

Catholic Courier

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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.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

All America listened in on the address of President Roosevelt last Monday night. Lovers of freedom in other nations likewise listened in. Enemies of freedom listened in for a different reason. To America and its allies the message was one of encouragement in the sufferings of the present, with the promise of ultimate victory. To the Axis countries it was a portent of the day of reckoning that must one day come to them.

How one's heart thrilled as President Roosevelt recounted the bravery and loyalty of our Army and Navy, their standing up against the foe under most difficult circumstances, as the standing refutation of the charge of the dictator nations that Americans have become soft, decadent!

The gangster always has the first round: the murderer always wins in the first blow. Six years of preparation for Germany, many more years of such preparation by Japan, found the democratic countries peacefully carrying on the program of useful production. With a bigger stick, the robber nations were ready and only too willing to strike hard. Pearl Harbor was only an emblem of the strategy of treachery on which their national philosophy is built.

Rumor mongers and calamity howlers give aid to the enemy by starting and spreading stories about Pearl Harbor, about other scenes of warlike action; the extent of the damage is exaggerated, the number of casualties grows to undreamed of size, the transports are bearing into New York Harbor uncounted bodies of our dead. Such enemies of America should be silenced by the definite statement made by the President: those who have foolishly listened to these enemies of truth and enemies of America should know better now what to do when a new crop of rumors appears.

It takes time to overcome the gangster! It takes time to catch and convict the murderer. But the gangster after conviction, and the murderer after condemnation, are a sorry contrast to the brave picture they presented at the start. The forces of freedom and justice are now on their track, the power of the aroused democracies are after them with relentless determination, the drive is on to deliver all the peace-loving people of the world from their domination and persecution.

Thank God for our President! Thank God for the united stand of the people of our country behind him! On to victory and a blessed peace!

BISHOP O'HARA SPEAKS

Before more than four thousand Knights of Columbus at the Memorial Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City last Monday, Bishop O'Hara delivered a sermon in which he treated of the war-preparations of the United States, and their importance in securing victory. The Bishop spoke of the material part of that preparation, the all-out efforts of labor and industry to turn out planes and tanks and guns and ships; efforts so determined and production on a scale that is almost beyond the power of imagination to picture. Every tank, every new plane, every warship that goes down the ways, every gun made ready for action, is an added assurance of approaching victory, and added guarantee of the peace to come.

But the Bishop Ordinary of our Armed Forces spoke of another item in our present preparation that is even more important than all these physical elements, in giving to the world a promise of a lasting and just peace. He spoke from his experience in visiting the camps and naval stations, in dealing directly with the soldiers and sailors, in securing first-hand reports from their chaplains. The men who form the flesh and blood and spirit of our armed forces give the most hopeful sign of all of the better things to come: "The really hopeful sign of future greatness, of just peace, of glorious victory, is in the eagerness of these young men of the rank and file to know about God and the things of God."

Faith in material things only, is the watchword of the dictator states; America must never rely merely on these. America must see in the religious attitude of her citizens, in the belief in God and the practice of obedience to God's law, the sure foundation of lasting respect for freedom and abiding desire for a just peace. "If it should come to pass that this nation were to put its faith only in material things, then we would be no better than the invader of our liberties, and the world conflict would become only the struggle to death of maddened beasts."

The example of our boys in service is seconded by the practice of those at home. There is a reawakening of faith in all, a resurgence of the spirit of devotion, of the desire to "know about God and the things of God." Attendance at Lenten services, joining of Discussion Groups, daily Mass and frequent Communion, are some signs in every parish of the turning of men back to God. Better things are in store for America when religion and the practice of religion furnish that condition which George Washington declared essential to the welfare and continuance of a free nation.

THE PATRON OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

March brings to us the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, Patron of Catholic Universities, Academies, Colleges, Schools. Pope Leo XIII named St. Thomas Aquinas to this dignity over fifty years ago. No one was better fitted to know the qualities of mind and heart that marked St. Thomas for this office better than Leo. He had studied the life and works of the Saint from his earliest years; he had written

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY

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Diocesan Recordings

If it were alone for the activity of a local Council that Catholic laymen were to join the Knights of Columbus that would give him sufficient reason but it is the support that he gives to the state and national program that rounds out a membership.

This is being brought up primarily because members of Elmira Council are seeking members for the "Bishop Kearney Class." However, it is a thought worth pondering wherever there is a Knights of Columbus Council.

As a unit of the State Council, each local branch of the order is participating in an extensive program of Catholic Activity, an outstanding feature of which is the hospital for tubercular patients conducted by the knights for members at Gabriels, N. Y. The state body also further laymen's retreats, the Catholic press and is vigilant on matters which would be harmful to the Church or to her members as citizens. Scholarships to Catholic colleges provided by the State Council are helping many worthy boys and girls today.

In the national field the scope of work carried on by the Knights of Columbus is too vast for this limited space. Right now they are in the forefront in the work of the U. S. O. and the National Catholic Community Service, branch of that organization, serving the men in all the armed services as they did in 1917 and 1918. Their scholarships have sent into the world well-informed Catholic men who otherwise may have been deprived of advanced education. The fact that more than 65 per cent of the members are insurance members would seem to testify to the soundness of the K. of C. insurance program.

In naming their class after His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, the Elmira Knights are honoring their State Chaplain. The Bishop is an earnest, sincere and devoted member of the order. Success in the campaign will be forthcoming when Catholic men realize fully what the Knights of Columbus mean to the Church, nationally, in the state, and in their own communities.

While it is not expected to get much aid in Albany, a bill has been proposed to make legal the putting to death of persons who consent to be killed. It is another evidence that while minds are busy with defense, the saboteurs of sound principles are busy as beavers trying to tear down. The bill is fostered by the Euthanasia Society of America, a group of "mercy killers" who could serve their country better by preparing to save lives in event of a raid rather than trying to become ex-

Along The Way

As Lent Progresses

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

How extraordinarily gentle is the legislation of the Church. There is, for example, this rather obvious matter of Lent.

"Thank God" went the old saying "for the Council of Trent, which legislated against food but not against drink!"

And even the legislation of the Church and the Council against food was so mild. (Isn't it interesting, by the way, that when the Protestant revolution was making all forms of penance and sorrow for sin almost obsolete, the Church should have remembered Christ's, "Unless you do penance you shall all likewise perish.")

As I face the lenten fast, I contrast it with -

What the motion picture stars of Hollywood give up in order to keep their contracts by keeping their contours.

What the nations of occupied Europe today would regard as luxurious living.

What an athlete in training does to get himself into shape his abstinences, his carefully regulated diet.

What men and women will do to hold back the ravages of some dreaded disease, the diet for diabetes, for instance, or any of the stomach complaints.

And for the sake of our soul's salvation, to help us repress the ingression of our animal nature, the Church makes such mild and gentle demands upon us.

Perhaps if men and women had been a little more moderate in their use of food, we might not see that horrible lack of food which tracks down a large section of the world. Perhaps if we had done a little more penance, we might not wonder whether or not we today are suffering for our national sins, daily committed, never repented, and never atoned for.

It's a good and a wise season, lent. It is good to learn self control. It is humane to give up food when by so doing we demonstrate our mastery of our animal appetites. It is wise to prove not by words but by actions that we are sorry for our sins and the forgotten sins of mankind.

Times and Fashions

My beloved professor of moral theology used to beg us to remember how things in themselves neither right nor wrong might be

cutioners through legislation.

To the credit of the Polish people everywhere, there has not yet been a "outlining" among them.

QUERIES and REPLIES

Why Do Your Priests Sprinkle The Congregation With Water Before The Mass On Sundays?

The rite of sprinkling the congregation with Holy Water before the principal Mass on Sundays is known as the Asperges and is so called from the words intoned at the beginning of the ceremony. These words are taken from Psalm 50 and are used throughout the year except at Easter Time when *Vide Aquam* from Psalm 117 is intoned.

After intoning the antiphon, the priest recites part of the Misereatur (Psalm 50), or part of the Confitebor (Psalm 117) according to the season. He then sprinkles first the front and platform of the altar, then himself, next the ministers and those around the altar, and lastly the congregation, usually walking the length of the central aisle of the church, though he need not go beyond the gate of the sanctuary.

The ceremony of the Asperges goes back at least to the Tenth Century. It grew out of the ancient custom of blessing Holy Water for the faithful before the parish Mass on Sundays. Its object is to prepare the congregation for the celebration of Holy Mass by moving them to sentiments of penance and reverence as suggested by the words of the Misereatur or by impressing on them the fact that they are about to assist at the Sacrifice of our Redemption as suggested in the Psalm used at Easter time. (From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Mo.)

Real Zeal

From her priest brother, professor in a famous Catholic university, the young lady got a wire: "Clara Soandso, one of our students, is passing through your city Sunday. Will you please show her around town?"

Being a dutiful sister, the young lady met all the incoming trains. No luck. She called all the hotels. Still no luck. Then shortly before noon, she phoned the hotels again and located the girl in one of them.

"So sorry I missed you at the station," she cried. "Have you been to Mass yet?"

"No," the visitor replied.

"Well, I'll have a taxi right over at the hotel for you," the sister volunteered. "You run down to the room, and he'll take you to the noon Mass at Holy Trinity. Then I'll meet you after Mass and we must have dinner together."

So she sent the taxi over and after Mass met the girl on schedule.

It wasn't till three days later that a letter from her brother let her know that the visitor was not a Catholic.

Feast Days

Sunday, Mar. 1.—ST. DAVID.
Monday, Mar. 2.—ST. CHARLES OF FLANDERS.
Tuesday, Mar. 3.—ST. CUNEGUNDES.
Wednesday, Mar. 4.—ST. CASIMIR.
Thursday, Mar. 5.—SS. ADRIAN AND EUBULUS.
Friday, Mar. 6.—ST. COLETTE.
Saturday, Mar. 7.—ST. THOMAS AQUINAS.

Clips

A new super-microscope makes a single hair look as large as a tree. One peek and a nearly-bald man is again happy. — Birmingham "Age-Herald."