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With the Approbation of the MOST REVEREND JAMES EDWARD KEARNEY, D. D. Bishop of Rochester.

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THE CATHOLIC COURIER has the most enthusiastic approval of a discerning newspaper.

A Blessed Christmas

Will the secular aspect of Christmas be allowed to take precedence over the spiritual observance of the Holy Feast or shall a determined effort be made to bring to the day its full meaning?

A spirit of Islam aided and abetted by radical doctrines, which would remove every vestige of the ideas and beliefs to which they are opposed, has brought the observance of Christmas to what it has become in recent years.

Observance of the great feast was in former times thoroughly permeated by dogmatic concepts and religious sentiment.

One thought was common to all Christians of former days: the world rejoiced because Christ brought salvation; peace was nigh because the Redeemer was born.

The joy that will be resultant will far exceed that of the feeling that a secular world has to offer.

It is in the full spiritual significance of the day then, that we wish to all most joyous and Blessed Christmas in 1938.

Back To Fundamentals

No recent word coming out of world capitals has brought such resounding assent as that from Washington, this week, that never before in the history of the American Republic, except, possibly at the time of its founding, has religion—or ethics—been so closely associated with economics or politics.

The phrase "religious freedom" has been repeated in Washington more often in the past three months than in the past three decades.

It is significant that leaders in Washington have found that Nazi and Communist philosophies, pagan in their conception, have invested religious freedom with a new importance.

These fundamentals are being brought to the fore today in the international friction which grows directly out of the fascist and communist contentions that the State has complete authority over its subjects.

The democratic conception of the relations of the State and its subjects or citizens was emphasized by Mr. Anthony Eden on his recent visit to Washington and is being repeatedly emphasized by news commentators at the national capital.

There are many ways of saying it. But there is no better way of saying it than to say it as the authors of our liberties were accustomed to say it.

It is this respect, Catholic doctrine and American democratic doctrine are one, and the Holy Father has risen to its defense in his denunciation of nationalism.

As Other View It

The only adequate justification for taking a human life is to protect the protection of society. Human life is sacred, and in the ordinary course of event society should protect the lives of its individual members.

Happy Christmas To You

And since to you, my friendly and patient readers, Christmas means so much, may I tell you that I shall be remembering you in my Christmas Masses and across the space which, on Christmas morning, shrinks to the compass of a crib and an altar calling of the Eucharistic Infant, gifts and graces for your souls?

Merry Mass of Christ

ALONG THE WAY

By Rev. Daniel A. Lord, S. J.

I always get a special bit of ironic pleasure in wishing a non-Catholic a Merry Christmas. It isn't fair, but still you keep on wishing him the joy that comes through Christ's Mass on Christmas.

More for Others

It seems to me that Christmas has improved in quality with the passing of the years. The cards are now so much more Christmas.

But like O'Hara's Thanksgiving tramp, who died from being gorged with two Thanksgiving dinners on one Thanksgiving day, I'm afraid that for many the Christmas feast toward the poor is concentrated all in one spot.

Not so good for the poor, who, regrettably, have to eat on the other days, too.

Christmas Music

If you are a composer ever has given more joy to mankind than that of good unknown who wrote "Adagio Fidelis."

Young Skeptics

Said a young teaching nun: "I sat beside one of the little girls at lunch time today, and she said to me, 'I don't believe in Santa Claus any more.' Well, is she not more than six, I shook my head and said, very indly, 'Oh, that's too bad!'"

"Two Christmas Nights"

"I don't believe in Santa Claus any more." That was too much, so I began to argue. "Why don't you? After all, Santa has been here for centuries. And this is the logical answer I got: 'Well, Santa Claus is supposed to give presents to good children. And I know that good children are better children than rich ones are. And the rich children don't get presents, do they?'"

"What did the Christ child give to you?"

"Himself," she answered, clear and loud.

And every golden head was bowed.

The appearance is all muddled up in my mind, for ten minutes before my act, my mind went blank.

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY



Intolerance Versus Intelligence

By Joseph P. Macweeney

Coming across the following article in the March 4, 1938 issue of The American Hebrew, national weekly publication of New York, it was found that the thoughts expressed therein are particularly timely now.

I long ago read the conclusion that intolerance is a libel on intelligence because it arrogates to itself a prerogative which belongs to God.

When we read across the article "Intolerance Versus Intelligence" in a copy of "The American Hebrew" and which is found in the adjoining column, it was noted that the copyist written article was from one of our better informed laymen.

All this, it seems to me applies with equal force to the bigotry and intolerance. After all, the Creator is responsible for one's being born of a given race, hence racial prejudice is lying in the face of the creation of the creature.

When Bishop Kearney told the City Club Saturday that the example set commonly in adult society brings disillusionment to youth and leads it to ask what after all is the difference between the man of the street and particularly in Catholic parents, if we allow the children to see us relax in our religious duties, neglecting the prayers at required times, morning and night, and attending the Sacraments frequently, our children are going to feel that they can do the same.

A positive program is being prepared by Knights of Columbus national headquarters which should result in positive action during the coming year. The Knights are calling it a "Crusade for Christian Justice" and therein lies the only effective way to combat social evils.

This is not man that one should yield an iota of one's own convictions in the matter of the religion which one professes. All it really means is that all of us should realize that religion is a matter of conscience and that we are responsible to God alone for the sincerity with which we follow His dictates.

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Japan seems to be gaining the most yards in China, but can't seem to score a touchdown in Manchuria.

Diocesan Recordings

Young and old, large and small, a Blessed Christmas to you all.

Anniversaries of our churches in the diocese are occurring with rapidity, these days.

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Christmas 1938

'LIBRARY SIGNPOST'

The Divine Child swaddled in the manger is God's proof to the world that low means sacrifice. If we want to bargain on the love without the sacrifice, there we are out of place in the Christmas stable.

The message of the angels was not "peace, good-will toward men." It was "peace to men of good will." That is not easy to be men of good will. Good will means sacrifice.

Christmas meant a sacrifice on the part of God if we are to receive the love which it brings, we must bring our sacrifice, too.

There is much bitterness in our world. Frightful hatreds are torturing men's souls. People are throwing angry stones at one another. There is a trying to win men to their side against their fellow-men. Now is the winter of discontent.

And in the flurry of bitter words and Lost sight of truth. It is not the truth they want. They want many things; thousands don't know what they want. But one thing they don't want: the truth.

Because this hurts. The truth shows you up. It shows me up, too. It shows us all up. To measure up it means sacrifice. . . . sacrifice of the Ego, the false idol on the altar of our heart, the image of the Self as we wish others to see it.

To find the truth means a sweeping out of conscience. . . . sweeping out the dirt of sin, the lavages of vulgar passions, the rubbish of past resentments. This is sacrifice.

You have heard a man say: "Of course, I mean to be good." Does he really mean it? That's a very disturbing thought. It gives a man no peace in the Christian, there is only one thing that he knows is right and that is the word that God has given him. About everything else, he knows he may be wrong.

The Christ-child in His manger is the Word of God made flesh and living among us. He is the Truth in living flesh and blood, and in His Truth we can see the Light and in that Light we may find how far we fall short of what we could be. And for Christians to fall short of what they could be is to let Christ be thwarted in the world. Men do not know Him or love Him, because of us.

We have fallen shortest in charity. In all charity do I say that, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ. The charity of many has grown cold. In our corporate millions here in America, we do not give our charity to the charity of Christ.

The charity of Christ for His Father has many really pray because they are in love with God!

The charity of Christ at Nazareth how many Christian families are welded solidly together in such a love!

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WHAT THEN SHALL PARENTS DO? Sursum Corda

By REV. JAMES M. GILLIS, C.S.P., Editor, The Catholic World

Perhaps I may presume that after reading last week's Sursum Corda, some mothers and fathers of young children said: "What practical program have you to suggest?"

The subject under discussion, it will be remembered, was the sacred obligation resting upon parents to adjust their own children to the "farm out" the job to priests, Sisters, or anyone else.

Well, then, the first step is a resolution to take up the work systematically and stick to it. At first, will perhaps seem a burden, but by and by it will be the chief joy of your life.

A MODEL HOME

I have noticed at close range and with most intense interest the process of parent education in several good Catholic homes. In one of these families there are eight children. The mother is a convert to the Faith, intelligent, well informed and zealous. As it happens, she is on the side of the artist, gifted at etching and painting, both in water colors and in oil. She has also a good knowledge of natural history.

Best of all, the mother and father have systematically trained the eight of them in religion. In consequence, it is a model household. I think the parents agree with me when I tell them they are the happiest people in the world.

I am not suggesting that all parents have or could have an equal talent in so many arts. The point I would make is that what these specially equipped parents have done in four or five lines, all parents can do at least in one line—religion. If father and mother will devote as much time, energy, intelligence to the systematic teaching of religion as would be required to educate in art or music or natural history all will be well.

TWO PAMPHLETS

Now I have under my eyes as I write two very fascinating series of leaflets of the number of each, one for every month of the year. Each leaflet is of four pages. One series is for the little tots, pre-school children; the other for children in the elementary grades, looking through the leaflets, it seems to me that they are a beautiful combination of theory and practice, entertainment and education. You may judge for yourself from the leaflets from their contents.

The first step is the creation of a supernatural atmosphere in the home. A house closed for a long time is filled with dank, musty air. But when windows are opened, the rays of the sun irradiate the dead atmosphere. Similarly a house filled with supernatural atmosphere is one which is irradiated by the presence of God. His light and His love want for our children.

Some parents seem always to be aware of the unseen. They act and speak as if they felt God present in the room and in their hearts. They act and speak as if they remembered that Jesus Christ, God Himself, became man, lived and died to make us God's children. They act and speak as if they believed that Jesus Christ founded a Church to teach them. His own Church of which they are members and whose voice they gladly obey.

"Identical" in the sense of unpractical! Well, then read on.

BEGIN GOOD HABITS

The first step we must take is to establish habits of regularity. It is a fact that most children have irregular feeding, sleeping, playing. Thus we made a good beginning, for the children not only formed good physical habits but also learned the meaning of discipline and restraint. Let us not let that good beginning go. Meals, sleep play study prayer—all these things should be arranged for and carefully adhered to at this time during the children's childhood.

That last quotation comes under the head of Pedagogy. I believe it to be good pedagogy, because it is good psychology.

After that comes a paragraph on "Habit for the Month" another on "Regular Prayer" with detailed and specific suggestions. Then a few lines on "Reverent Attitude of the Heart" "Things to Do" next ten or twelve words under the heading "Virginal Parents" three titles under "Books of the Month" and finally the suggestion of a hymn appropriate to the season.

THE JOURNEY OF THE THREE KINGS is a most beautiful play which you should own if you can. Henri Ghéon, the author, lives in France and does great work with the young people there. The college boys and girls love him and treat him as a kind of hero. He has a dramatic cast where they learn religious plays.

Month after month we keep pace with the growth of the child's mind and body, the leaflets proceed. The author prefers to remain anonymous, but I know her to be a particularly well educated woman, mother of four children in whose education religion has gone part passu with secular subjects. She is furthermore a very successful professional teacher. She has therefore the equipment necessary for the creation of a method of parent education. But as if her own opinions needed confirmation, she has been in constant touch with a great number of other women, mother of four children in whose education religion has gone part passu with secular subjects.

At Auburn, the first solemn high Mass was to be celebrated on Christmas Eve in the new remodeled and rededicated Holy Family Church. Cost of the renovation was approximately \$10,000. Numerous Catholics banded themselves with the distribution of baskets of food and clothing to poor families. More than 150 girls volunteered their services for this good work.

Thanksgiving is the day football mothers give praise that their sons are alive.—Denver Post

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Feast Days

- Sunday, December 21.—THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST OR CHRISTMAS. Monday, December 22.—ST. STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR. Tuesday, December 23.—ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST. Wednesday, December 24.—THE HOLY INNOCENTS. Thursday, December 25.—THOMAS A BECKET. Saturday, December 26.—ST. NICHOLAS, BISHOP.

Five Years Ago--

From the Dec. 11, 1933 Issue The St. Bonaventure College Medal for Catholic Action was awarded to former Gov. Alfred E. Smith by His Eminence Patrick Cardinal Hayes, with a distinguished number of Church dignitaries in attendance.

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