

SIGN ON THE DOTTED LINE

### The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

50 CHESTNUT STREET

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

## MEMBERSHIP

- ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP . . . \$1.00 a year.
- SPECIAL FAMILY MEMBERSHIP . . . \$6.00 a year.  
Includes ten persons, living or deceased.
- PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP . . . \$40.00. May be paid during the course of one year.

THE DECEASED MAY BE ENROLLED

Name . . . . .

Address . . . . .

My Parish is . . . . .

If deceased person is enrolled, give name below. AMOUNT . . . . .

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith is a pontifical and international mission aid Society established to assist missionaries the world over.

## That the Missions May Carry On



CATHOLIC COURIER Staff Photo  
**LEADERS OF THREE FAITHS** planning Brotherhood week observance luncheon Wednesday, Feb. 4, at Rochester Chamber of Commerce. They are: (seated, from left) Monignor William M. Hart, V.C.; the Rev. Mr. Hugh Chamberlain Burr, executive secretary Federation of Churches and (standing) Rabbi Philip Bernstein.

## Rev. Dr. Owen B. McGuire

### Mary's Place In the Scheme of Redemption

An English non-Catholic tribute to her benign influence.  
An American non-Catholic tribute to Raphael's masterpiece.

On February 2 the Church celebrates the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or, as it is usually called in English, Candlemas, that is, the Mass of the Candles.

Among the most incomprehensible features of the religious revolt of the sixteenth century was the attempt to separate the Saviour from His Mother; against the Gospel narrative, against the most noble of our human instincts, against common sense itself, yet it persisted.

I can remember when right here in the State of New York many of our separated brethren, still the victims of that unnatural tradition, were trying to substitute Thanksgiving for Christmas. And, indeed, that was logical; for how celebrate Christmas if the Child must be separated from the Mother? How recall that first Christmas, when the Incarnate God was presented to the wondering and adoring eyes of the shepherds in the arms of His Mother? If the God of infinite wisdom and of infinite power designed that union from all eternity and made it a fact in time, surely He intended that we should recognize it for ever afterwards. "What God hath put together let no man put asunder." In this case also the words are applicable.

But times have changed; thanks be to God. Christmas has come back with the Divine Infant in the arms of the Mother who was chosen by Divine Wisdom to conceive and bear Him and present Him to the world, to the shepherds and to all of us. While we have to deplore the fantastic pagan that has been made of Santa Claus, the commercial-racket, still we can rejoice that all who believe in the Incarnation have now approached nearer to the Catholic concept of the Christmas Festival.

#### HONOR INFLUENCES

And no unprejudiced person who knows the history of Europe (to which all the Americas are heirs) will deny that the honor paid by Catholics to the Blessed Virgin because of the position given her by Divine Wisdom is the scheme of our Redemption, will deny that this honor has had a beneficent influence on our civilization. In testimony thereof let me bring forth one witness, an unbeliever, but unprejudiced as between Catholics and non-Catholic Christians, John Ruskin. In a celebrated passage in his "Fors Clavigera" he writes:

"After a careful examination, neither an adversary nor a friend of the influences of Catholicism, I am persuaded that reverence for the Madonna has been one of its noblest and most vital graces, and has never been otherwise than productive of holiness of life and purity of character. There has probably not been an European home in which the Madonna picture has not been a sacred presence."

imagined presence of the Madonna has not given sanctity to the duties and comfort to the trials of men and women. Every brightest and loftiest achievement of the art and strength of manhood and womanhood has been the fulfillment of the prophecy made to the humble Lily of Israel: "He that is mighty hath magnified me." (The Catholic version is "hath done great things to me".)

But we need not go abroad to the author of "The Stones of Venice" for such testimony. We can find a distinguished witness here at home; and this has been the cause of my referring to the matters today.

At the close of the last century the three most literary organs on the daily press of this State and indeed of the whole nation, were Dana's New York Sun, the Evening Post, also of New York, and the Rochester Post Express. The Sun, as it was then, has ceased to exist. So has the Post Express. The Evening Post continues, but quite unaltered as like. In 1933 it was commercialized and ceased to function in the American literary tradition. It was then bought up by a plutocrat who already owned the Philadelphia Daily Ledger, Democratic, two dailies in New Jersey, both Republican; to be "impartial" he made the Post Democratic, partisan, and of course "Radical." But in 1930 the Post was still its own distinguished self.

#### GREATEST PICTURE

At that date one of its contributors for the Saturday edition was the noted professor of Yale, Dr. William Lyon Phelps, author of several books and for years literary critic of Scribner's Magazine. During the past week, in looking over some newspaper clippings collected during the years, I came across a page of the Post for September 13, 1933, containing an article of Dr. Phelps' on Raphael's masterpiece, the Sistine Madonna. The accidental find was an agreeable surprise, for I had forgotten all about it. But it evidently interested me at the time; and I hope it will interest the readers of the CATHOLIC COURIER.

"Why is it," asks Professor Phelps, "that Raphael's Sistine Madonna is the greatest picture in the world? In the gallery at Dresden it has a room all to itself, for no other picture could stay with it and live. To enter that room is not merely to look at a supreme work of art. It is to enter a Lady Chapel, where one is overcome by

## McGURDY'S FEBRUARY SALE OF HOME FURNISHINGS



### Carload Sale of Living Room

# CHAIRS

Five Styles Regularly \$44.95 **\$32.75**

Chairs selected for their flare and color, to take the focal spot in your room! Large, inviting chairs with ottomans that will hold six footers as easily as a babe in arms. Chippendale style wing chairs that you'll buy in pairs to flank your fireplace handsomely! Tufted back lounge chairs that will be your husband's favorite. Graceful barrel chairs with button backs and open-arm Cogswell chairs with spacious balloon seats. Handsome, comfortable, and ready for years of heavy usage.

#### Exceptional Values

Because they have interlocking seat cushions for buoyant comfort, reversible for double use.

Because they have such expensive detailing as nailhead trim, tufted back, loose cushions, welted seams, mahogany-finish exposed parts.

Because they are upholstered in smart fabrics: stripes, horizontal, diamonds in room-complementing shades of blue, white, beige, mahogany, burgundy, green.

McGURDY'S FIFTH FLOOR