

Catholic Hour

Civilization Lacks True Christianity

NEW YORK (NY) The many who give lip service on occasion to Christ and who refer to ours as a Christian civilization but who in their thoughts and actions prefer some faithless and unreligious man of affairs to the Jesus of the Gospels are the source of the great weakness in our civilization, the Rev. James M. Gillis, C.S.P., Editor of The Catholic World, said in his "Catholic Hour" address Sunday night.

Questioning whether ours can be called a Christian civilization when it is so largely pagan in its external and public manifestation, Father Gillis asked, "Do we think that all these survivals or revivals of a culture that was so rotten that it fed to the ground and festered, are consistent with a Christian civilization? Can that civilization be an amalgam of truth and error of vice and virtue?"

"If then I best father, where is my honor?" said God to His people of old. If I am the founder of your civilization and its Lord and Master, says the Son of God, what do ye with all these abominations? What harmony is there between Christ and Babel?"

"There I think we have answered the question of our day, this world of ours. We are left here, half-Christian. If we seriously are not serious, we are not serious. We have not the courage of our Christian conviction. We speak the Name of God in certain official documents and certain government positions. But having spoken His Name we utter Him out. We make a bow in the direction of Jesus Christ but when we have performed the gesture we think it with out.

Declaring we are at odds with ourselves because we have not had the courage and the consistency to make ours a Christian civilization, Father Gillis said the worst of the crimes and of the misdeeds of what he termed a "mad world" and a "stupid world" was that "when the Liberator not of one group of slaves but of all mankind appeared in the world the world knew Him not. He came unto His Own and His Own received Him not."

"That was the stupidest blunder in history as well as the most appalling crime," he said. "It is a crime so great says Pope Leo XIII, as to be incredible."

"But it is not too late. It is never too late to rectify a wrong. Restore Jesus Christ. Make ours in truth and in deed a Christian civilization, and then we need fear no evil. He has said, 'They shall fight against thee, and shall not prevail for I am with thee.'"

Catholic Paper Lauds City's Action Banning Immoral Floor Shows

PEORIA Ill. — The Action of the City Council in enacting legislation banning immoral floor shows and burlesque performances in the city was the subject of a congratulatory message published in the Peoria Register. The Council reversed action taken two weeks previously when a resolution permitting such performances was adopted by a vote of 10 to 8.

The earlier action had brought a storm of protest from religious and civil groups.

Mexican Youth Heads In California Meet

SAN DIEGO — Two hundred Mexican youth leaders from all parts of Southern California participated in the thirty-second convention of the Asociacion de la Juventud Mexicana held in Colton under the patronage of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The meeting was under the auspices of the Miquel Augustin Pro Branch of San Salvador's Parish.

The Most Rev. Charles F. Buddy, Bishop of San Diego, celebrated the Solemn Mass at which delegates received Holy Communion in a body, addressing the congregation in Spanish and commending the youth on their efforts to advance the faith among the Mexican people.

Arrive In Manila

MONTREAL — Missionaries of the Congregation of the Holy Cross who left here at the end of October have arrived in Manila on their way to Bengal.

On Catholic Hour



Rev. Fr. Talbot, who returns to the nationwide Catholic Hour for his 12th annual series of addresses, speaking on the general subject of "Peace." The broadcasts, which are produced by the National Council of Catholic Men, will be heard over the NBC red network, each Sunday at 6 p. m. E. S. T. December 21, 1941 to April 5, 1942. Each photo: (N.C.W.C.)

Catholic Guidance Given In Current Events By Verein

Because of the prolonged deliberation given resolutions of the Catholic Central Verein and their timeliness they will be reproduced in this column from time to time.

Furtherance of Social Study

ST. LOUIS — Noting with pleasure the growing consciousness of the import of the social question, the Catholic Central Verein of America at its recent New York convention urged that even greater efforts be put forward to promote social action and study.

"Because it pioneered in the promotion of Catholic Social Action, as well as social study," a resolution on the subject declares, "the Central Verein rejoices in the growing acceptance of the social question on the part of others." The resolution continues:

"The many celebrations conducted throughout the world last May, commemorating the golden jubilee of the issuance of Rerum novarum and the tenth anniversary of the publication of Quadragesimo anno, were gratifying proofs of the increasing consciousness of the import and significance of the social question. The observances indicate, among other things, that Catholics as well as non-Catholics are coming to a better understanding of the value of the papal encyclicals. However, much remains to be accomplished before the principles enunciated therein shall have been fully translated into practice.

Inspired by these circumstances, we recommend that our societies engage in social action to an even greater extent than in the past, mindful of the statement of the late Pope Pius XI: "To give to social activity a greater efficacy, it is necessary to promote a wider study of social problems in the light of the doctrine of the Church and under the aegis of her constitutional authority."

And this counsel extends also the promotion of religious knowledge. In his encyclical Sertum laetitiae, addressed to the Church in the United States, Pope Pius XII asserts that "the needs of our times, then, require that the laity, too, and especially those who collaborate with the Hierarchy of the Church, procure for themselves a treasure of religious knowledge, not a poor and meager knowledge, but one that will have solidity and richness through the medium of libraries, discussions and study clubs."

For the Central Verein which, by virtue of the official Mandate it has received from the American Bishops to engage in Catholic Action truly "collaborates with the Hierarchy of the Church," this utterance should have a special meaning. It is at once an encouragement and a command, one which may not be ignored, if we are to remain faithful to our mission.

Buy Defense Stamps and Bonds.

Students Book Club Named For Fr. Talbot

NEW YORK (NY) Meeting at a dinner at which the Rev. Francis Talbot, S.J., Editor of America, was the guest of honor, the directors and founders of the Pro Parvulis Book Club announced the formation of a new book club to be called the Talbot Club.

In announcing the new club the Rev. Francis N. Downey, S.J., said: "Two years ago the Pro Parvulis Book Club, in its effort to meet the reading needs of boys and girls in the last years of senior high school, inaugurated its fourth group. This year the growth and outstanding success of group four has necessitated that it have an individual identity of its own and a board of editors. The new editors are the Rev. Harold C. Gardner, S.J., Literary Editor of America; the Rev. Joseph F. Cantillon, S.J., Librarian of Regis High School; and Thomas V. Reiners of Brooklyn Prep School.

The initial book of the Talbot Club, High Conquest, tells of the mountains of the world and their conquerors and climbers.

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