eminent modernist, Professor Kirsopp Lake, "is for us doctrinally indefinable." I do admire the simple faith of these modernists. Miracles don't happen, and any explanation must be accepted rather than a miraculous explanation.

Modernism might be defined as a breezy contempt for the old-fashioned notion that theories must be supported with evidence.

No evidence has ever been produced for the Joseph of Arimathea myth. And no modernist has ever thought it necessary to suggest any motive which could induce Joseph of Arimathea to connive in a fraud, the only result of which could be the substitution of an upstart religion resting on an illusion for that Judaism to which Joseph of Arimathea was profoundly attached.

I can imagine Joseph of Arimathea deserting Judaism to worship a Risen Christ, but I cannot begin to understand why he should desire to supplant Judaism by the worship of a Fanatic who had failed.

It is not necessary for the Christian to refute every fantastic alternative, for which no evidence is produced. Even fiction has its ratio of plausibility.

(N.C.W.C. FEATURES)