

EDITORIALS

Thanks Be To God!

Today is Thanksgiving Day. By proclamation of our President it is set aside as a day on which the people are urged to go to their places of worship to express to God their gratitude for His blessings on the country and its citizens. It is traditional with Americans to observe one day in the year as a day of thanksgiving. Our first President noted its observance following the earlier practice of the Pilgrim Fathers. It is one of the indications of the Christian spirit that still holds sway over a country in which many are not members of any religious body.

We have much to be thankful for. Ours is a land of plenty where every man can have for himself and his family the products of our fields and pastures and orchards and flocks. Ours is a land of liberty, when every man for himself and his family can choose and cherish his church and his school, his social organizations, his manufacturer's association or his labor union. With his life in his own keeping and the pursuit of happiness unobscured by dictator's domination, he follows the ways of liberty guaranteed to him by the American Constitution. Ours is still a land of peace, although war and the peril of war have been and are much too close to us. Our prayer of gratitude for the blessings of peace must still include a prayer of petition that peace may continue to dwell with us.

May this Thanksgiving Day find us going forth to our churches to offer up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with the priest, a sacrifice of thanksgiving with Jesus Christ acting as our Mediator with the Father, the Giver of every good gift! May it find us mingling with our feasting and rejoicing a lasting spirit of gratitude for all we have received. May our sense of dependence on God for all graces, spiritual and material, keep us humble, keep us prayerful, keep us faithful! Let our day start and hush with the prayer: "Thanks be to God!"

No Logic Without the Logos

Thank God for clear thinking and for clear-headed thinkers! They are not so rare as one might judge. But there is so much alleged thinking and there are so many pseudo-thinkers in the world, making a stir that is far greater than any solid estimate of their value would warrant, that we may lose sight of the real thinkers and their thoughts.

What a refreshing breeze comes over our system when we read or hear the message of a mind fully dedicated to truth and notably equipped with logic! Stale and depressing are the outpourings of so many minds that can not know logic because they will not know the Logos, the Word of God. Without God, without the Logos, they can have no true sense of values, no complete appreciation of the world, no acceptable sense of moral values. St. Paul of old spoke of the ill effects of their ignorance of God.

When the great poet, Alfred Noyes, spoke to over one thousand delighted listeners last Monday night in the Christian Culture Series of Lectures at Aquinas Institute, he brought a message satisfying in its content and stimulating in its effect. Faith in God and in His Church, by which he came many years ago through conversion, were the foundation of his declarations on the departure of literature from reality. He pointed out that there is a decadent modern literature was not an approach to reality, but a mere departure from it. He cited the complaint of a modern dramatist that it was becoming increasingly difficult to produce dramatic contrasts where Godless people and societies had forgotten the difference between right and wrong.

The utter lack of ability to judge between what is wholesome and unwholesome in literature was well demonstrated in last Sunday's New York Times when a reviewer of a "Life of Finley Peter Dunne," creator of the famous Mr. Dooley, dated to unite with him as a fellow depicter of life in Chicago, one of the worst offenders against decency in modern writers. One could search carefully in every page of Mr. Dooley's manifold commentaries on life and men, without finding one item that could scandalize the most innocent reader. One does not have to search the works of the other writer cited in this review to find dirt; it is spread out on every second or third page, a nasty story, or a realistic portrayal of immoral doings, that can do the reader only harm, and convict the writer of blatant indecency. The idea of comparing Mr. Dunne with this writer, of uniting them as fellow portrayors of the Chicago scene, is not only illogical, it is outrageous!

Without the Logos, no logic! Without the Word of God, no solid approach to literature that is factual that is solid, that is clean. Thank God for writers like Mr. Dunne, for poets like Alfred Noyes. They follow in a tradition that goes back to the ages of faith, they give us reading that needs no dipping into dirt to invoke interest, they feed our souls and our minds with thoughts and fancies that are proper and satisfying nourishment.

Crisis of Christianity

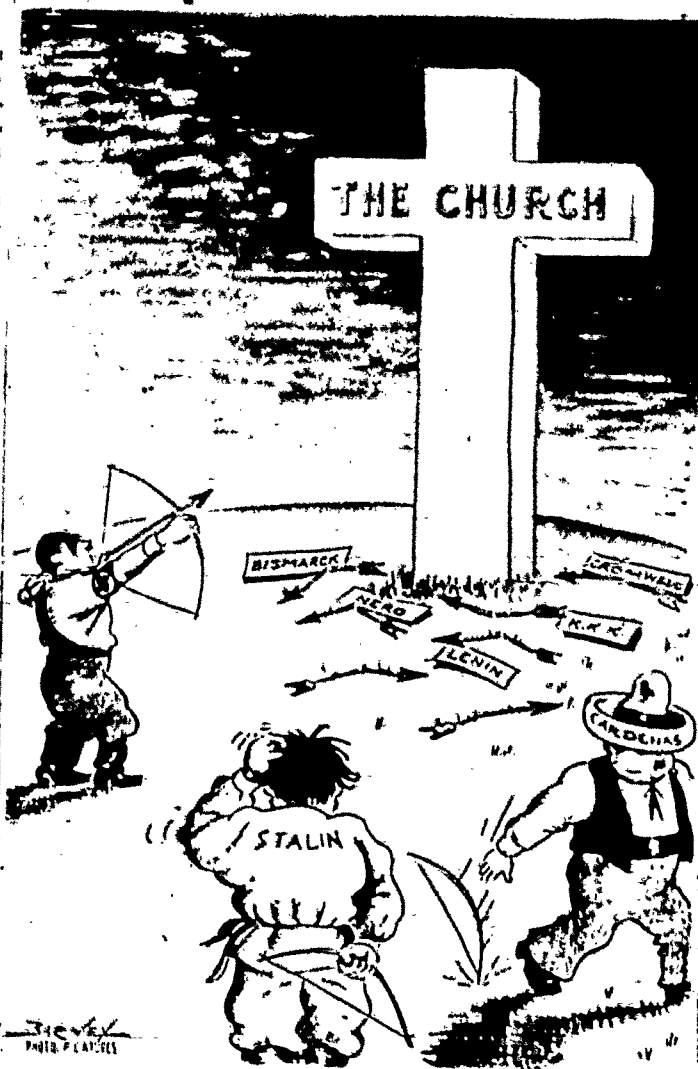
The world situation today constitutes a real crisis for Christianity, according to the statement issued by the Bishops of the United States in their meeting this week in Washington. God's plan for world government has been assailed by enemies of Christianity. No longer would these men permit the things of the world to be governed by the two powers, the ecclesiastical and the civil, the one to rule over divine, the other over human things. Nazism and Communism would rule out the divine, the ecclesiastical, and introduce a sway that would be pagan and materialistic. The Bishops affirmed that the Christianity today faces a crisis worse than any she has faced since the Church came out of the catacombs. Dictators today assume a power that belongs to God alone.

The Bishops call for respect for ecclesiastical authority and for civil authority. They condemn those who would interfere in those things that are within the domain of the Church. They recognize the liberty of discussion and even of criticism that belong to us under a democratic government, while they urge and commend respect for the authority of our civil officials which has its source in God.

The statement emphasizes prayer as a means of meeting the crisis. "We shall pray for all the world, but especially for our own country, for the well-being of the Church, and for unity among our citizens. We shall pray that the Holy Ghost may enlighten, guide and strengthen our Chief Executive, the Congress, and all who bear the grave responsibility of government in these difficult days." Hope for labor peace, and for such action by labor leaders as will avoid any harm to the

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Wasting Their Time



Along The Way

Fire In A Pullman

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

I'd always wondered what would be my reaction if I woke up and found the house on fire. Now I realize that that would depend entirely upon how tired I was. For I was tired this particular night and when I woke in the midst of solid smoke, I wasn't frightened. I was just annoyed that my sleep had been interrupted and angry that the people at work on the fire were making so much disturbing noise.

I'd boarded the Pullman in Rochester. It had been a busy day and a hot one, so I crawled into my lower and fell asleep as the train moved out of the station. What woke me was somebody ringing the porters' bell violently and persistently.

"How utterly inconsiderate," I thought, and dozed again, only to wake with a start as I realized that I was coughing my head off. I flashed on the berth lights and found my berth a solid blanket of grey smoke. The ventilator had pulled the smoke into the berth in clouds. I opened the curtains to look out and found the car even thicker with smoke.

At that point I should have dashed into my clothes. I should have dropped into sheer panic. Instead I looked at my watch, rapidly calculated the few hours I'd slept and thought instinctively, "Well, doggone, imagine cutting into my sleep like that."

So when the conductor went down the aisle singing out cheerfully, "All under control, no danger at all, you're safe in going right back to sleep," I turned out the light, coughed a few times, and went promptly to sleep.

In the morning I looked at the berth across the aisle that had been in flames. The green Pullman curtains were charred fags. The mattress was badly burnt and the wood work blistered. Otherwise the car was intact.

In the washroom we discussed the fire with objective interest, all except the man who happened to be in the upper berth over the burning lower.

"I'm singing," he moaned humorously. "But was I scared? First I just knew that it was hot in the berth. Then I looked up and saw flames darting past my berth. Then I wondered if I was dead and landed in a most uncomfortable future. Then in a leap I was out of that berth."

What started the fire will always be an underwriter's problem. We all guessed, "Cigarette." That's what the Pullman conductor thought too. And since air-conditioning has become the rule on Pullmans, a good many people take the ghastly risk of smoking in their

berths. I was on a train once where two primitive travellers got in their berth with all their clothes on and lighted corn-cob pipes. The man in the berth denied he was smoking. If he was, I bet he doesn't again. If he wasn't, well, either way, he must have had a grand scare.

"I've been on the Pullman service," said the conductor, "for fifteen years. That's the first time I ever had to fight a fire."

I could have said that I was travelling for almost that long, and that was one of the few near accidents I'd ever seen on a Pullman.

Addition to a Question Box

When I arrived at Georgetown University for the young men's retreat I found at school at Georgetown Visitation Convent, which adjoins the college, the daughters of some of my best friends. So when the girls told me that they'd like to see Georgetown, I made the necessary arrangements.

They came over in the mid-afternoon, and two of the Georgetown men helped me to show them around the campus.

That evening we had a question box for the retreatants. The questions followed the normal line of men's queries, but three popped up something quite new: I hesitated only for a second, and then read it to the assembled seven hundred.

"Who were the two beautiful blondes you had with you this afternoon, and how could I meet them?"

There was a roar from the crowd. When it had died down, I answered, "It takes an out-of-town to show the local people what their own town possesses. The two young ladies are in Visitation Academy, separated only by a high wall."

"Any rate two young ladies got a campus-wide publicity."

Feast Days

- Sunday, Nov. 23.—ST. CLEMENT OF ROME.
- Monday, Nov. 24.—ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS.
- Tuesday, Nov. 25.—ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA.
- Wednesday, Nov. 26.—ST. SYLVESTER, ABBOT.
- Thursday, Nov. 27.—ST. MARTIN.
- Friday, Nov. 28.—ST. RUFFUS.
- Saturday, Nov. 29.—VIGIL OF ST. ANDREW.

Christ does not invite humanity to intellectual bondage, but to share the honest liberty of the children of light. (Cardinal Meyer)

QUERIES and REPLIES

Why Is Every Catholic Church Crowned With A Cross?

Every Catholic Church is crowned with the Cross of Christ to proclaim to all the world that the Catholic Church is the Church of the Cross. Christ's way to God must be man's way to God and Christ's way to God was the way of the Cross. The Savior of men with a Cross on His Back is leading us to follow after Him such as the guide who goes before us on that straight and narrow path that leads to Paradise.

We live in a soft age, we like to think that the Kingdom of God may be had merely for the asking but in every truth the heart of man can be made ready for Heaven only by learning the lessons of the Cross. The servant is not above the Master. The Master entered into glory only through much tribulation. Christ went to Heaven carrying a cross. If His way is our way, then of necessity the Cross must have a place in our lives too; and it just will not do for men to gloss over this fact or pretend to ignore it in their everyday lives.

Mere misery and suffering and want, however, are not in themselves any guarantee of eternal glory. The exact contrary may be the case. If a man bears up under the trials and troubles of life simply because he cannot evade them, or what is worse, if he curses God for the crosses that He sends him, those crosses will be of no avail in the Great Beyond. Quite the reverse, they will serve only to send him into deeper damnation. If our crosses are to count before God, then we must bear them in the same manner with Christ for Christ and in Christ, and like Christ, then our crosses will be for us just what His Cross was for Him, the ladder on which we mount up to God and make sure and secure a place beside the crucified Christ in eternity. This is the reason, then, why the Church of the Ages has ever been the Church of the Cross. This is the reason, then, why the Church of the Cross cries out unceasingly with St. Paul, "God forbid that I should glory save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Gal. 6: 14)

(From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., published by the Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Missouri.)

Diocesan Recordings

It makes no difference whether Thanksgiving Day comes this week or next every day is Thanksgiving Day for those who are truly grateful to an All-Wise Creator for the blessings He has given them.

The fifth year of the reign of His Excellency Bishop Kearney as Ordinary of the Diocese of Rochester, began last week. It was on Nov. 11 that the Bishop was solemnly installed in Sacred Heart Pro-Cathedral with a distinguished array of the Hierarchy present. His four years as shepherd of the diocese have been exceedingly fruitful. This department would dwell upon the great encouragement, understanding and help given to the Catholic lay organizations of the diocese of which His Excellency has been interested in all men's and women's, boys and girls. He has found time to give personal attention to the laymen's groups. The week-end retreats for laymen, long a dream in this diocese, are now to become a reality. The men's and women's organizations have found his advice readily given and have advanced in numbers and things accomplished because of such direction. The Knights of Columbus in the State have found him such a loyal member that His Excellency accepted the State Chaplaincy for two terms now. He has backed up the Holy Name Society in the campaign for decent literature and in the sale of the Revised New Testament. The other organizations have had his cooperation and help in carrying on their important work. The organizations have a duty in return to increase their efforts to show that this help has been rightly appreciated.

All whiskered things are testy and short-tempered, pumas, wildcats, shrimps and George Bernard Shaw. (P. G. Wodehouse)