

Library Signpost

Garland For The Manger

By Rev. Benedict Ehmann

How of Robert Southwell, M. A. ... was the era of Queen Elizabeth ... of the Catholic

Behold a simple tender Babe ... In freezing water night ... Toe-horns are full, no man will ... Weigh not his robe ... Weigh not his Mother's ... Toe-horns are full, no man will ... The person in that year attire ... At length, the little Babe ...

One of the most beautiful poems in English ... the words of the late poet, Henry Vaughan

My soul, like a country ... Where I was a young boy ... There also I was a young boy ... And one day I was a young boy ... He is the little Babe ...

My dear little Babe ... the most charming

Sursum Corda

We Do Not Know Our Power!

By Rev. James M. Gillis, C.S.P.

That phrase, generally put by the first person singular, "I didn't know my power," has become a piece of slang and a byword. But in all seriousness we Catholics can say of ourselves: We are twenty-three millions in the United States. In fact that number is an underestimate. At the recent Convention of the Confraternity of Christian Picture in Philadelphia a marvelous event by the way, more than one Bishop declared that we must add several millions to what is usually called the official number of Catholics in the United States.

Suppose we say, to be very conservative, that we are twenty-five millions. Now suppose that this entire number of Catholics were to stand as a unit in regard to any matter of public importance. I don't mean politics. We don't want a "Catholic vote." A "Catholic vote" as such would be a mistake and a menace. I don't ask either that we should all have the same convictions about entrance into war. If twenty-five million of us did follow one course of action and of expression in regard to the Administration's attitude toward war this war suspicion would arise that we had been dictated to by some high ecclesiastical authority here or abroad.

But there are many matters on which we can and on which we should stand together. Religious and theological matters of course. But also we should present a united front on moral questions.

Take, for example, the one that has come to the fore because of a recent statement by the Archbishop of New York. The movies are a moral agency. They are many things at once. They are a business and an art. They are a phenomenon, unquelled in history since the invention of printing. They are a sociological instrument. They are education and entertainment. To see the lives of standees waiting on Sunday evenings to get into Radio City Music Hall you would imagine that the movies were a religion.

But most of all the motion picture is a tremendous moral force for good or for bad. Careless thinkers have expressed wonder that the great and powerful Catholic Church should add to Her many activities and organizations a Legion of Decency to watch over the production and the exhibition of pictures. Those people are not yet fully awake to the possibilities of the movies.

Other persons have made a snap judgment to the effect that it is beneath the dignity of an Archbishop to single out a specific picture, giving its name for condemnation. They do not know psychology. Still less do they know the functions of the Hierarchy. They play into the hands of the critics of religion who say that priests and preachers should talk about Jerusalem, Mesopotamia, Sodom and Gomorrah, Scibes and Pharisees, and all such ancient places and persons, and never come to close grips with an actual situation existing before our very eyes.

"Ah, but there is another objection to naming a picture for condemnation, they say. It advertises the picture and the actors, and likely the actresses." But where have those persons been during

enhanced by the interlocking of Latin with English (Olea miranda—A wonderful thing. Pares formae—equal in stature. Gaudeamus. Let us rejoice. Transeamus. Let us go over.)

There is the little Babe ... Alleluia ... Gloria in excelsis Deo ... Transamus

Most people ... Alice Meynell ... Mag. ...

The Heavenly Noel ... The little Babe ... And He too would we have to heart

The Heavenly Noel ... the year ...

The little Babe ... And He too would we have to heart

The little Babe ... And He too would we have to heart

The little Babe ... And He too would we have to heart

Our debt is to Burns and Oles ... London ...

the last several years? Do they never see the Catholic papers? Or for that matter, do they never read the secular press which publishes the names of movies selected by the Legion of Decency for approbation or condemnation? Do they think this is the first time that a movie has been named by Catholic authorities?

The Archbishop—It need scarcely be said was right. Wholly right. Psychologically, morally, strategically right. There remains only one question, will our people welcome the incident as affording a "show-down" of our power, our loyalty and our unanimity on a moral question? I think they will.

And I think also that millions of others who do not belong to our Church but who look to us for moral guidance will be glad to join with us in a demand for decency. We and they, perhaps fifty millions in all, shall stay away from that picture. We shall teach the brazen producers a lesson. If we haven't known our power as a moral agency here is a good chance to discover and demonstrate it.

Five Years Ago--

—in the files of the CATHOLIC COURIER

From Dec. 17, 1936 Edition ... Public prayers for the recovery from his illness of Pope Pius XI were directed to be said in all churches of the Rochester Diocese by Archbishop Mooney, Bishop of Rochester.

That the Bishops of Spain and the Holy Father himself in protesting against the excesses and injustices of the Lefist regime in that country had in their counsels and statements, displayed utter faith in democracy was the declaration of William F. Montavon, Director of the N. C. W. C. Legal Department in a Catholic University of America lecture.

With Christian parents in Germany alarmed over Nazi rulings on education His Eminence Michael Cardinal Faulhaber conferred with Chancellor Hitler but was completely unsuccessful in impressing the Chancellor with the necessity of preserving Christian standards in public education.

The Liturgical Movement THE MASS

It is as though the Mass ... The Council of Trent

It is as though the Mass ... The Council of Trent

At the Holy Mass ... Bishop Alter of Toledo

At the Holy Mass ... Bishop Alter of Toledo

EDITORIALS

KEEP NEWSSTANDS CLEAN!

The Legion of Decency registered last Sunday for another year of clean movies. In every church throughout the country the congregations renewed the pledge to avoid bad movies, to avoid theaters which make a practice of showing them. Parents know that a protection it has been to their children to have the forces of the Legion of Decency withering a rather robust movie industry to turn away from dirt as unbecomingly and unprofitable. Removal of the Plebs is most timely just now when the producers are getting a bit nervous under restraint and are testing out the possibility of slipping up on some more films that are immoral, indecent, or obscene, or crime, or making heroes out of criminals.

The work is only half done if we confine our attention to the movies. Bad papers, magazines, periodicals, carry an equally threatening danger. Therefore we add to our usual pledge another that leads us to avoid the purchase or reading of bad literature and to withdraw our patronage to those stores which insist on showing and selling such publications. Our adherence to the Legion of Decency is a matter by the pledge is made only by the assistance of our neighbors in this movement. They follow up on the list of bad publications prepared by officials in each diocese, and seek that cooperation in banning these publications from their shelves and counters, and give cooperating stores a sign that may be displayed in token of cooperation with this movement for decency in reading.

It is high time that the decent-minded people of the country should make their influence felt. There is no sense in permitting every nasty worded publisher, wholesaler, retailer, to do as he pleases with his papers and magazines. They should be placed under the jurisdiction of our laws and rules. Decency has spoken, decent people must obey. Let your untiring cooperation will help to make this movement for decency in literature successful.

A DECLARATION BY THE INTERFAITH GOODWILL COMMITTEE

During the present week the Interfaith Goodwill Committee has issued a statement through the press setting forth the resolution of the Committee and of the religious groups it represents to the Congress of war to our country. Full support of the government in defense of our liberties, active cooperation with the authorities in carrying out the war program, sympathetic consideration for our citizens who have relatives in the countries now making war on the United States, a continued attitude of charitable concern to refugees driven to our shores by persecution and oppression, are among the items recommended in the statement. These are activities and convictions that spring naturally from the religious faith that is so much a part of the life of the American people.

Cooperation between members of the different religious groups in our community gives strength and tone to a statement such as that just issued by the Interfaith Goodwill Committee. A patriotic mood of effort on the part of religious men and women of every type assures a most valuable support to our government in her hour of need.

A BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE

Christ came in power, Christ came in the fulness of divine might, to save the world. But His power, His divine might, were not intended to supplant man's free will. They were to be manifested in seeking the cooperation of that free will as a necessary condition of salvation. Man needed to prepare himself for Christ's coming. Therefore, the mission of the Precursor, John the Baptist.

John was in the desert living a life of austere penance, when the word of God came to him. That word was one of command, one ordering John to begin now the work for which he had been created, for which all his life had been a preparation. He obeyed, he came to the Jordan; he preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin. He told the people he was the one foretold by the Prophet Isaiah, who was to invite the people to "Make ready the way of the Lord, make straight his path."

The way of the Lord is made ready in our hearts through repentance. John preached a baptism of repentance, not the baptism of Christ; his was only an outward mark of inward sorrow, as is the taking of holy water on entering the church. Christ's Sacrament of Baptism was to be an outward mark of inward grace, actually remitting original sin.

The anniversary of Christ's birth approaches. We have the duty of making our hearts ready for Him. No longer need we depend on John's baptism of repentance; we have the much more significant and much more powerful help of Christ's sacrament of Penitence. May John the Baptist's message lead us to sincere confession of sin that through its remission we may be ready for Christ's rebirth with in our souls on Christmas Day.