

EDITORIALS

All Saints Day

All Hallows' was the ancient English term for the Feast of All Saints. Its vigil was the Eve of All Hallows, or Hallowe'en. It has been and is most appealing among our holidays. God's saints are near to us as are our brethren. But the great saints command a certain reverence that carries with it a salutary fear, a holy fear to approach too near. Great heroes of God they were, with a way of life far above anything we dare aspire to. We do, indeed, recognize the power of their example, and the value of their intercession. We feel prompted to imitate their virtues, but are not presumptuous enough to think we can ever equal them.

All Saints Day brings Heaven down to our own class. It honors all God's Saints, the heroes and the everyday ones. If the heroes loom so far above us, the everyday saints are right on our level. They have completed the journey which we still travel. Their path is our path. They have preceded us with the sign of faith and sleep the sleep of peace. We follow them and not from afar.

All of us are called to be saints, called by Jesus Christ. All of us receive daily from Jesus Christ the graces that can make us saints. Before us lie the ages of eternity, which we can make an eternity of happiness by making our days of time days of holiness of life.

To revered religious superiors, to our deceased Bishops and Pastors, to the Sisters who have taught us God's ways, to grandparents and parents, our thoughts turn on All Saints Day. They have gone on before, they have run their course. They have lived for God, and we may well feel that by His grace, they now live with God. There is a domestic touch about this great feast. It touches intimately our diocese, our spiritual home in the parish, the very doorstep of our own dwelling. The lintel of Heaven has felt the footfalls of lowly saints who not so long ago trod our own doorstep.

Our turn shall soon appear. A few years at most, and we leave the valley of tears to enter into the joy of Our Lord. The good example of those who living shared our lot, who dying obtained God for their portion, whose memory is with us, whose prayers assist us, sustains our hope that our last day will find us ready to join them in Heaven.

Join the Knights of Columbus!

Good advice for any young man, and for men that are older! Join the K. of C. The community of interests afforded by membership in this true Catholic order, the assistance coming from close association with others who share our Catholic culture and Catholic traditions, are bound to mean benefits to the individual and to the city in which we live.

Living membership in the Church is different from passive or dead membership. The true Catholic yearns to make his faith so living, so vital, that it will influence the opinions of those about him. Alone and relying only on his personal opportunities, the individual Catholic will find his power for good definitely limited. Associated with thousands of Catholics who think as he does, who wish to make the Catholic tradition effective as a blessing for all society, he gets away from the dreaming state and comes into the waking state where desires are translated into action.

The history of the Knights of Columbus stands as a permanent reason why our men today should join. That history is merely the exemplification of the ideals on which the constitution of the Order was based. A good Knight of Columbus is bound to be a better Catholic, a good Knight of Columbus should be a better parish man because of his association with fellow knights in the promotion of movements that are Catholic. As Columbus was a faithful and devoted son of the Church, so every Knight of Columbus will find in his fraternal affiliation a powerful means to grow in the spirit of Catholicism and in the ability to affect his fellowman by that spirit.

That the members brought into the K. of C. by the current Membership Drive may be many, and that they may find in their new membership help for their religious and civic activities and aspirations, is the desire of clergy and laity in our community.

Our Lady of Lourdes

Our Blessed Mother under the title of Our Lady of Lourdes is honored by two churches dedicated to her in the diocese. Rochester and Elmira share the distinction of having these parishes. Mary has been with the Church and with her children in the world from the earliest days of Christianity. At divers times she has made her interest in the followers of Christ more pronounced than usual. Every age has been her intercession sought for ordinary needs and for the extraordinary needs that appear at times.

Our Lady of Lourdes appeared in the present century to awaken to fervor souls that had allowed their faith to become dormant. In a little town in southern France to a humble child, she appeared and gave to the world a message that has been answered, answered with a response so widespread as to include all the world. Blessings for souls and bodies of her clients have been multiplied over the years at Lourdes. Stately buildings have arisen in the once small village, as tokens of the wonders wrought there by her intercession. Learned physicians have given constant testimony on scientific grounds to the cures brought about. Men of faith and men of no faith have given equal testimony to the validity of the cures; their testimony was based on scientific evidence, and not on faith. All the world has had to accept the historic record of Lourdes.

Bishop Kearney in his dedication sermon in Elmira last Sunday, spoke of Our Lady of Lourdes as coming to Elmira to bring a renewal of devotion, a series of new blessings for the faithful, a brightening of the glory of the Catholic faith in the hearts of parishioners and of all the people of the city. In a time when our President tells us of the threat to all organized religion definitely provided for in the program of Hitler; in a time when Stalin still insists on a program that will continue to lay religion low; in a time when faith is assailed on all sides and morals are subjected to violent attacks in every field; it is a comfort to know that Mary is still interested in her children on earth. It is a comfort to know that Our Lady of Lourdes is near to us, to help us meet the dangers ahead, to assist us in overcoming dangers that are present now. More devotion to Mary, more dependence on her, more eagerness to follow her way and not the way of the world,—these are the things that will help bring to all nations the blessings of peace!

(Continued on Page 19)

STRANGE BUT TRUE Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY

Copyright 1941 N. C. W. G. News Service



Along The Way

Dramatic and Beautiful

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

He was, said my friend Father Jack Skelley, one of the most modest and retiring priests in the world. If there was anything he despised it was publicity. Yet his death was perhaps as dramatic as any priest in this era.

He was finishing his fifteenth year of the priesthood and his tenth as assistant in the parish, so his pastor announced that he was giving him a little dinner. "Invite your friends," he said generously. "for I think it's an occasion."

His friends were all fellow priests, classmates for the most part, and when they sat down to table, they numbered fifteen. Himself and fifteen friends celebrating his fifteenth anniversary.

But during the dinner he complained, in his quiet way, of indigestion and said he thought he'd lay himself down for a few minutes. No one paid any more than casual attention; nor did they recall till later the veiled references he had made to death. But when he did not return, his best friend went up to look for him. In a few seconds he was back.

"Joe's dying," he cried to the dinner party, and they hurried up to the room.

There was no doubt that death was very close. So the best friend anointed him. Then the fifteen priests gathered round the bed and together they recited the prayers for the dying, as their priest friend closed his eyes and went home to God.

On his fifteenth anniversary, with fifteen priest friends to speed him home, this young priest had gone dramatically to God.

That was Father Joseph Salmon of Floral Park on Long Island.

Just Off the Record

The young lady sat in the little dressing room that adjoined the photographer's studio, preparing herself for her ordeal before the camera. The photographer was at work; another young lady was being shot; and with interest the waiting subject listened as the other sitting progressed.

The photographer was fluent. "That's right, a little more smile. You really have very pretty teeth. . . . And show that dimple."

Feast Days

- Sunday, Nov. 3.—ST. AMBROSE.
Monday, Nov. 4.—ALL SOULS.
Tuesday, Nov. 5.—ST. CHARLES BORROMEO.
Wednesday, Nov. 6.—ST. ZACHARY.
Thursday, Nov. 7.—ST. LEONARD.
Friday, Nov. 8.—ST. WILLIBROD.
Saturday, Nov. 9.—THE FEAST OF THE HOLY RELICS.

Very, very nice. . . . You look as if you might be Irish. Well, well, so you are. That's charming. They say Irish girls are very, very dangerous to us poor men. . . . Now another nice smile. I'll bet you'd smile more easily if your boy friend was here."

The waiting subject thought his spontaneous chatter a very good camera-side manner. And when her time came to be shot, she walked in with a smile. And without the variation of a comma, he started off again.

"That's right, a little more smile. You really have very pretty teeth. . . . And show that dimple. Very, very nice. . . . You look as if you might be Irish. Well, well, so you are. That's charming. They say Irish girls are very, very dangerous to us poor men. Now another nice smile. I'll bet you'd smile more easily if your boy friend was here."

By this time the new-subject was in such a state of giggles that picture taking was almost off. I suppose if there is a moral it would run like this: "If you must keep using the same line, do so behind sound-proof walls."

And Prayer Once More

My references to prayer and its power some time back brought a charming letter from my friend, Father Condon of Notre Dame. In it he quotes from Father Phillip's "After Fifty Years."

"Poor Oscar Wilde, who was a friend of mine during his last year at Magdalen," goes the quotation, "used to quote a Platonic phrase which he said expressed his ideal of human happiness and achievement. 'to sit down and admire the beautiful.' Unhappily, this maxim did not save him from catastrophe in later life, a catastrophe which he said himself would have been averted had he been given the right values when he was young, and permitted to carry out his wish to become a Catholic which persisted through his school days in Ireland and the earlier years of his undergraduate life. He used regularly to collect alms from his Oxford friends for the Mater Misericordia Hospital in Dublin. It is a consolation to some of his early friends to know that he died truly penitent and fortified with the last blessings of the Church which in his heart he had always loved." Added Father Condon: "Mater Misericordia prevailed."

Collegiate Contradiction

He was what I'd call a typical college man. I noticed his carefully unmatched suit, and, even more notably, the hair dressing that held his hair even at this early hour of the morning, in exact flows of waves. But his chin sported at least four days of uncut stubble. Maybe that was what made him really collegiate.

Diocesan Recordings

Hitler proposes a new national religion for Germany but history will show, as in the past, God disposes.

An eloquent and golden silence—that period in the Nocturnal Adoration Society hour when a church filled with men is stilled as those men in silent adoration commune with the Real Presence. This was experienced Sunday night in SS. Peter and Paul's Church, Rochester. It can be experienced once a month in the night hours at the other churches in the diocese having Nocturnal Adoration. Men in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament exposed is a sight that is deeply impressive. It augurs well for success of other Catholic lay activity in their community.

Why should a layman join a Catholic organization? Maybe one answer could be found in the warning of a New York Lutheran clergyman speaking in Rochester, Monday. He stated that "never has there been such a conspiracy of forces militating against the Christian Church as today." The defense of the Catholic Church will be strengthened with increased numbers and active members in existing lay organizations.

An enthusiastic retreatant is now Supreme Commander of the Order of the Alhambra. He is Thomas J. Quinn of Philadelphia whose cooperation with the retreat movement at Malvern is cited in the publication "Men of Malvern," just out. A retreatant at Malvern since 1924, Mr. Quinn in 1936 acted as C. A. Captain for his group and produced 117 men at Malvern. On completion of the new Chapel at St. Joseph's-in-the-Hills, he personally donated the Sacraminum for the Retreat Master. With such a background this type of Catholic lay leader should "go places" in a national office.

QUERIES and REPLIES

If Adam Had Not Sinned, Would He Have Had To Die?

Had Adam not sinned, neither he nor we would have had to taste death. "By one man," says St. Paul, "sin entered into this world, and by sin, death; and so death passed upon all men, in whom all have sinned" (Rom. 5, 12). The fact of death is brought home to us more clearly than anything else, but freedom from death was only one of the privileges accompanying Sanctifying Grace that we lost through the sin of Adam. Because of that sin, tears glisten in human eyes, sorrow clutches at human hearts, disease destroys human health, and death lords it over the universe. Because of that sin, human souls must do battle against the wild surges of passion, the flesh lustings against the spirit. Because of that sin, the children of men must earn their bread by the sweat of their brows. But all this is as nothing compared with the loss of Sanctifying Grace, the loss of the Life of God in the soul of man.

Original sin then accounts for much of the misery that is found in the world today and for the trials and temptations to which every child of Adam is exposed. Had man been left without further hope, Heaven would have remained out of his reach forever. Temporal happiness would have been the most that man could aspire to, supernatural happiness, never. But God's mercy intervened and through the Precious Blood of Christ restored to man the possibility of regaining Supernatural Grace and attaining his supernatural end in Heaven. (From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Missouri.)

Control and Discipline

Taking the easiest way to do little things is the beginning of evil ways. Then, in the spirit of self-indulgence, we begin to skip things. We sleep a little later or remain up a little longer; and so are hurried during the day, or nerve-exhausted at its close. Bad mental habits are usually at the bottom of a physically run-down condition. Reform, and recuperation must begin with better self-control and exercise in self-discipline.—The Pilot.