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"The CATHOLIC COURIER has my most enthusiastic approval. A diocesan newspaper has become an essential part of the programs of Catholic action in every diocese. The CATHOLIC COURIER should be found in every Catholic home in this diocese. I find it hard to understand how any Catholic can be so indifferent as to what is transpiring in the world and in the Church throughout the world as to rely upon unreliable sources of information or even to seek no information whatever. Let us have a motto stating "The CATHOLIC COURIER in every Catholic home."

+JAMES E. KEARNEY, Bishop of Rochester.

Drive On Indecent Literature

Now is the time for everyone in the diocese to respond to the call of Bishop Kearney for banishing, forever, indecent literature in this area.

Co-operating with the Bishops' Committee on Obscene Literature the Ordinary of this diocese has called upon the Holy Name Society and other Catholic lay organizations to enter into the battle against an evil that threatens every home and every community.

In urging the Bishops' Committee points out "an evil of such magnitude as seriously to threaten the moral, social and national life of our country."

On the Sunday before last Bishop Kearney warned the danger of indecent literature in addressing the New Holy Rosary Communion Breakfast when the Bishop said:

"There is much of poison for the minds of children and adults grown people to be found in many of the magazines on the newsstands and the Church is now trying to prevent this 'poisoning of the wells,' and stem the tide of indecent magazines, rotten with sex, that are poisoning the minds of boys and girls."

Parents particularly must become aroused if the battle against the type of literature now aiming to undermine morality is to be won.

Talking about it, talking about it, are not enough. There must be action. Purveyors of the rot that has been allowed to appear in print must be made to know, as the producers of indecent movies had forcibly brought home to them, that "crime" does not pay.

Trend Toward Spirituality

There is hope, there is joy, there is inspiration in the deep and meditative observance of Easter. Christ, the Saviour arises from the dead to consummate the act of Redemption. Renewed spiritual impetus is given to those He came to save.

To those who lived at the time of the Redeemer's life and death on earth and triumphant Resurrection, the world seemed every bit in as troublous a state as it is today. That was graphically brought out in the presentations of "Veronica's Veil," America's great Passion Play.

Those fortunate enough to have witnessed the dramatic portrayal of the Church's beginning can realize full well that despite the darkness, there comes a Light shining through in the Resurrected Son of God.

Outside the Church there is a realization that the only hope lies in devotion to God. George E. Sokolsky writing in the current Hearst's Cosmopolitan magazines predicts: "I have no hesitation in declaring that the next sweeping mass movement in the United States is going to be a spiritual revival."

How he would know, he explains: "An old reporter like myself does not know such things. He senses them. It is like forecasting the outcome of a civil war in China or sensing how a State like Maryland or Georgia will act in a primary."

The world shaken by the failures of man to bring about a proper order now realizes that there must be a return to Him Who came to save mankind in the only way that men of free will can be saved by following His teachings.

The period of intensive Fast and Abstinence is over for this year. The sorrow that came with living again with the Redeemer His agony and cruel death now turns to exalted joy over the Son of God arisen from the grave.

All who sense the need for religion and spirituality can well contemplate the empty Tomb and resolve that they too must heed the Man of Galilee and follow Him, if they would be saved from a death from which there will be no resurrection into joy eternal.

Straight From Franco

That a reputable newspaper will continue to pound continually on the fear of Franco's regime being under the influence of Nazi Germany or Fascist Italy in the rehabilitation of Spain is confounding to those who have had reliable authoritative statements to the contrary.

In the March 31 issue of the Democrat and Chronicle statements made to the effect that German secret police will be the main weapon on which General Franco will rely in regimenting the Spanish people in rehabilitating the country.

The writer of that editorial must have been a bit nonplussed when he read in his own paper of Tuesday, April 4 a dispatch filed by Everett R. Holles, United Press Cable Editor in Paris, France, "has served a warning of 'hands off' to the world, including Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler."

The self-condemning editorial, the local writer used for his source of information, quoted from the New York Times. The same newspaper carried a decidedly different story.

Mr. Holles, Roggers, who said of Nationalist Spain today is "certainly dominated by one man—Franco." To which the Rev. Vidal replies in Spain adds: "Were he to make a visit he certainly would omit the word 'dominated' as now perfect in Nationalist Spain."

Mr. Holles says that the Rev. Manuel Grana, [illegible] General Franco as follows: "Spain is an end, but a means, and the possibility of well-being and a [illegible] on does a considerable [illegible] but what we shall accomplish [illegible] is going to do [illegible] Spain a [illegible]

Once Again, A Catholic

'ALONG THE WAY'
By Rev. Daniel A. Lord, S.J.

Broadway is again the scene of a "religious drama." This time it is "Family Portrait," a play of the relatives of Christ, Mary, and His Brethren.

The play is distinctly a flight of fancy, and Father Donnelly's article in "America" points out its far departure from all things Catholic—Mary is not a virgin but the mother of a number of children; none of them, including Mary, believes in Christ, His mission, His Resurrection.

Well, all that is old stuff, the sort of poor commentary on Christ which has filled the literature of recent years. It isn't historical; it opposes all our Catholic traditions and the common belief of the entire Christian world; it is not according to any Gospel; it is the sentimental imaginings of people who know little scripture and no history.

But here's the sad note: Of the authors, husband and wife, the wife is Lenore Coffee, who was, when I met her in Hollywood, a Catholic. At the time she was a scenarist in Mr. Cecil B. DeMille's newly organized producing company, and had just done the scenario of that smash silent picture, "The Volga Boatman." She told me of her education in a famous California convent. She went to Mass, if I remember correctly, on the set.

And now she turns out a play that violates all our Catholic beliefs about Christ and His Mother, reducing Christ to just another genius among humanity's men; Mary to another neglected and fumbling mother. Catholics who do that sort of thing inspire only pity in my heart. Once I used to be angry. Now I only can shudder at the harm their complete lack of knowledge, their complete disregard for their Catholic heritage does to those upon whom they exercise their influence.

Humor on My Name

Original and different jokes on my easily punnable name are sufficiently rare to make me interested. The genial Bishop of Albany told me a new one.

"I knew a chap," he said, "whose name was Lord. I've forgotten what his first names were, but I remember he added Junior after it. William P. Lord, Junior, or something like that.

"He was opposed in court by an Irish attorney with a keen and biting wit. Said the lawyer: 'We are dealing with the case of Lord, Junior; who signs himself Junior so as to distinguish himself from the Lord in Heaven.'"

Parish Loyalty

The splendid monsignor is by no means a young man—as he himself with dignity would quickly admit; but he is young with the youth of the soul, and handsome with the calm of accomplishment and a sure place in the hearts of his friends.

He was host this spring morning to a large gathering which included the Bishop of the diocese, a well-known missionary, and flocks of his fellow priests, many of them fine looking young fellows not too long from the seminary. And in his sanctuary as in his parlor he was a natural and graceful host to the clergy who filled it beyond capacity.

I got back to the priest's house before the rest to find his old housekeeper, who, perhaps, was well matured when he was yet a young man, puttering around the parlor. She was brimming with a pride that she couldn't keep back.

"My own father," she said, with a gesture that was proudly possessive of the monsignor, "didn't he look fine in the sanctuary? Sure he was far and away the best looking priest of the lot of them." She nodded her head in huge approval, and then as she swept out the door. "But then, the vestments did help a bit."

Such loyalty must be deserved.

New Rubrics

The energetic little altar boy was standing at the door of the sacristy watching the order of the novena services.

"I'll let you know when you go out father," he reassured me. "They's a lot of things they do before you start to talk."

So I leaned against the sacristy vesting table, thinking of what I hoped to say.

Suddenly the youngster leaped from the door, the light of conflict in his eyes. He dashed up to me like a dispatch rider approaching the chief of staff.

"Okeh, father," he said in a whisper, "let's go!"

And we went.

Feast Days

Sunday, April 9.—ST. MARY OF EGYPT.

Monday, April 10.—ST. BADEMUS, MARTYR.

Tuesday, April 11.—ST. LEO THE GREAT.

Wednesday, April 12.—ST. JULIUS.

Thursday, April 13.—ST. HERMENEGILD, MARTYR.

Friday, April 14.—ST. BENEZET, A SHEPHERD.

Saturday, April 15.—ST. PATERNUS.

Spiritual Thoughts

Time is but a period. It passes like the lightning flash. Suffering passes with time; suffering that is very short.—St. Henry Suso.

Some people grumble because roses have thorns; one should be always thankful that thorns have roses.

No man except in love is a gift here for the other.—John Mayne.

WHY?

What Honor Do You Catholics Pay To The Virgin Mary?

Catholics love Mary as the Mother of Jesus, pay her honor and homage above all the Saints, reverence, respect, and venerate her, but never worship or adore her. Adoration belongs to God alone. Mary is the most perfect of God's creatures, but after all, she is only a creature and in no sense divine or deserving of adoration. In her own name, Mary can give us nothing. Her power with God is mighty, but it is limited to petition and intercession.

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Indulgences—What Do You Mean By That?

First of all let us say that an indulgence is not license or permission to commit sin. It does not refer to sin at all. It is the remission in whole or in part of the temporal punishment due to sin, the guilt of which has already been forgiven.

In every sin we have two things to consider, its guilt and its punishment. The remission of the one does not necessarily imply the remission of the other. Thus, after David had become truly penitent, and reconciled to God, God exacted from him a temporal punishment for his transgression (2 Kings 12, 14).

Indulgences are in no way concerned with the removal of the guilt of sin. That is accomplished ordinarily through the Sacrament of Penance. An indulgence remits temporal punishment only. It relates to the punishment due to sins of the past. It can never be foregained for the punishment of future sins.

The power to grant indulgences is contained in the power of the Keys given to the Church by our Lord Himself. The unlimited power to loose and to bind, bestowed by our Lord upon St. Peter, the other Apostles, and their successors (Matt. 16, 19; 18, 18; John 20, 23; 2 Cor. 5,18) included everything that barred men from Heaven, namely, sin and its punishment.

The power of the Church to grant indulgences may be better understood if we compare it to the custom of the State in remitting the punishment inflicted by the civil law upon the criminal. The President has the right to grant complete pardon to any criminal, within the confines of the United States; the Governor to any criminal within his State. The State may and does remit part of a criminal's punishment for good behavior while in prison.

Just as the President or Governor by the exercise of civil power delegated by the State can pardon criminals or lessen the term of their imprisonment, so the Church by the exercise of divine power delegated by Christ can remit or lessen the penance and penalty of a sinner, the guilt of whose sins has been forgiven by God.

Defenders of the Faith,
Pilot Grove, Mo.

A radio receiving set which cuts out all static has been invented. But it isn't perfect—they haven't yet succeeded in eliminating the operator whose fiancee is a comedian's [illegible]

SOMETHING PRACTICAL

Sursum Corda

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

As soon as the Holy Father had finished with the long coronation services, it was reported at the Vatican that he would "start an active peace campaign at once."

But the same news dispatch went on to say that the Pope would "work along general lines by means of frequent appeals to all peoples to seek salvation through Christ."

I imagine that some impetuous advocates of peace felt that there was a "come down" in the second part of that sentence. A campaign for peace, they probably thought, is something practical a call to Christ is mystical. A campaign is direct and immediate: it is an effort at close range, a summons to religion may produce results only in the course of years, generations, centuries.

Now I think we need have no doubts about the Holy Father's knowing how best to achieve his results. He has been around. He "knows the ropes." There are no fine points of administration that he has still to learn. When he was Secretary of State, he managed a pretty big concern: a "going" concern. To tell the full truth, he was superintendent and general manager of the biggest and busiest corporation in all the world. In that position, he learned all the ins and outs of method. He hasn't just come out of a monastic cell. He wanted to live the life of a recluse, but Cardinal Gasparri wouldn't agree to his hiding himself away. Whether he liked it or not, he had to stay just where he was at the focal center of world-wide activity.

MORE THAN EXPERIENCE

So don't worry about the Pope's being impractical.

However, he has something more than experience. He has sanctity. Marvelous combination, when you come to think of it. In this world of imperfect humans, almost all men are mortally and morally either topheavy or lopsided, having some talents but lacking others. A great executive is seldom a saint. But it is for that very reason that the great executive often fails to get results. Here we have the cause of all the calamity that exists in the world: the good man is not clever, the clever man is not good; the clever man despises the good man and thrusts him aside, the good man is suspicious of the clever man and avoids him. The able man and the virtuous man don't get along together.

But once in a long while we get a man of first-class ability who is both good and able. If you give that man his way, he will go far. If you give him a big job to do, he will do it right.

Now, we had such a man, but the "wise guys" of government, the "know-it-alls," wouldn't let him have a look-in. Pope Pius XI could have fixed up this broken old world if they had asked him to do it and had given him a free hand. But they wouldn't. St. Paul might have had blundering politicians in mind when he said "professing themselves to be wise, they become fools." Or as Quinslern, himself a diplomat, exclaimed 80 years ago, "with how little wisdom this great world is governed."

ANSWER IS SIMPLE

What ails the statesmen? What form does their folly take? Why are they persistently ineffective in their attempts to get the world settled down and in good running order again? The answer is simple. They cannot get the idea out of their heads that cleverness is all-sufficient. They cannot get the idea into their heads that ability needs sanctity as an ally.

I ventured to express the hope, or rather the prayer in this column last week that the "big shots" had learned their lesson. Unless they are incapable of learning they must have had their eyes opened by the world-wide spontaneous sorrow of the peoples at the death of Pope Pius XI and the equally world-wide spontaneous rejoicing of the peoples in the election and the coronation of Pope Pius XII. The people understand if the politicians do not, the need of a good man as well as a clever man to set the world aright. And by the same token, for the same reason, we need a return to Christ as well as a campaign for peace.

That, I think, is what His Holiness has in mind when he explains that he will do two things and not one. He will start a campaign for peace and he will call the nations back to Christ. One without the other will fail. Both together will produce the result. So, let's hope and join the crusade and pray.

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Five Years Ago

—in the files of the CATHOLIC COURIER

From April 5, 1934, Issue

"Social work to be effective must be horizontal, that is, from God to Man and not vertical from man to man," said the Rev. Hubert Sweeney, C.P., who conducted the second annual retreat for Catholic Social Workers in Columbus Civic Centre.

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To coordinate the work in the diocese among Boy Scouts, Archbishop Mooney appointed a Rochester Diocesan Committee on Scouting including Bernard E. Finucane, chairman and representative laymen in the various cities in the diocese.

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The Rev. Dr. Charles E. Fitzgerald, New York City priest, was named Spiritual Director of the North American College in Rome. He visited in Rochester with his relatives, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Gavin and Miss E. A. Fitzgerald, at 217 Merriman Street.

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Reunion of former players in the Catholic Baseball League of 1901 and 1902 was held. Supreme Court Justice William F. Love, a former player in the league, was toastmaster.

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Hearty commendation was given the Rochester Diocesan Council, National Council of Catholic Women, by Archbishop Mooney at a Rochester Deanery meeting.

He Is Risen —In You!

'LIBRARY SIGNPOST'

Most people (unfortunately) are home or downtown shopping during the wonderful Liturgy of Holy Saturday. Far more than on Easter day itself, the Church places the treasures of her Easter thoughts in Holy Saturday's liturgy. The reason for this is plain if you remember that in the early Church the ritual of Holy Saturday was observed during the night before Easter morning.

It does not take much imagination to realize how impressive it must have been to see the new fire blessed in the darkness and spread from the three-branched candlestick to the Paschal candle and then to all the lamps in the church, during the singing of the Exultet which is one of the finest examples of sacred melody ever written; to hear the twelve readings from the Old Testament being given to the new converts (catechumens, they were called) who were soon to be baptized, to join in the expressive prayers and canticles which filled the pauses between each reading, then to witness the blessing of the baptismal water with its mystic and lovely ritual symbolizing that the font of Baptism is the womb of Mother Church from which she brings forth children to the Father, and then to see the catechumens, for whom the whole of Lent was a preparation for this rebirth, baptized and clothed with the white robe which they would wear for the whole Easter octave.

In all this, there is an overpowering sense of what the Paschal Mystery means. The Church never merely commemorates a past event in her liturgy. When she recounts some event or mystery in the life of Christ, it is with the idea that this event or mystery was a harbinger and grace-creating cause of a mystery being renewed here and now in the lives of her faithful. For her faithful are members of Christ. In them He is constantly renewing the states and mysteries of His own life.

In the epistle of Holy Saturday the Church announces to her children the words of St. Paul: "For you are dead; and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ shall appear, who is your life, then you also shall appear with Him in glory." (Colossians, III, 3, 4.)

You see according to the mind of the Church, we Christians with Christ's life in us go through the same states as did He. Our sufferings and sacrifices are no longer our own, but Christ's. When we suffer and sacrifice, it is His Calvary working again in us. St. Paul's "I live, now not I but Christ liveth in me" finds its fulfillment in all the situations of our lives. "I suffer now not I, but Christ suffers in me." "I labor now not I, but Christ . . ." "I love, now not I but Christ . . ." "I show mercy now not I but Christ . . ." "I rejoice, now not I, but Christ . . ."

When will we Catholics really wake up and see this for the wonderful thing that it is in our lives? Little children stare with wide and candid eyes of surprise when they see something wonderful. Only if we become as little children (putting aside what St. Paul calls "the old man of sin" with his pride and narrowness and vanity and cynical manner) will we begin to appreciate this Gospel for what it is the "good news."

That is the way the early catechumens had it brought home to them on Holy Saturday. During the "forten weeks" the Epistles and Gospels of the Mass were chosen especially for them. When they were told of the blind man healed by Christ, it was to show them that they were blind of soul and that Christ would bring them light in Baptism if they called out to Him to have mercy as the blind man did. When they were told of the widow's son or of Lazarus being raised from the dead by Christ, they were to understand that they also were dead dead in sin but that their Baptism would bring them Christ saying to them "I say to thee, arise."

And now they stand at the font ready for Christ to do these things for them. With joy they hear the words of the blessing "May the Holy Ghost render this water fruitful for the regeneration of men, that those who have been sanctified in the immaculate womb of this divine font, being born again a new creature may come forth a heavenly offspring. Here may the stains of all sins be washed out; here may human nature, created to Thy image, and reformed to the honour of its Author, be cleansed from all the filth of the old man; that all who receive this sacrament of regeneration, may be born again new children of true innocence."

You can see how their Easter Baptism really brought home to them the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. For Christ rose, not only on the first Easter morning, but also in every Christian upon whom the waters of Baptism are being poured. It is a mystery, then, that is being always renewed, transpiring in the "here and now" until the end of time.

It is good for us to renew our childhood at the baptismal font of Holy Saturday. Most of us were infants without the use of reason, when we were baptized; and it may be that most of us have never really studied the meaning of our Baptism. Each Lent is a time when we can revive the spirit of our baptismal childhood. The texts of the Lenten Masses are rich with instruction and inspiration, intended primarily for the catechumens, but fruitful also for us who wish to renew our baptismal vows. Then Holy Saturday will come as a kind of fulfilment to us. It will be a "baptismal" day for us—a genuine day of Resurrection.

My Easter wish for all of you is that you may be vigorously renewed in the spirit of your Baptism, singing ALLELULIA in your hearts even more joyfully than you can with your tongues.

Rev. Benedict Ehman.

Diocesan Recordings

May the Risen Christ bring to your home the complete joy that comes only with Easter.

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Add inconsistencies: Those current picture magazines with one section given over to beautifully impressive church and religious scenes and another in which indecency is brazenly paraded.

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One point in Bishop Kearney's recent letter to the young men of the diocese is brought home with an announcement from the New York State Knights of Columbus Council, this week. The Bishop said in his letter: "There is no organization in the Church today giving such outstanding financial assistance to Catholic education, and hence to the development of Catholic leadership." The announcement states that two scholarships, one for a young man at St. Bonaventure College and another for a young woman at Nazareth College are now available to a Knight of Columbus or a son, brother, daughter or sister of a living or deceased member of a council in the district embracing this diocese. The Grand Knight of any of the 14 Councils in the diocesan area will give full particulars. In other districts there are available scholarships at D'Youville College, Buffalo St. John's University Brooklyn Manhattan College, New York City Wadhams Hall Ogdensburg; and St. Francis College, Brooklyn. And this is only a state council project of the order.

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He was a little fellow standing outside the doors of the Auditorium Theater in which America's Passion Play "Veronica's Veil" was about to be presented for the school children. He stood dejectedly with head bowed as his school mates tripped into the large theater. When all had gone in the little lad was noticed by Financial Secretary Paul A. Predmore who had been at the door. The K of C secretary asked the little fellow if he was waiting for some one. He shook his head without looking up. Again he was asked if he had a ticket to see the play. The bowed head shook negatively. He was asked if he wanted to see it. His head raised and there was eagerness in his eyes. He was told he could go an and with a joyous whoop the little fellow disappeared inside. His impressions of the great play would be well worth recording, but he was lost in the shuffle.

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Catholic action in a parish which provides jobs, books and talks is interestingly told about by the Rev. Albert Whelan S.J. in the April 1st issue of America, the Jesuits weekly review. The Recorder recommends reading of this article.

HOW TO COMBAT EVIL LITERATURE

The Most Rev. John F. Noll, Chairman of the Bishops' Committee on Obscene Literature answers questions here relative to the nation-wide drive now under way against indecent literature, giving pithy suggestions for making the drive successful.

"Is there believed to be any connection between the wide circulation of lewd literature and the increase of juvenile crime?

"Yes. J. Edgar Hoover believes that there is a close connection and so do many others. Joseph A. Frayne Chairman of the Child Welfare Committee of South Orange, New Jersey blames the growing criminality among youths chiefly on the indecent literature which is circulated in such profusion throughout the nation. He says:

"Prominent I am almost persuaded to believe for me to seek among the factors contributing to the deplorable increase of youthful criminals is the reading of the indecent literature now circulated, without restriction, throughout the country.

"Simultaneously with this unrestricted publication and distribution of indecent literature we have had a wave of sex crimes so repulsive that decency forbids their further discussion.

"Mr. Frayne notes that 'every six hours in New York State an individual is arrested for a sex crime of the most revolting type,' and most pornographic literature originates in New York.'

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"Will not many people maintain that the preservation of the principle of the liberty of the press is more important than the correction of the evil press?"

"Those who would take that attitude would be forced by necessity to approve of the sale of opium, marajuana cigarettes, impure foods, poison liquor, etc. There is a vast middle course between liberty and license.

"Nothing is more true than the observation made by the Bishops' Committee, namely:

"'Obscene literature is an evil of such magnitude as seriously to threaten the moral, social and national life of our country. History demonstrates that no nation can long survive when the moral law has broken down.

"'To provide an adequate remedy for this alarming condition, it is necessary to organize and set in motion the moral forces of the entire country. Wishful thinking, noble emotions, righteous indignation will never avail to check the onslaught of this resourceful, diabolical foe.'"

Those who still cling to the theory that there are no new jokes in the world are about to be disillusioned. They simply haven't seen the ladies' new spring hats."—Plainfield (N. J.) Courier-News.