

**Editorial Board of The Catholic Courier**  
With the assistance of the  
MOST REVEREND JAMES EDWARD KEARNEY, D.D.  
Bishop of Rochester

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the doggy skull, and a change is made in the daily program.

An old priest summed up his experience with dogs. "I'd never have a dog again; you become as attached to them as if they were one of your family, and then they die and leave you forlorn; above all, I'd never own two dogs again, for what mischief the one could not think up, the other would remind him of."

**Dog Week!** Let your thoughts turn kindly in these dedicated days to your canine pal. Examine your conscience to see that you have always treated them well, have been as considerate of them as they have been devoted to you. Don't scold them with too much canned food, but give them a chance once in a while at a real old-time bone. Let Dog Week make for better and happier doggies!

### Christian Culture Lecture Series

All sections of the diocese will be represented in the patronage given the Christian Culture Lecture Series sponsored by the Basilian Fathers beginning September 20. It is an opportunity we have not had in the past. It will bring us into contact with speakers who have made their mark in the world of things Catholic, and who are capable of giving us a message charged with Catholic culture.

The eight lectures will continue over the months of April-12. Bishop Kearney has given them his full approbation, commending especially their principal theme, the application of the Gospel of Christ to the ills and problems of modern civilization.

Citizens in general have had access to the messages of leading lights who have been invited for programs before the Kiwanis, the City Club, the Rotary, and other organizations. Occasionally a Catholic has been invited to speak on these programs. But there has been an imperative need of a series such as Father Haffey of the Basilian Fathers has prepared for the fall and winter season at Aquinas Institute, that will enable Catholics and their friends in the community to know the part that Christian Culture must take in any truly constructive program for these times.

### On These Two Commandments

On the Pharisee who asked Him about the great commandment of the Law, Christ gave the answer indicating the love of God and the love of our neighbor as the great commandments. Christ said more than this, He said that on these two commandments depend the whole law and the prophets. This answer must have come as a surprise to the Pharisees, for they were meticulous in their observance of the outward ceremonies and the external requirements of the law, with no ambition to love the Lord inwardly.

Christ's words should be in our mind when we plan our lives as Christians. Since all the commandments depend on these two, we must measure our fidelity to the others by the law in which we observe these.

We can never feel we are observing properly the other commandments unless we love God with all our hearts and love our neighbor as ourselves. A life alienated from God's love, a life showing no consideration in justice or charity for our neighbor, is contrary to God's law and will be rejected by Him. What the Pharisee had in mind in questioning our Lord is not certain. It is doubtful that he was looking for a better way to serve God. When we look to the Lord for guidance, we must always have in mind the commandment of our Lord: "On these two commandments, depend the whole law and the prophets."

### Selected

"Estimates just made public by James C. Capt. director of the U. S. Census Bureau, indicate that the population of the United States will reach a peak of about 150,000,000 in 1960 and within five years after that a decline in numbers will begin. Between now and 1960 the population is expected to increase at a steadily decreasing rate.

Birth prevention is largely responsible for this tendency. Unless checked, this social cancer will undermine our nation as it was a factor in the collapse of ancient Rome."—The Michigan Catholic

"For civilized people, the red flag has always been a warning of danger. At the rear of a train, on the border of a precinct by a crowded road, around quarries and mines, anywhere there is danger for life and property, the red flag is used to warn on-comers.

"Now, however, the red flag is carried before ignoring crowds by those who dream of conquering the world by onslaughts, ruin, riots, social strife, human misery, chaos, and destruction of life and property.

Divorce rate is on the increase. Some of the suits being pressed ought to be cleaned. Cincinnati Enquirer.

### Feast Days

Sunday, Sept. 22—ST. WENCESLAUS, MARTYR.  
Monday, Sept. 23—ST. MICHAEL THE ARCH-ANGEL.  
Tuesday, Sept. 24—ST. JEROME.  
Wednesday, Oct. 1—ST. REMIGIUS.  
Thursday, Oct. 2—THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS.  
Friday, Oct. 3—ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS.  
Saturday, Oct. 4—ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI.

### Five Years Ago--

—in the files of the CATHOLIC COURIER

From Sept. 25, 1936, Edition  
A rally of 60,000 Catholic laymen, largest group of its kind ever to be assembled in New York City for a religious demonstration, heard His Eminence, Cardinal Hayes, denounce the "diabolical, blood-crazed enemies of God and His Church in Spain."

Communism as a way of life was condemned as "intentionally vicious and subversive of all order and entirely prejudicial to the good of society as a whole and to the individuals who make up society." In a resolution the Holy Name Society's national convention adopted in New York.

With Archbishop Mooney officiating at Solemn Requiem Mass, final tribute to the Rev. Leo George Hochstetler, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Danville, was being said in the Danville Church. Father Hochstetler died September 23, 1936.

More than 1,000 persons gathered at Washington and Cottage Streets, Washington, to witness the dedication of the new Ukrainian Catholic Club building.

At the 6th Annual National Prison Conference held in Chicago, the Rev. Francis J. Lane, Chaplain of the Federal Reformatory, was elected vice-president of the Prison Chaplains of the nation.

## CATHOLIC COURIER

# The Public Schools

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

Willard M. Atkin of the Progressive Education Association had an article in the New York Times magazine for September 15, 1941, entitled, "What's Wrong with Our Schools?" It's a good article, sincere, thoughtful and, to a degree, courageous. By "our schools" he means the Public Schools. Not the Catholic, parochial, or private schools, but the public schools. If he were a Catholic, his rank would be greater. As Catholics are considered unpatriotic if we find fault with the "Greatest Discovery Ever Made by Man" as Horace Mann called the public school system.

But Mr. Atkin's criticisms, although sincere and moderately courageous, are not very profound. He skims the surface. If he had dug deeper he would find more fundamental flaws. But let us give him credit for what he does find out and not blame him for what he is perhaps unequipped to see. He says, "the people of the United States established public schools a hundred years ago because they had great visions of a land of freedom, justice and opportunity. They were confident of the future. When they made provision for free schools for all the children of all the people. The schools would prepare each citizen for his part in the nation's life."

Mr. Atkin confesses that those hopes and expectations of the American people have not been realized. In fact, as he summarizes the results of the century-old experiment, it would seem that it has been a complete failure.

He says, "Our schools and colleges have lost sight of this major responsibility to the nation. They have forgotten the chief purpose of their existence."

"The million who dropped out of high school before graduation surely were not ready for their responsibilities as American citizens. The million and more who received high school diplomas last June are not much better prepared, and few of the graduates from college have any clear understanding of the democratic ideal of life or of their great responsibility for the common welfare."

"American youth... do not understand. They are confused. They are without clear, guiding principles of belief and action. They lack central purpose for their own lives."

"These are serious charges," says Mr. Atkin. But he explains that he makes them after "unusually intimate and extensive first-hand contacts with schools and colleges in all parts of the country during the last ten years."

So he comes to his question: what's the matter with the schools? Three things principally.

"First, our educational institutions have been trained to do so many excellent things that a big thing has been crowded out. We have demanded that the schools teach not only English, science, mathematics, foreign language, and history, but health, safety, home-making, the arts, shop work, trades, shorthand, typing, agriculture and scores of other subjects."

That long catalogue might well be a direct copy from an article written by the late Rev. Peter C. Joyce of San Francisco some twenty-five years ago. Father Joyce wrote almost those very words and made precisely the same point in the first years of this century. But Father Joyce was of course a Catholic and nobody pays attention to a priest's criticism of the public school system.

Secondly, Mr. Atkin declares that the schools are too much of a "one-size-fits-all" collection. The student must have spent at least two years in the study of the language of another people, but he need not have spent an hour in the study of his own nation's history, ideals or problems," he says.

"He graduates from college the student must have a reading knowledge of at least one modern foreign language, but he can have his diploma with no knowledge or understanding of the United States and its problems except what he has learned just by living here."

In other words, the great American system is not and has not been concerned with the American idea, and has not taught loyalty to American institutions. There was not sufficient inculcation of the meaning of the word American. In fact the third reason for failure given by Mr. Atkin is that "we have taken too much for granted."

So much for the three reasons for the disappointment of those who looked to the public schools to perpetuate the American tradition.

Now for Mr. Atkin's solution. He is hopeful. He says, "Our schools and colleges are on the point of finding again the chief reason for their existence. That's odd. Finding the chief reason for their existence is the chief duty of a school. It's rather late, I should imagine, to demand a statement of purpose after a hundred years. But better late than never. Right here, at this time, our guide loses his way. He does not make clear just what the purpose of the public schools may be. Leaving that question unanswered he goes on to make a statement of 'convictions.' He says:

"We believe in the common man."

"We believe in a society which promotes a sense of dignity and worth in each individual."

"We believe in a social organization which permits and encourages the greatest possible measure of participation in the common life."

"We believe that the mind and spirit of man should be free."

From that point Mr. Atkin proceeds to cite instances of progressive schools here and there and in Hawaii in these better schools, he says, "boys and girls live as adults, as men and women, as established on democratic principles... They experience democracy and discover its basic principles through experience."

Now, we Catholics have always been given to understand that the public schools have been doing just what Mr. Atkin says they should now continue to do—to teach the ideal of democracy and teach it in a practical way. Have we been misled?

But I fear that even if the pupils learn democracy in school they will learn it very quickly after school unless some deeper reason is given them for holding to it than that democracy is "the American way." That deeper reason is to be found in the Declaration of Independence. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness (the essence of true democracy) are bestowed upon man by his Creator. The key word is "Creator." "Creator" means God. Until the public schools teach God to the pupils, the pupils will never know the deep reason for democracy. The answer to the question, "What's the matter with the word, the doctrine, the law that's wrong with the schools,"

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## Mercy Origins

By REV. DANIEL A. LORD, S.J.

If you're in the heart of Pittsburgh some time, you might find a small, unassuming building with just a few feet to the lovely old convent which is the oldest house of the Sisters of Mercy in the country.

To it, well over a hundred years ago, the first Sisters of Mercy came, sent by Mother M. Catherine McAuley herself. The great and splendid Mother McAuley from Dublin sent her young nuns to Pittsburgh, and in no time at all, the convent on Webster Street was on its way up.

Now that convent is in its splendid location further out in the city. But on Webster you come from the street level into the girls' high school, turn to the right into a lovely old convent chapel, scene of historic departures as the Mercy Sisters moved from the country to establish their multiplied foundations, and then, to your left you find the new girls' home—a specialty of the Mercy Sisters.

To that convent, Mother Catherine Drexel, founder of the Blessed Sacrament Sisters for working among the Indians and Negroes, was taken into the novitiate by the Sisters of Mercy, not to become herself a Sister of Mercy, but to be trained in the religious life. There she took her vows, and then, after her novitiate, to her new order the Sisters of Mercy directed those who applicants who thought they wanted the missionary life; and from the convent she went forth to become the great apostle to our home missions.

So as I said mass in the chapel, I felt on very holy ground. I could not but think of the vast work of the Mercy Nuns everywhere in the United States, their colleges, hospitals, academies, high schools, hotels for women, parochial schools, orphanages, refuges. All of them look back to that chapel as to their fountain. And from that altar a new religious order took its rise.

Survived, indeed, is the record of our American nuns. What would the Church be without them?

### THE "REAL" NATIONAL PERIL

The wise makeup man of the New York Times put aside two important new articles on September 3.

The first told the triumph of the birth controllers. The grammar schools of the nation have 10,000 less children in them this year than they had last, and the kindergarten classes have dropped a dismal 10,000. "This drop," admits the U. S. Office of Education "is due to the low birth rate from 1930 to 1938."

These were the years of the Sanger Triumph. But, continues the second article, this time based on the reports of the New York Department of Health, the birthrate for July was the highest in eleven years.

Perhaps a country that has suddenly awakened to the need of all-out defense democracy realizes that you cannot protect democracy unless there are democrats to protect, and that the future belongs to the nation that is not merely rich in material resources but richer still in human life.

Can it be that the Sanger Forces, the most anti-American group in the country, are in full retreat?

## PAGE MY PASTOR

By Right Rev. Msgr. Peter M. H. Wynhoven  
Editor-in-Chief, Catholic Action of the South

### ONE NEVER LEARNS ENOUGH

"Frances, my pastor wants me to join the study club. Do you think I should?"

"Well, I thought I was getting so many fine points from you that I couldn't possibly absorb any more learning from anybody else."

"That has all earned me a C. I'm a C. of a dirty dig. However, as a point of information, I belong to my parish study club. You know that."

"Yes, but I always was under the impression that you belonged to it to tell them a thing or two."

"That's a matter of cold fact, darling. A few weeks ago in one of our sessions, I was beautifully defeated—expertly, I might say."

"It's too me, but I'm surprised and even faintly pleased. Confess, Fran."

"Well, the question of abstaining from meat on Fridays came up, and I, like a big smart Aleck, got up and gratuitously volunteered the information that on Fridays one could drink broth. If the meat was taken out, you ought to have heard the young Father assistant-moderator. Did he razz me?"

"Could he defend your assertion, Fran?"

"No. He said unless broth was only muddled water it wasn't broth anymore, but in all well-regulated families, broth was the extract of the essence of meat, and consequently, was meat in liquid form, which, naturally, could not be drunk on Fridays."

"Was your face red, Fran?"

"Faintly pink, until he asked where I had picked up this choice morsel of theological technique, whether it was in Time, Life or Popular Mechanics. Then my face matched my new red jacket to perfection."

"What did you tell him?"

"Cedie, he made me do what really hurt, betray my alma mater by forcing him that I had learned this at college from a learned priest-professor of a neighboring Catholic university."

"Truly a fact, Fran?"

"Listen, you can remember it as well as the day before yesterday. Why should I?"

"Wait, Fran, I didn't mean anything. I simply thought you might have misinterpreted."

"The young priest asked the question whether or not the priest-professor was a famous scientist. I could give a one hundred per cent affirmative answer to that, for he is known all over the country."

"Well, how in the world could he teach such stupidity?"

"Heard you, Cedie? Cedie, till you hear the Reverend Moderator's explanation. He said these learned men are so engrossed in their own specialty they are almost blind to the perfect knowledge of the Catechism, which goes to prove that no matter how smart a Catholic is in certain sciences, he should, from time to time, brush up on his Christian Literature. The best way to do that, believe it or not, is by being a faithful interested member of the study club."

"Leave it to you to finish it up in proper style with the point right in front of me. But I want to say this against your young priest, Fran. I don't think he used much wisdom and judgment in showing you up in your foolish statement."

"I guess he figures, Cedie, that it is the only way to make one learn and to have things stick in one's memory forever."

"It may have been all right in your case, Fran, because you're practically right all the time. This exception may have given you the thrill of finding out how it feels to be wrong once in a great while."

"It wasn't a particularly pleasant thrill. I can do without it, thank you."

"Fran, I'm convinced that one of the reasons people don't join study clubs is because they're afraid to be shown up in their ignorance."

"There's something to that, Cedie, you seldom hear of pro-

### Diocesan Recordings

A spiritual opportunity, long dreamed a necessity, is about to be offered to laymen of this diocese. Announced today is the first Laymen's Retreat House in this diocese which will be put in shape for the week-end retreats, so successful in other parts of the country, in about three months. The Redemptorist Fathers who have attained a high place in the conduct of laymen's retreats, especially at San Alfonso Retreat House Long Branch, N. J. and who have sent outstanding retreat masters to Rochester in the past, will have charge. The newly acquired Retreat House will be in Geneva, on the shore of Seneca Lake, and will undoubtedly become a magnet for our men who will want to spend a week-end building up a spiritual treasury for defense against Satan. In a nation where deep spirituality is needed today as a bulwark against forces of evil, the new retreat house should prove to be the power-house for such development.

Central Verlin resolutions adopted that great lay organization a national convention offer on-use and comprehensive guidance on current affairs with sound Catholic background. Each week one of the resolutions is being printed in this newspaper.

Such Movie Titles - "Lady Be Good" and "Kiss the Boys Goodbye"

A tender love of our neighbor is one of the greatest and most excellent gifts that the Divine Goodness bestows upon men.—St. Francis de Sales.

### STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY

A LITTLE-KNOWN FACT FOR CATHOLICS

THE LETTERS OF ANNE BOLEYN TO KING HENRY VIII ARE IN THE VATICAN LIBRARY

FATHER THOMAS STEPHENS SJ WAS THE FIRST ENGLISHMAN TO ENTER INDIA IN THE 16th CENTURY

OF 600 Jesuits sent to China in the century following the first entry in 1581. 400 PERISHED EN ROUTE.