

1942

Catholic Courier



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## Democracies Must Sacrifice To Survive Says Fr. D'Arcy

By Helen Macchia

"Can our civilization as we know it survive? It is able to do so?" These were challenging posers presented by the Rev. Martin C. D'Arcy, S.J., Oxford Philosopher, in the fourth lecture of the Christian Culture Lecture Series held at Aquinas Institute, Dec. 14.

The lecturer said these questions concerned the future of our Christian civilization, that his subject, "The Survival of the Fittest" could be developed in the light of the recent calamities which have befallen the United States of America in its fight to resist aggression.

### COMMENDED BY BISHOP

Father D'Arcy was presented to his large audience by His Excellency, Bishop Kearney. The Bishop at the lecture's close expressed his own appreciation to the Rev. Hugh Haffes, C.S.B. in the latter's choice of speakers for the lectures. His Excellency gave his blessing to those in the audience and extended wishes for a Merry Christmas day.

ing that in other years we were asked to bring gifts to Bethlehem but this year we are asked to share in the sentiments of Our Blessed Lady beside the Crrib sentiments of worry, sadness, grief.

Developing his theme, Father D'Arcy explained how some of the fairest memorials in the world which seem to embody the hopes and aspiration of our civilization may soon perish.

Mentioning how certain species are wiped out how creatures come into the world, exist for a time, and then perish; how institutions rise up, are erect for a time, and later crumble to ruins the lecturer compared these to the brutal power of the exploiters of our civilizations.

"New, uprising governments seem to possess strength and virtues," he said, "while old civilized forms of governments show signs of decay. Old established civilizations are bound to go down in the face of a new order for they have shown signs of indulgence, weakness, effeminacy and an unwillingness to face the challenge of the moral law."

### COMMON CAUSE FIGHT

"I can speak frankly now," said this visiting Oxford philosopher "for our governments are now fighting for a common cause." He went on to explain how, before the war, common European thought was that democracy was doomed. Father D'Arcy clarified his statement further by stating three views: the Communist, Totalitarian and Democratic found in the world today. Concerning the first two views, he said that among the people who hold them, there is a great spirit of sacrifice, a spirit which asks them to give all for the cause.

"This sacrificial power of the Totalitarians, which puts so-called Christians to shame and scorn can defeat any irreligious people who want liberty with no authority."

With regard to the stand of Democracy, Father D'Arcy mentioned the view held by people living in the eighteenth century that man was an angel, born as a free man, and if left to freedom, would spring into his divinity. From these beliefs, evolved the concept of Democracy field in that day. In the nineteenth century, together with the policy of laissez-faire came the belief that power should be used to exploit one's weaker neighbor. Today, the trend of thought is to have education—no matter of what sort, as long as it is education—to improve health conditions and to do everything in order that the individual may have more perfect liberty. From these facts, Father D'Arcy drew the conclusion that this is indeed the end of a civilization, the end of an epoch.

### CALM IN ENGLAND

Following these statements, the lecturer recounted his experiences upon returning to England from a trip abroad. He said that he had expected to find turbulence of every sort, since England had just entered the war, and that he would have to spend his time in dodging

## With the Fleet



Pictured in Hawaii a few months ago is Captain W. A. Maguire, Catholic Chaplain in the United States Navy. The photo was taken on the occasion of the installation of the Most Rev. James J. Sweeney, of San Francisco, as first Bishop of Honolulu. Chaplain Maguire is ranking Chaplain in the Pacific Fleet. (N.C.W.C.)

books and in dodging the crowd to the victims of our riot." Instead of all this, he found a normally English life going on as usual. He said that he had failed to consider one important point—that true Christians had left in them they do not perish in the face of danger, that death and pain cannot take the image of God. He remarked how human nature, with Christ as the only shining forth in the time of a crisis.

We see a part of the great thing called Christendom built up by the sacrifice of unknown individuals and fostered by the Church, he pointed out. The great learning of Greece and Rome is brought together with poetry, song and architecture by the Church. We have Christian tradition, Christian beauty, virtues built upon justice, crowned with charity. This is our Christian inheritance.

There have been many influences in the past, but still in the midst of prevailing ideas, the note of Christian unity has gone out to all countries—Dominus Illuminatio Mea, the Lord is my Light. The present crisis concerns not only nations but the survival of Christianity. Democracy can be lasting but we must give party politics, racial hatred, youth must show itself brave not only in private matters but in affairs of a national scope, it must treat its fellowmen as brothers. The survival of the fittest means just those who take these principles to heart and practice them with all sincerity. Thus, those who possess love, lowliness and loyalty—they shall be the lords of the land!

A question and answer period followed during which time Father D'Arcy was asked whether he thought Russia, after the war, would return to Christianity. Father's answer was an emphatic yes, for he believes that Russia is at heart a Christian country which is at present obliterated by despotic rulers.

## Youth Apostolate Outlined

BUFFALO (N.C.)—A "Catholic Youth Apostolate Outline" prepared by the Most Rev. John A. Duffy, Bishop of Buffalo, who is Episcopal Chairman of the Youth Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, has been published here.

The goal set for the Apostolate of the Catholic Youth Movement is "to restore all things in Christ," Bishop Duffy says in the outline. He stresses the fact that the Catholic Youth Movement is an Apostolate, declaring that "its sole reason for being is to reform and penetrate the natural, temporal order of society with the spiritual, supernatural truth and vitality of Christ in His Church."

The development of this Youth Apostolate, Bishop Duffy writes, depends upon "a cultivated sense of personal responsibility towards one's own natural medium of life," and "a realization that membership in the Church implies participation in her social mission—the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth; working with others, under ecclesiastical authority, as a haven to materialistic concepts and customs."

The gradual formation of leaders and the development of the study group within the organization are listed by Bishop Duffy as the steps in the development of the Youth Apostolate. Study should be directed towards better understanding of the natural and supernatural solidarity of mankind and towards a more intense corporate sense as members of Christ through liturgical worship. His Excellency says.

Catholic youth exercise their Apostolate, the author states, through conversion of non-Catholics and of fallen-away Catholics; by striving for personal perfection and trying to bring others to a fuller concept of it, and by "forming the social conscience," which he describes as "seeking, by every possible means, in each one's sphere of activity, to transform the temporal social order through the application of the spiritual social teaching of Christ and His Church; To put the mind of the Church into the mind of the world."

If ever you are tempted to resentment, pray from your heart for him who has offended you.



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