

Rev. Dr. Owen B. McGuire

Still the Only Cheerful View of Human Life Is the Fall and Its Solution By the Redemption

SECOND OF TWO ARTICLES

Last week I was saying that the "Liberalism" of the Nineteenth Century, whose centers were found in the Universities of Germany, had promised a new era of human happiness. This promise was based on the self-sufficiency of human reason, on the perfectibility of man, "on progress." "The Dawn" had broken, and the full light of a day of peace and happiness would follow. These doctrines gave the lie to all recorded history. But they were also downright heresies and were condemned as such by Pappal Encyclicals. They denied the sovereignty of God, of man's dependence on Him, and more especially the doctrine of original sin, of the fall.

If all this were merely past history it would not matter so much. But it is not. The "Liberals" of our own day have learned nothing from two global catastrophes. If we but follow their advice in the peace that will follow the present catastrophe, they are promising another Dawn and a new era of happiness based on the very same fundamental teachings of their masters and heroes of the Nineteenth Century.

QUOTES BISHOP O'HARA

On the very day that I was writing that last week, Bishop O'Hara of Kansas City was emphasizing the same truths in an address in New York to the Sixth Annual Conference of the Catholic Associa-

tion for International Peace. Said the Bishop "The naive faith in human progress as the natural consequence of man's mastery of science and his multiplication of comforts, which was the religion of Liberalism, was a denial of the doctrine of Original Sin... It is the closely related doctrine of the Fall of all of us in Adam's disobedience that makes the doctrine of Liberalism likewise a heresy."

As St. Paul tells us we, all of us, fell in Adam. We, all of us, need Redemption. If it be permissible to use a common expression, what ever be our racial origin or the color of our skin, we have all been tarred with the same brush. The "Liberals" built their hopes and promises on a false foundation, hence, says Bishop O'Hara, "modern Liberalism or Secularism has built only to find its vaunted city of peace and happiness sunk in a quagmire." There is no superior race, no supermen. We are all children of Adam. We are all tarred with the same brush. We are all in need of what the Redeemer has brought us and offers us daily: divine guidance, the Sacraments, and the grace of God.

And that brings us back to those passages in the Apologia. "The sight of this world of men is a vision to dizzy and appall. It inflicts upon the mind the sense of a profound mystery. It is absolutely beyond human solution... The



Courtesy Democrat and Chronicle

WAITING TO REGISTER on Monday, with hundreds of others of all walks of life, His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, complies with the nation's requirements at Draft Board offices, 185 East Ave., Rochester.

human race (not this or that race, black, white, brown, or yellow) is implicated in some terrible atavistic calamity - which the Catholic Church calls the Fall or Original Sin. No other explanation is possible or conceivable. No other fits into the facts of history, into our own experience.

NO SOLUTION FOUND

Such is the reasoning of the great Cardinal, and it is remarkable that Chesterton writing independently, came to the same conclusion and expressed it in almost the same words as the Cardinal. As a child he was happy. He enjoyed the material world that opened up to his childish fancy. He had a sense of gratitude for the beautiful things that gave him pleasure: the sun, the moon, the stars, the flowers, even the garden weeds. But when he grew old enough to observe "the world of men" he too found that it was "a vision to dizzy and appall." In "the sceptical cliques and sects to which I had once belonged," he found no solution of the problem. "Even at this stage," he writes, "I had a general sense that the old theological theory seemed more or less to fit into experience, while the new and negative theories did not fit into anything, least of all into each other."

But that is the problem of our existence which the Incarnation has solved for us. As I have said - or rather as our holy religion teaches us - we have gained more in Christ than we lost in Adam. I recall vaguely a passage in Father Faber where he says that "eternity will not be long enough to thank God for what he gave the Church and us in St. Teresa of Avila." We certainly can never thank God sufficiently for what He has given us in Christ the Redeemer. This is not a sermon; but let me repeat what I have said so often in this column. Let us thank God daily that he has made us Catholics, and with so little cost to ourselves. We will realize the more the greatness of that gift, if we reflect what "heart-piercing" (to use Newman's word) groping and study it cost even such great and good men as Newman and Chesterton before they saw their plain duty to enter the fold into which most of us were born, through no merit of our own. The mention of Father Faber reminds me, also vaguely, of a passage in one of his books. I can't give his exact words. On some

other occasion I will tell you the reason why, Faber was a poet. It was Wadsworth, I think, who said that the English language lost a great poet when Faber became a theologian. But he was a learned theologian who expressed himself in poetic language and metaphors beneath which there is always the foundation of solid doctrine. In the passage of reference he imagines himself walking on the beach listening to the music of the waves breaking on the sands, when there came to him the thought: To be saved! and he claps his hands with joy. Then comes rushing another thought: To be saved with such a Salvation! and he claps again with greater joy. Finally comes the most enrapturing thought causing the greatest joy and greatest clapping: To be saved by such a Saviour!

But thousands of Saints who were not poets have gone into raptures at the same thought: A Saviour who is true God, but also truly Man, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh, our Brother, our Friend, ever with us even in His Humanity, not merely an historical figure who lived and died and was our benefactor and passed away, but One who still lives and is still with us on every Altar in the Catholic world. These are among the sources of happiness - and cheerfulness - that our first parents had not in the Earthly Paradise.

We have gained more in Christ than we lost in Adam. Let us thank God for our Catholic faith.

'Quiz' Corner

Why is it that during the Mass the priest frequently makes the sign of the Cross?

By making the sign of the Cross the priest is reminded of the Passion and Death of Christ. When we call to mind that the Mass is the unbloody sacrifice of Our Lord on the Cross, or in other words Calvary over again, it is most appropriate that this chief sacramental and sublime act of religion should be exercised so frequently during this most sacred function.

How old is a girl when she knows her true vocation?

Knowledge of one's vocation does not depend upon age except that the use of reason must be had. There have been those who were enlightened at a very early age. Usually a girl will be pretty well up in her teens before she can decide definitely. Prayer, advice of parents, pastor or confessor are the ordinary means God has given us to arrive at a wise decision on the course of our life.

BRING PEACE

Christian families raised on Christian principles bring peace to the individual, to the family and to the world.

Catholic Near East Welfare Association

Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, D.D., President
 Rt. Rev. Msgr. Bryan J. McEntegart, L.L.D., National Secretary
 Rev. John J. Carrigan, Assistant Secretary

The Month of Our Mother

May is dedicated to the Blessed Mother. She was born, lived and died in the Near East. The people there hold her in high reverence. They like to have her picture in their churches. Five Dollars will provide one.

40,000 CHILDREN NEED CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Bishop Francis Vazhappilly is a native of the Diocese of Trichur, India, where he has been bishop for nearly twenty years. In that time he has done great work in bringing the Jacobites back to the Catholic Church. He and his priests have been so zealous that now the Catholics of the Syro-Malabar Rite number eighty more than the dissidents.

Yet, the task is by no means completed, nor are the problems that confront the bishop by any means solved. He writes:

"I have an enormous amount of work to do. My problems are so many that I am afraid to list them all. The Diocese is large. We have more than a million pagans besides those who belong to the separated Church. One of our greatest needs is for schools. We have forty thousand children who would be in Catholic schools, if we had the schools."

Yes, there's the rub! If they had schools! They haven't, because the people are too poor to build them. So, 40,000 Catholic children are without Catholic education. Moreover, this means that they must go to schools where pagan influence is strong and their faith is endangered.

A school can be erected in Bishop Vazhappilly's diocese for only Five Hundred Dollars. Think what it would mean! Won't you help us build one?

A SPECIAL PLEA

If you provide a Sanctuary Lamp for one of our mission chapels it will burn constantly for your intentions. It will be a special plea before the Blessed Sacrament for your needs. A Sanctuary Lamp can be purchased for Seven Dollars.

FOR THE PRIESTHOOD

All Catholics realize how needful the priest is in all phases of life. The supply of priests must continue if the Church is to grow. That is just as true in the Near East as it is here. There is no lack of vocations. There is lack of money to feed, clothe and house the students in our seminaries. One Hundred Dollars makes care of one for a year. Please help us educate a young man to be a priest in his own land.

THE TRUE CROSS

May 3 is the Feast of the Finding of the True Cross by St. Helena, the mother of the Emperor Constantine. On a pilgrimage to Jerusalem it was revealed to her where the Cross of Christ could be found. Discovering that precious relic was a great event. But even that was not so great as knowing what the death of our Saviour meant to mankind. This is the "discovery" that the mission priest makes known to his people. He shows them the way of salvation. In thanksgiving for that knowledge (which you possess and often, maybe, take for granted) help us to maintain a priest in our missions. Twenty-five Dollars a month does it.

GREGORIAN MASSES

Masses on thirty consecutive days for one deceased person are known as the Gregorian Masses. It is a very ancient custom - one commended by the Church for its efficacy. We are glad to arrange for these Masses. If you want to know more about them send for our free pamphlet.

CHALICES

Each new priest who will be ordained this Spring in our missions will need a Chalice. Ten Dollars buys one in the Near East.

FOR THE SICK

When the priest comes to give communion to the sick he brings the Blessed Sacrament in a small vessel called a Pyx. You can give a Pyx for one of our Near East missions for only Five Dollars.

A CIBORIUM

Not all the Oriental Rites use the Ciborium - the vessel from which the priest takes the consecrated host for communion. However, it is used in the Maronite and Armenian Rites. Some of their chapels need them. You can give one for only Ten Dollars.

EACH MONTH

Many who cannot afford to pay the whole expense of a student for the priesthood become members of our Student Support Club. They send One Dollar each month for that purpose. The good this accomplishes is great. Why not become a member of this Club?

There's a Good Service Man Right in Your Own Neighborhood



You can save money, time and inconvenience by keeping your electric and gas household appliances in good working order. Right in your own neighborhood there's a dealer who maintains a good service department and who'll do your repair work efficiently and economically. Call him when something goes wrong. When you give a repair job to a dealer in your own neighborhood you'll not only get good service but you'll help to conserve the time, gasoline and wear on tires that are required for lengthier service trips.



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Catholic Near East Welfare Association
 480 Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York, N. Y.