

Catholic Courier 1939

With the Approbation of His Most Reverend Father, the Archbishop of New York, James Edward Keane, D.D., Editor-in-Chief, Catholic Courier, 110 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y.

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The Convert Church

ALONG THE WAY By Rev. Donald A. Reed, S.J. As I walked into St. Paul's Church in Richmond, Virginia, I realized with sudden surprise that I'd known very few Catholics...

At any rate, this Richmond church was St. Paul's and I commented on the fact to Father O'Connell, its pastor.

"Well," he said, "truth to tell this used to be a Methodist church. No, it bore no saint's name, but when we bought it from the Methodists and turned it into a Catholic church, we re-named it."

Of course, the youngest part of person knows that children take their standards from their parents. But every so often, one wants to use a "think club" on these modern parents, as for instance:

The youngster was as good as gold, and pretty and good to look at besides. She was midway through high school, and beginning to make an impression on people.

"Mother," said the youngster, "I've had a perfect love affair with a dress, one of those new strapless things. I was going out last night, and I was crazy to wear it."

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At Home With God

LIBRARY SIGNPOST I once heard about a boy who said, "I'm finding out the truth about Santa Claus, and when I get time I'm going to look into this God business, too."

The trouble with most people is that they never get around to finding out about God. Our result: their lives are empty of God.

Some few people are atheists. They can't see as far as the end of their own noses. They are one step beyond the devil, for he at least knows God.

Quite a few more people are agnostics. They are like invalids, too tired to walk, yet too well to lie in bed. They mistrust their minds. They are afflicted with pernicious mental anemia.

Your convinced atheist, however, or your agnostic is one in a thousand. The other nine hundred and ninety-nine are a definable breed of complex degrees and shades of godlessness.

Most of them are negative; they have no time for God, either to think of Him, or to follow Him. The affirmative ones have God in default of their own reasoning or of their own moral conduct.

The meanness and lowest of the human species are the people whose lives never get out of themselves to something which they call God.

The richness and beauty of life are revealed to the souls who have entered into God by study and prayer. Not that He is far off, at the end of a long pilgrimage, for He is in every one of us, upholding us, sustaining us "by the word of His power."

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Why?

Explains the Sign of the Cross. The Sign of the Cross is at once a prayer and a public profession of our faith. In making the sign of the Cross we touch the forehead, the breast, the left and right shoulders, with the forefingers of the right hand, thus tracing upon our own person the figure of the Cross, while the blessed Trinity and the silence of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."

In this manner we honor God and publicly profess our faith in the Blessed Trinity and in the Redemption by Christ on the Cross, and by our actions say with St. Paul, "God forbid that I should glory save in the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ" (Gal. 6, 14).

Does Not the Bible Speak of the "Brothers of Christ?" Christ had no brothers. Just as He had no human father, so too He had no brothers and sisters in the flesh. His Mother was and remained a Virgin before, during, and after His birth.

It is true that references are made in the Bible to the brothers or brethren of the Lord. But one need only read Genesis 27, or Leviticus 10, 4, to be convinced that the word brethren or brothers in the Bible does not always mean the Hebrew and Aramaic word "brother" is used in strictly its relative, however distant, and not stands out beyond question that Jesus alone is referred to in the New Testament as the Son of Mary.

No one of the so-called brothers or brethren of the Lord is ever referred to as a son of Mary nor do any of them ever refer to her as his mother.

Why Do Dictators like Hitler Hate Religion and Seek To Destroy It? The fundamental answer to this question is found in the philosophy of materialism which prevails so widely over the world today. The philosophy denies the existence of the human soul. Personal liberties and personal rights are based upon the soul.

Destroy the idea of the soul and all that it stands for and you at once destroy personal liberties and personal rights. Personal liberties and personal rights do not exist in the animal world for the reason that no animal possesses an immortal soul. Dictators like Hitler can have their way only when man and his dumb beasts are driven, soulless. Hence their first assault is always upon religion.

Will All Men Go To Heaven? Those who live without God in this life cannot expect to live with God in the life to come. Our Lord Himself has told us, "Not every man that saith to Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he that doth the Will of My Father who is in Heaven, he shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven" (Matt. 7, 21).

Fifteen hundred years ago the great St. Augustine observed that "though God has brought us into this world without consulting us about it, He will not save us without our co-operation" (Sermo 169).

Our co-operation is absolutely necessary. "He who doth the Will of My Father, he shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven." A good life, freedom from sin, the state of Sanctifying Grace, wholehearted obedience to Christ and to the one Church in that Christ established in this world; these are the things to fit us for the abode of the Blessed.

Defenders of the Faith, Fiat Grove, Mo.

Five Years Ago

In the files of the CATHOLIC COURIER

From the Sept. 16, 1934, Edition Holy Name members made a final effort in their campaign for subscriptions to the CATHOLIC COURIER. St. John's Church was far in the lead under the guidance of Bernard Cahill.

Archbishop Mooney announced the blessing of the graves would begin at 8 o'clock on Sunday, September 15.

St. Bernard's Seminary with an enrollment of 323 students, an increase of 20 over the previous year, opened the school year with its annual retreat.

Joseph Ruff, speaking at a Mass of Commemoration in Cleveland, said he felt as if this would be his last year in baseball.

Nearby College announced the inauguration of a course in Social Case Work. The course would be given in extension by the Faculty of St. Rosemary, Woodbury, N.J., beginning in the fall of 1939.

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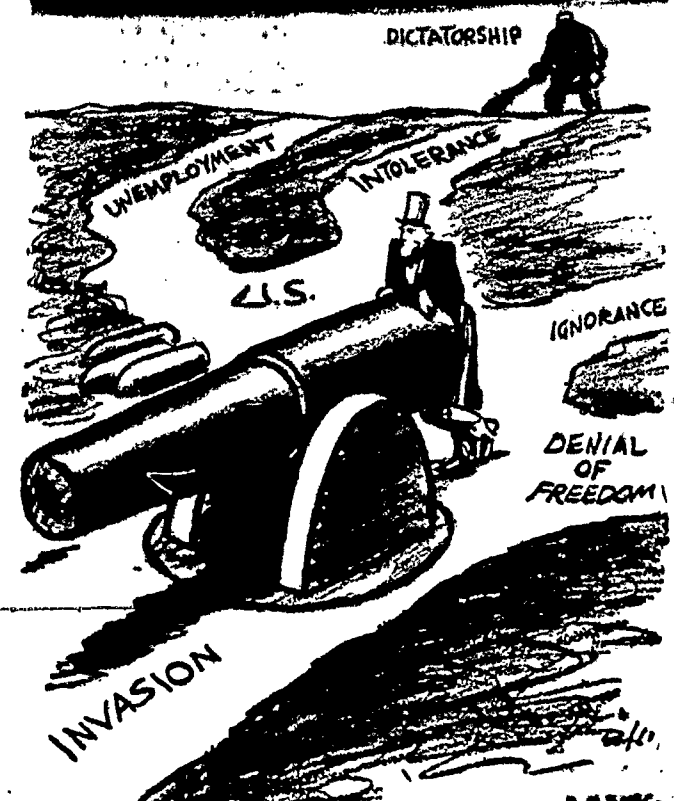
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WATCH THE BACK ROADS



On the sabbath; but he knew what he knew, and as legio-chopping could make him blind again. "One thing I know, that whereas I was blind, now see."

The man of God sees through all the arguments of the atheists and agnostics. Nothing they can say has power to move him. He can make his own, Caesar's Vani, Vini, Vieti.

We may be sure, however, that God will not reveal himself to us without our taking one step, at least, toward Him. It is God Who helps us take it, but yet it is our own, because we have chosen to take it. And once we have taken it in our feeble, tottering way, like a little baby on its first legs, then God runs to us, loving-mother-wise, to finish the long step in between.

Our first step in knowing God is to know about Him. Don't think that this is a hard and stony way to follow. To me it is as simple and attractive as studying an old album of photographs and clippings of my parents' youthful days. It makes real to me the love which is the source of my life.

To learn about God in this way you do not have to be a heavy book of theology full of big and strange words. Jesus has assured us that we must become as little children to possess the kingdom of Heaven; and so it must be possible to express the science of God in simple words. When the very God became our Teacher in the days of His flesh on earth, the words He used were every one of them within the ken of the peasants and fishermen to whom He humbled Himself.

There is a recent book about God, written in simple and eloquent language, to help people love God through knowledge of Him. It is called PROVIDENCE, and its author is a great Dominican theologian, St. Thomas Aquinas. I wish there were some endorsement that would enable me to put it in the hands of every person anxious to know God better. The book is hard to be tasted, chewed, and digested. Through the kindness of the Nazareth College chapter of the Catholic Evidence Guild, a copy of it has been put in circulation in the Catholic Evidence Library.

A step is taken by our two feet. In the step toward God, prayer must be the right foot to the left foot of study. If one is without the other, we limp. Study without prayer is barren. Prayer without study is misguided. And so prayer must have its place in the search for God.

Just the other day I received from its author one of the finest little prayerbooks I have ever seen. Its title reveals its spirit: pray with God. Besides a mint of liturgical and indulgenced prayers, it offers many prayers of the author's own composition for special occasions. The author, our own Blanche Jennings Thompson, to whom go our congratulations and thanks for graciously letting others in on her secret of prayer.

Study about God in Garrison-Lagrange's PROVIDENCE; speak to him in prayer throughout the day in the enlightened and simple phrases of this new prayer-book; and you will begin to know what God must mean. He said by the mouth of the Psalmist: "Taste and see that the Lord is sweet!" Rev. Benedict Ekmann

Diocesan Recordings

Surprised and delighted was the Recorder this week to learn of the marriage of Frank H. Biel, K.H.S. Supreme President of the Knights of St. John and Mrs. Emma Grein Cunningham at Holy Family Church on Monday.

Of course, the marriage was solemnized by the Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Gaffey, regimental chaplain of Rochester Regiment, Knights of St. John and pastor of Holy Family Church. This department joins with all the knights and members of the ladies' auxiliaries throughout the country in extending sincerest felicitations to General Biel and his bride, General Grein, an outstanding layman in this diocese and is a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, having been given the honor for his exemplary service to the Church.

That the great National Council of Catholic Women embracing the Catholic women's organizations of 68 dioceses chose Mrs. M. E. Keogh of Rochester as a national director, is an excellent tribute to the type of woman and type of organization we have here in this diocese. Of course the National Council was choosing wisely for the successful continuation of the extensive program carried on in this unification of our Catholic women's organizations.

Mrs. Keogh is capable, experienced, enthusiastic and deeply zealous in the cause. She is President of the Rochester Diocesan Council and has been working side by side with Miss Cecilia M. Yawman, Diocesan Council President for many years both in the larger organization and in other groups and societies which are carrying on effective work.

Mrs. Keogh has been for a length of time active in the Rochester Branch, National Catholic Women's Union which organization is in the forefront in carrying along the Church's social justice program as outlined in the Papal Encyclical. She is a leader in the St. Gerard's Maternity Guild, the program of which has attracted nationwide attendance. Her work in other Catholic women's organizations such as the Presidency of the Catholic Women's Club, has been fruitful and has laid the groundwork for a successful term as a National Director. Congratulations to the N.C.W.U. on an excellent selection of a national director. Mrs. Keogh on the opportunity to carry her work into the national field where her experience will be of inestimable value.

Unified Catholic womanhood in America and throughout the world will have its effect upon many of the problems harrowing the civilized world today. That this unity is developing in strength in the United States can be realized from the fact that four dioceses of the 68 have 100 per cent affiliation of parishes; six have between 75 and 100 per cent, and 20 between 50 and 75 per cent.

An example of how to be wrong and to develop suspicions about another which have no basis in fact. A married man is reported picking up a young woman each morning on his way to work. A hasty observer suspects something wrong. Talks about the man very confidentially to several others. Does not take time to check up and learn that the man is simply giving a ride to a fellow employee, has been doing it for years, with full knowledge of his wife, and that he little realizes how suspicious minds and loose tongues are bandying his reputation about for his Boy Scout deed each day. Those who have seen what they thought they saw and are talking about the man are embarrassed when they learn the truth but will probably be a little bit disappointed that their false suspicions were not borne out.

Those who have made their retreat at Camp Stella Maria over the week-end sponsored by the Holy Name Club of St. Margaret Mary Church had the satisfaction in addition to the spiritual benefits received, of knowing that they took care of themselves while on the retreat. Club members did the cooking, the table-work in the kitchen, took care of the sleeping accommodations and kept the cost of the material necessities for such a spiritual exercise down to a minimum.

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