

# Catholic Courier

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With the Approval of the  
MOST REVEREND JAMES EDWARD KEARNEY, D.D.  
Bishop of Rochester

The CATHOLIC COURIER has the most enthusiastic approval I have ever known to be given to any newspaper in every diocese. The CATHOLIC COURIER should be found in every Catholic home in this diocese. I had at first to understand how any Catholic can be so indifferent as to what is happening in his church throughout the world as to the most important matters of information or even to seek an information whatever let us have a brief slogan "The CATHOLIC COURIER in every Catholic home"

\* JAMES E. KEARNEY, Bishop of Rochester

A Merry Christmas to our readers!  
God bless us, every one!

This day is born to you a Saviour Who is  
Christ the Lord!

## OUR CHRISTMAS NUMBER

The COURIER presents to its readers today its annual Christmas Number. Throughout the year it brings to you the news of the Catholic world. "News" is a word so frequently used that it loses the full force of its primitive meaning. It originally meant all that had just happened, that had not yet passed into history, that had not before been recorded. The emphasis was on the "newness" of the event or statement now made a part of the newspaper record. So the man in the street usually greets his neighbor with the query: "What's new?"

Some events just happen, are recorded, and then fade out completely. Other events happen, are written up in our papers, and remain for a time as current history. But one event happened 1900 years ago that was for the shepherds good news, good news of great joy, good news that should continue to live as news, because it was not just for the shepherds, but for all the people. For all the people of the world. For those who had lived out their lives and had gone into Limbo to await the joy of the Redemption; for those who were contemporaries of the shepherds, for those who should live in the world even to the end of all time.

So the COURIER presents to you today a Christmas Number, dedicated to the repetition of the "good news of great joy," to the restatement of the story that never grows old, to the rededication of the birth unto us of a Saviour Who is Christ the Lord. Caesar Augustus is dead, and his memory is all but dead. Herod is dead, Pontius Pilate is dead, Archelaus is dead, Annas and Caiaphas are dead; they and the institutions they represented are dead, with a sentence or two in the history books indicating that they once lived.

Christ lives, Christ reigns, Christ rules! Today as nineteen hundred years ago He is born to us as a Saviour! Today He lives for us even as He lived for Mary and Joseph and the Shepherds and the Wise Men nineteen hundred years ago! Today God's angel brings to each of us as he brought to the shepherds nineteen centuries ago "good news," news of great joy, it is the current report on God's love, God's goodness, God's mercy, once more revealed in all our hearts in the rebirth of Christ within them on Christmas Day. May your joy on Christmas be full as the Infant Saviour would have it! May God's mercy be your possession on Christmas Day and on all the days that come His coming make up for us the Year of Our Lord.

## CARDINAL NEWMAN, POET and SCHOLAR

The proposal to recommend to the Church the cause of Cardinal Newman was referred to in our editorial of last week. Today we would add a word concerning his standing as a great English scholar and as an inspired religious poet.

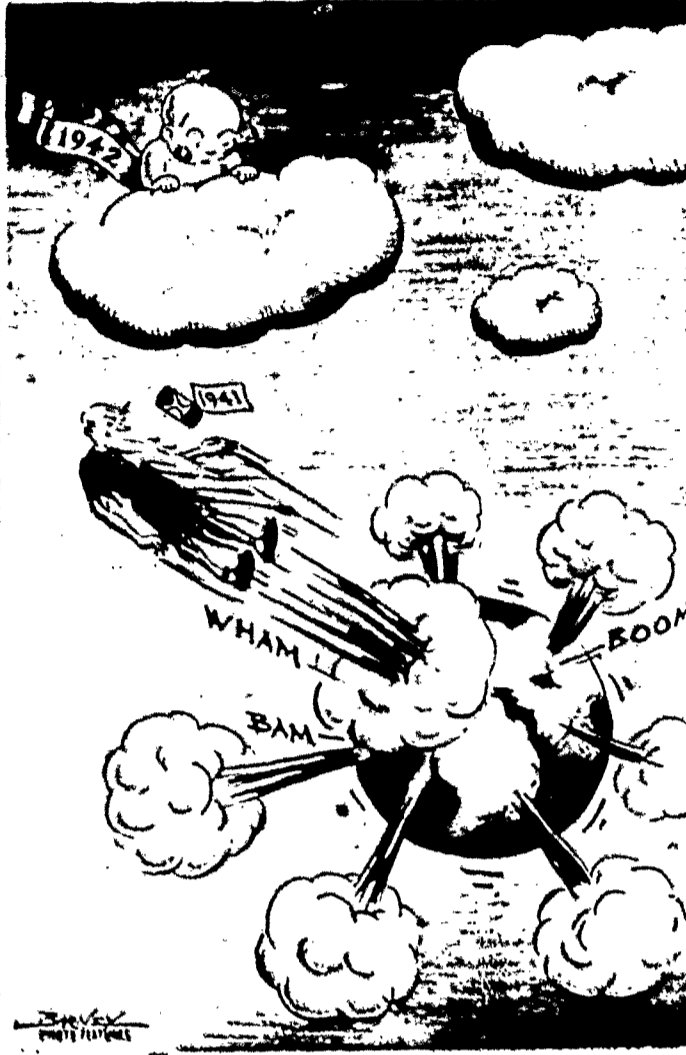
It is not only those of today who recognize Newman's literary genius. He was noted in his own day for the many books that came from his pen. Whatever the subject, and he wrote on a variety of themes, there appears always that command of English, that power over words and phrases, that made an instant appeal to the reader of his works, even as his spoken discourses charmed the hearer by the faultless English in which they were couched. Should the desire of his followers be fulfilled in the admission of his cause at Rome, we shall have the spectacle of one who is already well known to us as a literary genius now appearing as a model for our veneration. Many saints become known to the great body of people only after canonization has brought them out from obscurity. Newman is and has been well known through his personality and through his writings.

The deep faith in the Church and the heartfelt joy at the re-establishment of the hierarchy in England that dwelt within the soul of Newman were given lasting literary expression in the beautiful sermon he preached on "The Second Spring." Since the Reformation the ancient Church, the Catholic Church, had been under persecution, had been repressed, the buildings, indeed, remained, the stately cathedrals still graced the cities of England, and the lesser churches and abbeys the smaller towns. But the faith had been expelled, the priesthood had been banished, the Church had in the minds of its enemies ceased to live. Then came the day when even under adverse and most discouraging conditions the Church had again shown her undying life, had finally attained to the standing where she could secure reestablishment of the dioceses of England. Who can read the "Second Spring" and not thrill to the exalted spirit of triumph that stirred the mighty soul of Newman as he preached this sermon of commemoration?

Who can sing the soulful strains of "Lead Kindly Light," and not know the intense spirituality of this devoted man of God? It is a prayer all through, a prayer couched in words that show the humility of the author, his deep realization of the difficulties of one whose faith was beset by so many doubts, but above all his absolute dependence on God's goodness. "Lead Kindly Light, Amid the encircling gloom—The night is dark and I am far from home—I do not ask to see the distant scene, One step enough for me." God's grace was working within him, God's grace was calling him and leading him, step by step, till he finally came to God's own Church.

(Continued on Page 26)

## Poor Beginning!



Along The Way

## Here Is A Fairy Tale

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

Around the child's Christmas tree, the doting parents stacked their lavish abundance of expensive Christmas gifts: mechanical toys, elaborate building sets, beautiful books, imported jimeracks. And into the pile, by accident, slipped a small but very effective hammer.

Next morning, when the child came rushing down the stairs to play with his toys, to the amazement of everyone, he paid no attention to the hammer and went mad with joy over the expensive toys.

### Fire With Fire. Record With Record

The first time a Rutherfordite thrust himself on my attention I was driving the back roads of Jamaica. There in the center of a small village was a huge sound truck blaring forth to all within earshot... and I'd guess earshot was at least a mile radius. The Jehovah's Witnesses were proselytizing back in the Jamaica bush.

The next time I met them personally was near Fordham University in New York. Their convention had fairly taken over the city and they walked the streets of the populous Bronx, where Catholic Fordham rests in the midst of the most Jewish sector of New York City, giving out their literature to anyone who'd accept it.

Then I found out that none of my acquaintances had escaped their solicitations. There is the woman who comes to the door to be greeted by the gramophone spouting Rutherford's bilge. Or the young man who gets a pamphlet thrust into his pocket. Or the family who suddenly hear their radio blasting forth with an attack on the Flag, the Cross, the Government, the Church.

Well, a lot of people fumed and got mad. But one man got busy. He was the quiet Benedictine: Father Richard Felix, who from Conception, Missouri, has carried the war right back to them—and with their own technique, pamphlets, leaflets, records, broadcasts. I was amazed and delighted to learn that his Highway to Heavens series last year was a weekly feature on 140 radio stations for a total of 7,280 programs. Great job!

Now he plans for another year. He has no sponsors, needless to say. Soaps or motors or beers won't pay his way. He has to depend upon the patronage and sponsorship of Catholics like yourself. So I hope a lot of you dig down into your pockets and help a great apostle do a great job for Catholic truth.

### Rings For God

It was a beautiful chalice. Even from a distance one could have noticed that. Yet as I removed the veil, the distinctive feature about it struck me and completely captivated my fancy.

For on the base of the chalice, beautifully intertwined, were two rings, an engagement ring and a wedding ring. The rings that had been the beautiful symbol of the love of a man for a woman had become the enduring symbol of the love of a woman for God.

### New Traffic Signal

The blizzard in Washington D. C. had tied up the traffic in our rather southernish capital tighter than the back of a watch. When I got off the train around midnight from Baltimore, I joined the hundred and more waiting outside the Union Station for taxis. Isolated cabs sailed in ran down the line of eager passengers, picked up a load and disappeared. I saw myself waiting far into the morning hours with no rescue and no way of getting through the drifts to Georgetown University.

Then out of the blizzard another cab hove in sight, sailed along, ground breaks, and to my infinite delight paused right in front of me. I pilled in, wondering by what miracle I had got the cab. The driver pulled his meter and sailed past the now swelling crowd. Presently he said:

"Some of 'em looked pretty mad that I picked you up, father."

I agreed that they did. "I was sailing along, when I saw that Roman collar of yours. I'm an Irish Catholic myself, father; and I couldn't let a priest wait in a snowstorm."

I signed contentedly at the special requisite which in this case had been bound up with a Roman collar.

## Feast Days

- Sunday, Dec. 22.—THE HOLY INNOCENTS.
- Monday, Dec. 23.—ST. THOMAS, A BECKET.
- Tuesday, Dec. 24.—ST. SABINUS.
- Wednesday, Dec. 25.—ST. SILVESTER, POPE.
- Thursday, Jan. 1.—THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD, OR NEW YEAR'S DAY.
- Friday, Jan. 2.—ST. FULGENTIUS.
- Saturday, Jan. 3.—ST. GENEVIEVE.

He who has faith need not hasten.—(Isaiah)

## Diocesan Recordings

emphasize the real meaning of Christmas rather than take away from it. The gaiety that a pagan concept of the Day would develop is changed to the joyousness that comes from realization that the Son of Man has come down to the world as a Redeemer and a Saviour. The hope that is present in the lowly Crrib will far offset the downhearted feeling that would come from any war news abroad.

To pray for a soldier was enthusiastically received as an idea by one little boy who chose a man in South Carolina. To the little fellow's surprise the soldier he picked arrived home for Christmas far tougher on the day he was chosen. The soldier in turn was grateful and enthusiastic over the idea. His Christmas was thus made more joyful as a result.

The headline was sent to the printer: "Brothers Make Up Parish's Choir." It came back in the proof: "Brothers Wake Up Parish's Choir."

As the year closes it would be good to review the achievements of lay organizations during 1941. They have been many and the review appeared in most part in the CATHOLIC COURIER Calendar and Review. However beginning with the outstanding Family Communion Sunday in January, 1941, our Catholic lay people have had a creditable record of cooperation with their Bishop and priests. Scholarships provided distribution of the new Testament, discussion clubs, turn-outs at church functions, discussion of problems based on the Pope's Encyclicals, spiritual organization for expectant mothers, another to help their material needs, and countless other achievements are all recorded. Time now to look ahead to 1942 when national defense and assistance for the men in the armed forces will be uppermost in mind.

## QUERIES and REPLIES

### Is An Offense Against God, How Can Any Priest Presume To Forgive?

This objection is at least nineteen centuries old. "Who can forgive sins but God alone?" said the Pharisees to our Lord. You will remember that a man afflicted with the palsy had been brought to Christ. Instead of curing him at once our Lord said to him: "Thy sins are forgiven thee." The Pharisees considered this blasphemy and said to Jesus, "Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And Jesus said to them: "That you may know that the Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins, I say to thee, Take up thy bed and go into thy house." The sick man was cured at once.—(Luke 5: 21)

Christ could forgive sins because He was God in human flesh. The priest can forgive sins because in the Sacrament of Holy Orders that same Christ has given him the power to do so. No priest, bishop or Pope can forgive sins in his own name. Neither can a man baptize in his own name nor preach the gospel in his own name. If these things are to be done they can be done only in the Name and with the power and authority of God.

God gives mortal man the power to procreate other human beings. God gives mortal man medical knowledge and material remedies to cure the ills of the body. Surely then, God can also give man the power to forgive sins in His name. This power Christ did give to the Apostles and their successors when He commissioned them, saying: "As the Father hath sent Me, I also send you. Whose sins you shall forgive they are forgiven them and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained" (John 20: 21). Elsewhere Christ said to them: "Whoever you shall bind upon earth, shall be bound also in Heaven; and whatsoever you shall loose upon earth shall be loosed also in Heaven" (Matt. 18, 18).

(From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O. S. B., Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Mo., whose record for faith is carry on his special apostolate is emphasized in "Along the Way" by Father Lord, this page).

But there are dreary days when you can scarcely distinguish an optimist from a simpleton.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.