

Catholic Courier

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With the Approbation of the

M. J. REVENEND JAMES EDWARD KEARNEY, D.D.
Bishop of Rochester

The CATHOLIC COURIER has my most enthusiastic approval. A diocesan newspaper has become an essential part of the program of Catholic action in every diocese. The CATHOLIC COURIER should be found in every Catholic home in this diocese. I find it hard to understand how any Catholic can be so indifferent as to what is transpiring in his church throughout the world as to rely upon unreliable sources of information, or even to seek no information whatever. Let us have a brief slogan: "The CATHOLIC COURIER in every Catholic home!"

* JAMES E. KEARNEY, Bishop of Rochester.

OUR PARISH FINANCE NUMBER

The COURIER today presents a series of articles dealing with parish finance. The articles are intended as a reasonable presentation of the needs of the ordinary parish, of the obligation of support that rests on parishioners, of the usual items of income, and of the advantages of loyal cooperation with the Pastor and Treasurer of your parish church.

Read the articles over and over, think them through, and let them be a good influence on you in your support of parish affairs and of religious causes outside the parish.

Where so many Catholics in European and Asiatic countries are bereft of all power of helping their parish churches, where the right and duty of church support are made impossible of exercise or fulfillment for so many millions today, what joy every American should have in the freedom of worship guaranteed by our government, and in the freedom of support of the cause of religion that is our happy possession.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Blessed wish that we all make to our friends and neighbors on the first day of the New Year! Blessed wish that they make to us! A Happy New Year!

Complete happiness is not of this world. It is a destiny reserved for all in the world to come, provided they make themselves worthy of it by their manner of living here. But there is a happiness proper to this world, a happiness which is God's will for the children of earth, which takes on a new glow when applied to the children of God on earth. When men are permitted to work and to produce for their loved ones, when mothers can have their children about them in the home, when schools are functioning, factories are going, when God's ways become man's ways in the exemplification of fair play, social justice, Christian charity, — then we have the tranquillity with order that is peace.

A Happy New Year to all! May God's blessing be on our country, its President, its army and navy, and its boys in service! May America live up to its destiny of overcoming the forces of evil in high places that have assailed the freedoms of mankind and have now taken up arms against our country!

A Happy New Year! God's grace be with you all! God's blessing from day to day, God's help in living in this world a holy life awaiting the blessed hope and the coming of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL BUILDING CAMPAIGN

Rochester and vicinity have been debtors to St. Mary's Hospital and the Sisters of Charity over many a year. The first hospital to undertake the care of the sick in our community, it early served the wounded soldiers of the Civil War who were brought from the front to our city. No patient was ever turned away because of poverty, no question concerning race or faith was ever asked; one thing only was required for entrance; that was a condition of illness that called for hospital service.

In time of peace, St. Mary's has served us well. In time of war it has given even more important service. Today age has limited severely the usefulness of its present buildings, has brought into question the element of safety for the patients, has made imperative the erection of a new and larger hospital plant.

War makes more imperative the need of the new plant at St. Mary's. Our government has assigned to St. Mary's an important post in the emergency equipment of our community for the eventualities of war. Where the exigencies of the times shut off many contractors from materials needed for erection of new buildings, the United States has given a special rating to St. Mary's Hospital entitling it to materials as required. The reason is apparent, the government recognizes the urgent need for the new hospital.

The appeal made to all Rochester for funds for the new plant is a most modest one. It does not ask for the total needed to build the hospital, asks less than one-third of the amount. The remainder is guaranteed by the Sisters of Charity, the daughters of St. Vincent de Paul, adding a new and princely contribution to eighty years of consecrated service they have given to the sick in our midst.

Here is an appeal that suggests a two-fold motive for a most thoughtful and generous response. Patriotism is one, love of our city is the second. Our country needs now the service St. Mary's can give, needs the services of the nurses trained in her halls, needs the ministrations of the splendid staff of doctors who man its board. Our city needs a more modern and up-to-date plant in which the Sisters of Charity may continue to carry on the work they began so many years ago.

When we give to St. Mary's Building Fund, we serve the interests of our boys in service, who will need all the healing power of this splendid institution. We serve the ordinary people of our community who will profit so much by its advantages in time of sickness; we serve particularly the poor who will look to it in their days of distress and trial for that practical help that alone can bring them needed relief. We serve men and women and children of every race, of every creed, of every condition. Blessed privilege, to add our material gift to the spiritual gift made by the Sisters to this salutary work of ministering healing to God's afflicted ones!

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY



Throughout IRELAND in the MIDDLE AGES the priest often lived in AN ATTIC over the CHURCH!

QUERIES and REPLIES

Why Do You Say That It Is Natural For Man To Believe in God?

God is a word that we have used since childhood. It is the first word that we learned to lip at Mother's knee. And from that day on, we have heard it and used it and attached a definite meaning to it. What does this simple fact go to show? It goes to show that the idea of a Supreme Being is natural to the soul of man. What all men hold by nature to be true is a truth of nature. The universal voice of nature speaks no lie.

This natural belief of mankind may be obscured for a time by the clouds of pride and passion but always and everywhere reasserts itself with the reappearance of sane reason.

Like a rainbow it reaches from cradle to grave and lightens up with the light of hope a life that otherwise would be dark and dismal indeed. Neither do we admit for one moment that what is proclaimed by the universal consent of mankind is the outcome of blind instinct. Man is a rational being. When all men unite in one declaration, that declaration is founded and grounded on reason. For this reason the Council of the Vatican declares that "God, the Beginning and End of all things, can be known with certainty from created things by means of the natural light of reason" (cap. 2, de Revelat.). (From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defender of the Faith, Conception, Missouri).

Diocesan Recordings

Exchanging New Year's greetings, this year, will have a significance unlike any experienced by those now living. This topsy-turvy world, little 1942 will greet, is in a condition which even the great news predictors cannot fathom. One thing has been made certain during this year's Holy Christmas season and that is that religion and its practice concern more and more persons. With the New Year will come opportunities for sacrifice, for prayer, for doing the things that Christians as followers of Christ can do. Despite the forebodings of a world at war, there is a silver lining as outlined by His Holiness, Pope Pius XII in his Christmas message. Peace is not impossible to those who work for it, pray for it and sacrifice for it. A blessed and peaceful New Year, therefore, to the readers of this department.

Add Inconsistencies — Honoring the Blessed Babe on Christmas Day by assistance at High Mass and then scurrying out the door before the same infant can give His Blessing in the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Lay organizations in the Rochester area are planning to go in delegations to the episcopal residence, 947 East Ave., on Sunday, Jan. 4, to extend greetings to His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, a strong supporter and leader of those organizations.

Deeply impressed with the results of war are members of Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus, who make a yearly pilgrimage to the U. S. Veterans Facility at Bath. There, twenty-three years after the war, are found the men who gave of their strength and health in defense of these United States. Their sacrifices have been exceedingly great, the knights find. Their wants now are few and these veterans are intensely grateful for what the knights and those who donated did for them.

Feast Days

- Sunday, Jan. 4 — ST. TITUS
- Monday, Jan. 5 — ST. SIMON STELLITES
- Tuesday, Jan. 6 — THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
- Wednesday, Jan. 7 — ST. LUIGIAN
- Thursday, Jan. 8 — ST. APOLLINARIUS
- Friday, Jan. 9 — SS. JULIAN AND BASILISSA
- Saturday, Jan. 10 — ST. WILLIAM

Every heresy is the revenge of a forgotten truth. — (anon)

Tribute To Italians

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

I liked the somewhat unusual and indirect tribute paid to Italian courage and spirit by W. B. Courtney who in Colliers' wrote on whether or not Berlin can take it. After praising notable instances of Italian courage he had seen in the war, he went on:

"The historical lesson is that Italians — the first to feel the Renaissance, inhabitants of a mild climate, living for centuries side by side with the Vatican, the Christian ideal of peace — long ago had war just civilized out of them."

When the beautiful things of art and the spirit of the Vatican have civilized war just out of the other nations of Europe and Asia, America can face life in a happier, less dangerous world.

Well, Maybe It's Just For Practice

Said the young lady in college: "I really feel I should be doing something for the war. Seems such a waste being in school. Well, at any rate, I'm learning to knit. That is something I can do."

"And I'm getting pretty good at it too. I've just about finished the best looking pair of mittens for myself."

Well, maybe it's just practice and the next pair will be for the Red Cross.

Putting Santa in His Place

He had just been disillusioned about Santa Claus, and he was taking it rather hard. So when he went downtown with his elder sister, he regarded the youngsters who still believe in Santa with disdain.

"Look at those kids," he muttered. "The dummies. They believe in that old fake."

Then he noticed that Santa was handing out colored books. And that jolted him. For once he realized that his scepticism was causing him a loss. So he swallowed his pride and joined the line. Santa handed him a book and then in department-store joviality he asked, "And what do you want for Christmas, little boy?"

Brusied faith, hurt feelings, pride and irony struggled forth in his insulting retort.

"You might," said our six-year-old, "bring me some new poker chips."

Books For Decoration

A benefactor of this Convent College (and I like it because Catholic colleges for women do manage, despite the battering of standardizing agencies, to maintain their sweet convent flavor) offered to decorate the girls' main parlor. The sisters joyfully accepted.

So into the school marches an interior decorator who took over in competent artistic fashion. He did

a really lovely job on the parlor, and in one angle of the wall installed a charming bookcase. Into the case he put an attractive collection of books, chosen, however, merely for their covers and their place in his color scheme.

And when the parlor was officially opened, the sisters found to their alarm that of the delightfully bound volumes in the nook, practically all were on the Index.

Streamliner Power

With the streamliners it isn't merely a matter of speed. It's a tremendous power. I had wondered as I rode them what precisely would happen if one of them hit a heavy truck. Now I know.

Our streamliner was coasting along at perhaps seventy-five miles an hour. Suddenly I felt the pressure of breaks and we came to an abrupt stop. None of us paid much attention except to wonder why we were stopping out in the open country.

It was not till fifteen minutes later that we found out. We had hit an oil truck, and cut it clean in half. And we had not even felt the impact as the liner smashed into the truck. Later I saw the diesel engine; it had been slightly dented and that was all.

Is that the way a heavy armored division hits a small nation?

Short Short-Story

A poor Arab going through the desert came to a sparkling spring. Accustomed to brackish water, a draught from this sweet well in the wilderness seemed, in his simple mind, a suitable present for the Caliph. So he filled his leather bottle. And, after a weary tramp, laid the gift at his sovereign's feet. The monarch, with a magnanimity that may put many a Christian to blush, called for a cup, drank freely, and then with a smile thanked the Arab, and presented him with a reward.

The courtiers pressed eagerly around for a draught of the wonderful water which was regarded as worth such a princely acknowledgment. To their surprise, the Caliph forbade them to touch a drop. But after the simple-hearted giver had left the royal presence, with a new spring of joy welling up in his heart, the monarch explained the motive of his prohibition:

"During the long journey, the water in his leather bottle had become impure and distasteful; but it was an offering of love, and as such I accepted it with pleasure. I feared, however, that if I allowed another to taste it, he would not conceal his disgust. Therefore it was that I forbade you to partake, lest the heart of the poor man should be wounded." — Ave Maria.