

1939 Catholic Courier 1939

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With the Approval of the Most Reverend James Edward Keane, D. D., Bishop of Rochester...

MEMBER OF THE ROCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE... Published by CATHOLIC COURIER and JOURNAL, Inc.

The CATHOLIC COURIER has my most enthusiastic approval... I am sure that the publication will be a great help to all Catholics...

Down at the American Legion county convention in Fond du Lac last Saturday it was quite obvious that the question of whether a veteran was a Jew, a Catholic or a Protestant entered not into the proceedings...

It was a Jewish member who called for a fight on Communism, Nazism and Fascism based on American methods... I was a Catholic who was named commander to succeed a Protestant Legionnaire who presided.

Why cannot this spirit of harmony and intelligence prevail in all dealings of Americans with each other and for each other? There is no threat in any creed in dealings of this kind...

This is a time for getting the facts, for making distinctions, for having common-sense... I am sure that the American and exemplary true Christian charity.

An Unfunny Situation To the man who must worry about where his next meal is coming from and that of his family, there isn't much humor in those alleged W. P. A. jokes...

It is not easy to define the relative rights and the mutual duties of the wealthy and of the poor of capital and labor... The danger lies in this, that crafty agitators constantly make use of these disputes to pervert men's judgments and to stir up the people to sedition.

While the alleged looters have put the spotlight upon the W. P. A. ranks, the same type of men who would "gold-brick" in the army, it does not follow that all of the W. P. A. workers will not give honest toil for money received.

Adulation Out of Place There have been instances of thoughtlessness and indiscretion at weddings in Catholic churches in the past, but nothing to equal the disgraceful scene reported at Newport, R. I. last Saturday.

It is hardly believable that Catholics themselves took part in the almost sacrilegious proceedings when a motion picture star of the divorce crowd was publicly hailed with an outburst of applause in the Church with utter disregard for His Divine Presence.

The whole account reveals the juvenile intelligences of men and women who have set up false gods with clay feet whose lives are as about as durable as the film which reflects them on the screen.

Slipping At Standards So long as motion picture and stage commentators with their following continue to belittle the decency standards, the more difficult will be for the Legion of Decency to do its job.

Feast Days Sunday, July 23 - ST. AMBROSE, BISHOP AND MARTYR Monday, July 24 - ST. CHRISTIAN Tuesday, July 25 - ST. JAMES, APOSTLE Wednesday, July 26 - ST. ANNE Thursday, July 27 - ST. PATAPIUS, MARTYR Friday, July 28 - ST. NAZARIUS AND CELSUS, MARTYRS Saturday, July 29 - ST. MARY, THE VIRGIN

Too Good Not To Be

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

Too Good Not To Be True If you read this story in a cheap magazine (instead of in this extremely high type column in this high class newspaper), you'd say: "Bunk!" or "That's holding the long arm of coincidence right out of its socket!"

A young man sits in a cheap hotel. Life has done him pretty badly. He's down and he's absolutely sure he's out. And then he picks up a book. The title intrigues him. He turns the page. He reads. The author seems to understand his case exactly. But that author doesn't think he is either down or out. The young fellow reads on. Ideas and memories long forgotten come rushing back—God, his religious life, his hopes of a future life, the merciful tenderness of Our Father in Heaven, the story of the Prophet Jesus.

He grabs a sheet of paper and writes to the author: "Tonight I meant to commit suicide... Life had beaten me and I was through. But with the poison in my pocket, I read your book. Thanks for writing it. I've decided to continue. Your book, pleading for chaps like us to get another chance, makes me know life isn't so different. I don't know who you are but I'm writing to your publisher, and I thought you might be glad that I'm walking the earth instead of lying another nameless cadaver in the city morgue."

He signed his name, and the letterhead gave the address of his cheap hotel. The next day he looked up from a seat near the hotel desk and saw a priest enter. The priest walked to the desk and asked the desk clerk a query. The young man arose. The priest had looked at his name. He slowly walked across, hardly able to imagine why a priest came looking for him.

You've got it. The author was a priest. Like a priest he came out looking for the young fellow in so bad a jam. I think it's a pleasant story. I guarantee that it's a true one.

Masses My train was considerably late. I would not reach my destination until slightly after noon, which meant fasting quite a stretch for Mass. I was feeling a little put upon by the delay, when out of my briefcase I pulled, among other letters, one from a young woman working for a Catholic Mission in Alaska. She writes: "We have been lucky having Father with us all winter. That meant Mass every day. Now it will be some days without Mass, for he has gone off on a missionary trip. We had hoped to have one of the old missionaries with us but he fell ill and could not come. How fortunate the people in the States are with their Masses. There are ten more Masses daily. That is the center of my life, and when we can't have Mass here, I try to unite myself with the Masses that are being said every minute of the day. It seems impossible to do it, but we really can unite ourselves with every fourth of the day. How good God is!"

Frank Disappointment Sister Joan of Arc of Nashville was preparing her first graders for confession. She sat in the chair, and each in turn knelt down, went through the formula that preceded confession, and then the formula that correctly concludes it. But one little girl finished her preliminary formula and then whispered with keener anticipation: "I don't want to hear your sins!"

Sister Joan of Arc looked startled and swiftly protested that she didn't. "You tell your sins only to the priest," she explained. The child looked deeply disappointed. "Oh, gee!" she sighed. "I thought you'd like to hear 'em." And with her belief in feminine curiosity completely shattered, she gave the concluding formula and departed.

By Way of Contrast The man who sat in the next seat in the streetcar was a little along the lines of Simeon the Sailor in the Popeye comic strip. You know the type: lots of hair on the back of his hands, a chest that started from the shoulders and went right down, a face that probably always looked as if it needed a shave, eyebrows that hung over like awnings, and the impression of Tarzan at 48, not too touched by civilization.

And he was reading out of a movie magazine an article on how Dennis Dalton got safely through the cruelties of adolescence.

Five Years Ago-- in the files of the CATHOLIC COURIER From July 15, 1934 Edition...

Rocheater's Interfaith Goodwill Committee on Motion Pictures issued statement reaffirming that its true function was to stimulate the individual conscience to discriminate between good and bad pictures.

Archbishop Mooney celebrated Mass for the first time in the Carmelite Monastery, 1330 East Avenue, in honor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, as novena was brought to a solemn close.

The Chancery reported 50,000 people signed in the Legion of Decency Campaign and more being received each day.

The official Rochester diocesan pilgrimage sailed for Europe to visit Lourdes, Rome and to witness the Passion Play at Oberammergau.

Vacation school work in the Churchville-Charti parish area was inaugurated by the Sisters of Charity. A group of 30 children attended the opening. The Rev. Joseph E. Cullin, pastor, made arrangements for the school program.

In a Franciscan Garden

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

In our Franciscan Garden Each hour is Holy Hour. Hark! Bluebells of Charity Chime immortal melody For souls whose faithful years have trod The fragrant path of Love-of-God! In our Franciscan Garden Each hour is Holy Hour.

In our Franciscan Garden Faith has built a tower. From trembled prayers long since begun Diamond-dew'd in the radiant sun, Lifting hearts from human clod Unto the Heart of Holy God. In our Franciscan Garden Faith has built a tower.

In our Franciscan Garden Hope weaves a lovely bow, That close to fount of tears and pain, Gay daffodils of joy may reign. For nuns beside life's lonely gate Where sundials point the hour so late. In our Franciscan Garden Hope weaves a lovely bow.

In our Franciscan Garden Grace rears tall trees of power. When winds would hearts to sin incline, Strong trees lift to heights divine, With branches wide for songbirds there That join the bluebells' dulcet air. In our Franciscan Garden Grace rears tall trees of power.

In our Franciscan Garden Our Lady's virtues flower: Lily-beds of purity, Violet-fringed with modesty; E'en lowly weeds smile up at her Who has all creatures in her care. In our Franciscan Garden Our Lady's virtues flower.

In our Franciscan Garden It is God's trying-hour. When His chosen ones at sunrise glow, Bridal-wreath'd in prayer bend-few... Sister-Souls in a garden-close Receive the Bridegroom... Heart of a Rose... Enclosing Life in Love's repose. In our Franciscan Garden It is God's trying-hour.

—SISTER MARY CLAIRE, O. S. F.

Diocesan Recordings

Enlightening in the Bishop's Campaign for Clean Literature, means enlightening from now on.

As in the motion picture field where every now and then come evidences of indecency breaking through the vigilance of those who would keep the movies clean so in the print world, when once cleaned up, there will be constant vigilance needed to see that the new standards remain clean.

An incident which happened many years ago but in which the lesson is as timely today came to our attention this week. There were four at a luncheon table. One was a non-Catholic minister who had just stated that his next church was about to open, that he had sent invitations to all the Catholic priests for the opening. He had none had accepted. Two of the others were those "big word-minded" but woefully unfrank Catholics, who expressed disgust. The other was a Catholic layman, who knew the host declared that since acceptance of the invitation by Catholic priests would amount to a scandal, there could be no acceptance without sin. The Reverend Minister knew it too evidently. The "leading Catholics" were ready to compromise their faith to make big fellows out of them. In this also, as the Reverend Minister knew what they didn't know.

A practice adopted by Rochester Assembly, Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus, which is being carried on with little publicity, but which is gaining wide appreciation, is that of furnishing...

Boy Everyone is interested in the boy. He is one of the most fascinating, baffling, intriguing problems of our civilization. Nothing is wrong with him. He doesn't fit into life as we have organized it today. He needs the outdoors and we often coo him up in the city His abounding energy calls for a forty-acre field, and we confine him in the city streets and tenements. His uncontrolled protest we label eugenic and his uncontrollable urge for fun we adults call lawlessness. R. K. Atkinson.

Spiritual Thoughts Let us abandon everything to the merciful providence of God. St. Albert the Great. I have never given to the good God but love with love he will pay me back. The Little Flower. We have but the single day of this life in which to save souls and thus give Jesus profits of our love. St. Teresa of Lisieux. For the purpose of putting his fidelity to the test, God places man in situations of suffering or difficulty.

Why? There Are Two Hundred Religious Bodies in The World Today How Can We Know Which One Was Founded by Christ? The answer to this question is simple. If you wish to purchase a piece of property the first thing you make certain-of is the Title. If you cannot get a "clear title" you invest no money. You must have a "clear Title" just follow the same procedure in your question about religion and you cannot go wrong.

Insanity Fair 'LIBRARY SIGNPOST' Last week's column discussed the stupidity of the one-track mind which can see no side but its own in any question, no matter how complex or intricate the matter may be. The attitude of many people on the Spanish struggle was cited as an obvious illustration of this objectionable tendency to over-simplify a difficult problem.

One other instance clamors for rectification. It is Anti-Semitism. There is undoubtedly a Jewish problem. We would do the Jews a disservice if we denied that or hidden it up. That problem is one of the most intricate and agonizing problems facing our modern world. It is tied up with all kinds and shades of guilt and iniquity, and it goes down to the very roots of our history. And it seems, to those who have a strong feeling of the divine destiny of events, likely to persist until the end of the world.

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But your anti-Semitic is far too simple not to rush in where angels would fear to tread. He knows what a wrong with the world it is. They have hidden it up. They have control of everything. Things are now in a bad way. And so the Jews are to blame. And so "down with the Jews" is "out with the Jews" as that to the anti-Semite. It is a perfect and complete of the one-track mind.

It is commonly said that Charles Darwin drenched the consequences of the publication of his particular theory of evolution. I say "his particular theory" because as everyone knows there were theories of evolution before Darwin. Indeed as much as fourteen hundred years earlier St. Augustine had discovered and described certain fundamental principles that could have been worked up into a system if he could have had in those remote days anything like our modern scientific apparatus. St. Thomas Aquinas, seven hundred years after St. Augustine, had a suspicion, and much more than a suspicion, that the various species of plants and animals were not separate creations but came from one or more common sources.

However that is a long story and anyone interested in theories of evolution before Darwin, especially such theories in the works of the Fathers or Scholastics may consult the works of Canon Donnelly of Louvain. Suffice it to say that the Fathers and the Scholastics could look dispassionately upon any theory of evolution because they held to the truth that man was only partially animal. That there was within him a spiritual principle and that the spiritual principle, the soul, was in each case created directly by God. ONLY A BITTE.

But with Darwin or rather with certain popularizers of Darwin notably Haeckel and Nietzsche the spiritual nature of man was entirely rejected. He was said to be first and last and totally a brute, a highly developed and delicately organized brute but none the less essentially and totally a brute and not in any degree a spiritual being.

Obviously there is great danger in that Darwinian theory. Darwinism is the very essence of materialism and of a materialism that is utterly and totally a brute. It is a materialism that is utterly and totally a brute. It is a materialism that is utterly and totally a brute. It is a materialism that is utterly and totally a brute.

Particularly we were fearful of that part of the Darwinian theory which is called "the survival of the fittest." We were told that it meant the survival not of the more gentle the more peaceful the more harmless animals but of the stronger the more cruel and ruthless. Applying that idea to man would mean to indicate that the militarists, the aggressive pitiless merciless warriors would annihilate the civilized. It meant that the meek should be the last but the soldierly would sweep the innocent and the helpless off the face of the earth.

When we called attention to that danger the evolutionist replied "No No" Our theory would not work out that way. We did not see the logic of their position. Our suspicions and fears remain.

NEGLECTS LOGIC And now comes a zoologist Dr. S. J. Holmes, president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, who says that the Nazi menace have let loose against the Jews in Germany is but an extreme form of an anti-Jewish feeling which is mounting throughout the world. We must not lose our heads in the shameful ordeal. We must prepare our minds—and hearts now against this blind rage of mob feeling in which we may be caught up. If this situation grows more acute. We call upon the Jews to do their part to ease the tension and to come to harmonious discussions and proposals with all men of good will. This is not a challenge, but a cry for help, where both parties must work together.

Already, certain signs give hope—the overtures of Jewish rabbis and leaders for harmony, the protests of Jews against the excesses of some of their race. We on our part completely disavow anti-Semitism as unchristian, unjust, inhuman.

Shelton T. Yarnall; Rev. Benedict Egan.

More Logic, Please By REV. JAMES M. GILLIS, C.S.P.F. Editor, The Catholic World

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY



Sursum Corda

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Snickers A pretty young woman was driving her car when something went wrong with the engine. The traffic light changed from green to red and back again to green and still she could not get the car to budge. The traffic policeman stropped up. "What's the matter, Miss?" he inquired. "Ain't we got the colors you like?"

Tourist: I'd hate to live in a town like this. Sneeberg: No, would I mister. Tourist: Oh, then you're not a native? Sneeberg: Not so's you can notice it. I live two miles west of here. Clerk: At long last broaching the subject: "Do you do you think you can raise my salary next week, sir?" Employer: testis! "Well, I've managed it for the past five years, haven't I? I expect to succeed next week too."

He's at 1:30 A. M. "Well, misery loves company, you know." The "stiffing a yawn!" "Not at this hour, I think."

The only cure for care is the cure of faith. This is the comfort that balances the care.