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With the Approbation of the
MOST REVEREND 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.

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE

With our nation at war, an "all-out" determination to renew the Christian life of the family and to reinstate Christ at the head of the home is called for in a fitting observance of the coming Feast of the Holy Family on Sunday, January 11.

In this Rochester diocese, no more fitting manner of beginning observance of this momentous Feast could be presented than in the Family Communion inaugurated in 1940 by His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, this custom of the entire family assisting at Holy Mass and receiving Holy Communion together is required for the development of sincere Christian family life.

Those families with boys gone to serve their country will find consolation in the practice, will gain strength for themselves and for the boys in this hour of trial.

Honoring "mother" at a breakfast following has its merits in knitting the family closer together.

The Exemplary Unity—

of the Holy Family, ever the ideal of the Christian family, is thus emulated.

Timely in making resolutions to renew Christian family life and to reinstate the Savior at the head of each home are the words of the Rev. Dr. Edward Schmiedeler, O.S.B., Director, Family Life Bureau, National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Writing for the N. C. W. C. News Service this week, Doctor Schmiedeler declares that there has long been need for a renewal of our home life cannot be questioned.

"The current crumbling standards, discarded ideals, and novel ethical systems have left their mark even on Catholic homes," this authority declares.

Doctor Schmiedeler continues:

"More than a decade ago, Pope Pius XI wrote in his Encyclical on Christian Marriage that the depraved family morals of the day were holding their way into Catholic homes and were gradually gaining ground. That they have unquestionably gained ground since His Holiness wrote those words stands beyond all doubt. And now, with the demoralization that invariably goes with war facing us, what may not be in store for the family.

"By the same tokens has there long been need for reinstating Christ within the home.

"People generally have had altogether too little room for Him in their domestic inns. Even in so-called Christian homes there has been

Much Neglect of Him.

"There is evidence of this on every side. One sees it in the espousal of worldly views instead of a thorough-going Christian outlook on life. It is evidenced in the gradual elimination of all tokens of religion and all practices of family worship from the domestic hearth and in the extinction of the Catholic spirit and Catholic atmosphere in the home. It is seen in the progressive deChristianization of the family of our day—a fact that can leave but little wonder that "Christianity faces today its most serious crisis since the Church came out of the catacombs."

The noted Benedictine Father believes that without a renewal of the Christian spirit in the home, a much needed renewal of our sick and discontented world cannot be expected. "Even the Church's efforts, it is frankly admitted, are greatly dependent on the family for their effectiveness."

He quotes a Catholic writer in this regard as follows:

"It depends upon the family whether the Church is to be saved in a country or destroyed. . . . Whether in a given land the Church is to abide depends not on external things, not even on whether Church buildings and contents are destroyed, nor even in the last resort on the ecclesiastical hierarchy, but upon this, that the men and women who have administered to one another the Sacrament of Matrimony, from the grace of this Sacrament transform their families into little churches. That—no more, no less—is in this hour the one thing needful."

If that is not the one and only thing needed, certainly says Dr. Schmiedeler,—

It Is Most Essential.

More still, it is the logical starting point for that restoration of the things of God without which no satisfying world order can be hoped for.

As a thought for Family Communion Sunday, the Benedictine Father says: "Throughout the length and breadth of the world, millions have in one generation brazenly flouted the Divine Law. Throughout the length and breadth of the world, the clouds of war hung heavily over millions of homes.

"It takes no stretch of the imagination to see a connection between the two. What better purpose than can the Feast of the Holy Family serve than to become an occasion for directing man's thoughts again to the paths of obedience to God's commands, and to heartfelt supplication that the clouds be lifted?"

Permanent, he declares, must be the renewal of Christian family life to be truly fruitful and to bring the results so much needed today.

Inspired by the carrying out of the Family Communion custom, edifying and inspiring religious practices that were used the heart

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QUERIES and REPLIES

I Want To Love Christ But Not The Christ That Preachers Preach About Today.

A short time ago the writer of these lines had occasion for the first time to journey into the great Northwest. No one can enter that vast empire without being drawn as by a magnet to the foot of mighty Mt. Ranier. In rapturous ecstasy one gazes upward and for long at that mounting pile of masonry, crag yielding to crag, until the snowy peak seems to pierce the very dome of Heaven.

But even as I watched, out of the fleckless blue there floated in a shimmering veil of white which little by little shut off the rugged cliffs and glittering snow slopes of the mighty mountain before me. The veil became a mist, the mist of a cloud, and soon the towering giant of Mt. Ranier was all but a hidden and shrunken ghost of its true self.

All this by way of parable. In manner not dissimilar there has come with the mists of the Reformation many a cloud of doubt and error over the eyes and hearts of men. Around the Christ of fact there has been thrown the man-made trappings of the Christ of fiction until the Christ of the modern is little more than a misshapen and truncated caricature of the man Christ-Jesus who walked among His people in the Galilee of long ago.

To keep for men the truth, to sweep from before their eyes the clouds of heresy and error, to let Christ stand out in all His matchless majesty and love and beauty, to make men love that Christ unto the point of living as He lived and loving as He loved—that surely must be the function of true Theology and true Christianity. Only one Church has fulfilled that function perfectly down through the ages, only one Church fearlessly fulfills that function today.—(From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Missouri.)

Diocesan Recordings

Members of St. Ann's Church, Hornell, Holy Name Society, are determined that banned literature will not be made available in their city. They are setting out this week to call on the city's 18 dealers with the pledge cards of the National Organization for Clean Literature. They have lined up the co-operation of Hornell's police. Public opinion can be aroused against recurrent evil literature. There can be no let-down.

Ordinarily anonymous letters are filed in the Great American File, the waste basket, but this one signed "Thy Obedient Servant," offers suggestions for New Year's Resolutions worthy of thought.

The letter states:

"Why are we in danger of losing this war? Some may deny that we are. These United States have never lost a war but when have we ever fought against such treacherous and powerful enemies?"

"Then again, is a military victory over the countries of our enemies, all that we desire?"

"We have on our side as an ally, one who has proven himself militarily powerful, but while fighting at his side let us not ignore his power in other and more important matters pertaining to the salvation of our immortal souls. Keep ourselves very close to our Blessed Savior. Who has said, 'Without Me, you can do nothing.'"

"As a Catholic, and one willing to give my life for the truths of Jesus Christ, I have been making observations and have found that even among our Catholics, this Christmas, very few seemed to have room for Him in the inn."

"Three instances out of overwhelming numbers, I wish to recall. First a woman, inconsolable in sorrow, when reminded of her many blessings, remarked: 'O, I suppose God isn't unfair all the time.' A Catholic woman dares to intimate that Almighty God can be unfair!"

"Secondly, I was told on Christmas Eve, that burning a blessed candle in the window, just wasn't being done anymore and in upholding the practice, I was strictly branded, 'Old-fashioned.'"

"Last, but by no means least, on Christmas afternoon, a Catholic couple came to my home, decidedly under the influence of celebrat-

Along The Way A Mild Prophecy Offered

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

I'm no seventh son of a seventh son, and my crystal is notably foggy; yet I'm willing to launch into the realm of prophecy nonetheless. . . . I'll wager you that within the next ten years the government will be giving a bonus for babies. They will be paying parents for giving the nation the children without which it cannot possibly continue. Even now, a slight boom in babies makes the nation smile from ear to ear. For they have heard Hitler boast that the young, fertile Germany, with its tremendous growth of population will crush all the sterile, birth controlled democracies, where children were regarded, thanks to Margaret Sanger and Co., as burdens and hazards to be at all costs avoided.

"Life" reports slight signs of such a boom, and crows: "Adolph Hitler has proclaimed that this world war is an inevitable struggle between his fertile German Reich and such sterile old nations as the U. S. and Great Britain." (He has, by the way, already beaten poor, drained, birth controlled France.) But this year a great baby boom has pushed the U. S. birth rate up. . . . Whatever the reasons, the U. S. baby boom is bad news for Hitler."

And once again, the Catholic Church can say of its stand: "Right as usual. Birth control is not an expression of mere human selfishness. It is the road to national collapse."

Will the babies born in the year 1941 save us from the sterility of these past few years?

If you are in the mood for a romance, as when are readers not? may I retell one for you?

I met this charming Catholic family when their third child had just been born. He was an electrician, German in ancestry; she was so Irish you thought of Lake Killarney when she talked, and wanted to answer in your best brogue. Their little house was the essence of neatness and domesticity. Their children were lovely.

We grew to be good friends, and one day he told me how he met

and courted his wife. That's the romance of it, or so I think.

He was a shy youngster, just reaching full membership in his electricians' union, when he was sent to install some fixtures in the big hotel. With him worked a young married man, wise in the ways of womankind and condescending to the young helper. Their job kept them working on a wing of the hotel that connected with the private rooms, and down it the waitresses carried first their trays of fresh food and then their trays of dishes and rejected fragments. Though the men did not know it, the hotel rule in those extravagant days was simple: Once food had been placed on a table, it could not be served again.

So as one of the little waitresses came down the hall, carrying the food back to the kitchen, she stopped and in a luscious brogue she said, invitingly: "There's some fresh cakes, if you'd be after liking 'em." They liked 'em well enough, and helped themselves generously.

The next noon she came again, paused again, and again they found themselves relishing the food that had fallen from the rich men's table. And the next . . . and the next . . . and the next . . .

Finally their work was done and they knew they would not be coming back again. Said the married electrician to his bachelor associate:

"She's been darn nice to us. We ought to do something for her. Tell you what, lad; we'll both chip in money enough for a show and supper, and you take her."

"Me?" demanded my young friend. "I never took a girl out in my life. And," which was the truth, "you've done all the talking to this girl. I never even spoke to her."

"Fine idea, me a married man taking out a girl. No, it's your job, lad; I'll pay half and I'll do the inviting, but you got to do the talking."

So when the girl came along with her tray, the married electrician after some thanks and much joking said, "Now we want to do something for you. I'm married myself, but he's not. So we're both chipping in, and he's taking you to the show and supper. When do you want to go?"

She shyly named an evening and smiled her thanks at the silent young bachelor.

Well, that's all. He took her out, the first girl he'd ever taken in his life. He took her out again. He found she was a Catholic like himself. And she was longing, as he was, for a home. So they married . . . and lived very, very happily, as I well know.

Not very exciting, you say? Maybe not. But it's better than exciting; it's lasting as love itself. That's why I've always liked that very true story.

STRANGE BUT TRUE Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY

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MONTECASSINO MONASTERY
ITALY, has no springs but so cleverly have the monks constructed 5 huge cisterns that rain-water is collected sufficient for 300 persons & supply is ensured even if it did not rain for 5 years.

The portrait of ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI in ITALY is contemporary and brilliant, exactly with the description.

THE SACRIFICE MADE BY THE MOST CONFIDENT AND CONSCIENTIOUS, ORDERED AND CONSECATED AT IMMEDIATE CONCEPTION CATHEDRAL FORT WAYNE.

St. Francis of Assisi