

Catholic Courier

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With the Approval of the MOST REVEREND JAMES EDWARD KEARNEY, O.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 the 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 an information whatever. Let us have a brief slogan "The CATHOLIC COURIER is every Catholic's home."

JAMES E. KEARNEY, Bishop of Rochester.

INCREASE HOLY NAME MEMBERSHIP!

Bishop Kearney in his talk to the Holy Name Diocesan Union Convention on May 3rd emphasized the particular work they are to do in the coming year as most important and eminently constructive. That work is to be the increase in membership of the parish units of the Holy Name Society.

This project will mean much earnest striving on the part of priests and laymen in the parishes. It will mean personal contacts with the thousands eligible for membership, by members conscious of the benefits of membership and eager to sell the Society to their fellows.

It will mean cooperation on the part of Catholic men who are not yet members of the Holy Name Society. Other societies may be for certain types of men, certain groups; the Holy Name Society is intended for all Catholic men. Non-members should feel the accepted necessity of explaining, "Why I am not a Holy Name man?"

The scope of the Society is wide, is Catholic, is all-embracing. Its purpose is not just to get men to receive Holy Communion once a month. All that makes up the life and faith of a Catholic, all that lives in faith and Catholic living imply, are included in the purpose of the Holy Name Society. Men who have no faith, men who have gone into devious ways alien to religion and inimical to human freedom, never work alone. They know the value of united action; therefore, they form societies to make their views vocal and to impress their fellows. Multiplication of societies without evident multiplication of all-over membership is one device to fool the public, to make un-American "isms" appear over-important to the people.

Holy Name membership rolls need no padding; members and prospects are numerous, in proportion to the number of Catholic men in the United States. Catholic truth is the hallmark of the Society; Catholic Culture is its theme; Catholic Action is its purpose. United, Catholic men can and will wield the influence they should in the community, the state, the nation; divided, they are lacking in power to make that influence felt.

The Holy Name Society in its hundreds of years of history has wrought wonderful things for God and His Church: it today offers every Catholic man the privilege and the right of membership, that the Church today may benefit by its beneficent power. To its readers the COURIER recommends full attention to Bishop Kearney's exhortation; our Bishop urges members to work for increased membership; he urges non-members to join. See your Pastor, your Holy Name Parish Officials, and sign up for active membership. Plan to attend meetings, to share in religious discussions, to take part in real Catholic Action through close association with your fellowmen in the great Holy Name Society!

COLLEGE MEN NEED ETHICS

Thinking men among the Professors in our colleges, local and otherwise, are beginning to see there is something lacking in the equipment of their students for moral living. Thinking men among the students are coming to the same realization. That something is a proper foundation in ethics.

With men that know God, there can be only one satisfactory foundation for a code of ethics: that is God's will as made known in nature and in revelation. God's will in creating men is that they shall live in accordance with what is best for their nature: things that interfere with man's nature and destiny, are wrong, evil, immoral; things that promote the welfare of man, are right, good, moral. Good and evil do not change, what is morally good can never become morally bad; what is morally bad, can never become good. Stealing is wrong today, yesterday, always: untruthfulness, blasphemy, impurity, can never become good. They can never help the individual or society, because they are always opposed to the human nature in which man was created. External conditions surrounding human living may change: man's nature never changes however much these external conditions may change.

Catholic moral teaching is God's teaching: it is based on God's revelation and based also on the natural science of Ethics. Over against it here in America we have a few sorry attempts to substitute untenable theories as a foundation for moral teaching. The one we hear most of is Pragmatism: a big word, with little sense. "A thing is good, if it works," is its popular expression. Things are not good "because they work"; they are good because they are in conformity to God's will, to man's nature. All the temporary and seeming good that might come to an individual or society through the practice of telling lies, could never change the essential evil of that practice, could never make it good.

Ethics and morality have a proper rational foundation. Right thinking will always lead to a proper knowledge of them. Loose thinking will often veer away from them and from their solid foundation. The laws of right and wrong are not the result of an imagined development of man from bestial to human proportions. Man from the beginning was a member of the family group, and also a member of some form of social group. These natural foundations are still in man's improved physical and mental acquisitions just the same as they were when man knew less and possessed less; but was just as essentially a man as he is today. Right was right then: it is right now; wrong was wrong then, it is wrong now.

God never intended that man should grow to mature life before bowing to the precepts of Nature and Nature's God. Obedience, respect for parents, love of God and of our neighbor, docility to God's

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY

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An ancient Drinker's error is perpetuated in every ritual!

THE CANON ENDS at the Feast of St. Thomas, but one heading "CANON" actually continues until after the last Gospel. THE CHURCH DIRECTORY TO HAVE ANY ALTERATION IN THE ANTIQUITY OF THE CANON FORBIDS A CORRECTION.

IT IS COMMON BELIEF THAT ST. THOMAS'S FEAST WAS ASSIGNED TO DECEMBER 21ST.

THE SHORTEST DAY TO MARK THE SHORTNESS OF HIS DAYS!

By special privilege SOLDIERS MAY MAKE THEIR EASTERN DUTIES

IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL OF ST. PETER'S, ROME, ON GOOD FRIDAY.

KAISERGLÖCKE BELL OF COLOGNE CATHEDRAL WEIGHS 25 TONS

Along The Way

Draft and Old Fellows

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

Well, we oldsters are now signed up with Uncle Sam.

I wonder if every place of registration presented the same picture as that in which I registered. I arrived close to opening time, but found nine young lads already signing up nine of us antiquies, with three more of us waiting to be taken in hand. So as I waited I had plenty of time to look us over... us of the 45 to 65 vintage, with the less strongly toward the latter brackets. Some of them were there early, because they were plainly successful men who had to get away and back to their businesses, whatever they might be. But a plentiful sprinkling of us were there because they had nothing to do and could be up early and if need be stay late.

And over all hung that same abashed air, that attitude of, "Well, here I am, but what in the world are you going to do with me?" I remember registering for the first World War draft, way back when. I was a Jesuit Scholastic at the time, in minor orders and on my way to the priesthood. So I was exempt. Even so, I know I walked into the registration place with an aggressive air. Only the fact of my vows and priestly commitment kept me from being of any armed service to my country. And the young fellows around me had that same aggressive, confident air of, "Here we are, and how soon do we start?"

This time, we sat patiently and gave our names softly and our ages—regretfully; looked up when the young lady most unromantically asked us the color of our eyes, blushed when, in answer to the query about the color of our hair we said, "Brown," and then swallowed and changed it to "Grey, almost white," and knew that we were so old we'd rattle to pieces in a tank, be crushed under an infantry man's pack, and too set in our ways to be able to learn the arts of war.

Father Heiser put it amusingly. He said that he'd heard our uses were simple: "They are going to take the silver out of our hair, the gold out of our teeth, the rubber out of our neck, and then scrap us."

Well, we can all pray—and hope.

Uncle Sam, Handwriting Expert

Sometimes letters come home to root tea. Of course, my handwriting is by way of being a legend among those on whom I have at various times inflicted it. But recently the U. S. Mails wrote a commentary on it. I was travelling and from Detroit wrote home to the office. Regret, I did the envelope in my own notorious script. But I'm so used

to scribbling my own office address that it was worse than usual.

So the envelope did quite a bit of travelling before it finally reached The Queen's Work. And on it in final insult, the postal department had stamped: "Please notify your correspondent of your correct address."

What's A Modern Sister

The other day I got a letter asking me if I knew any "modern orders of nuns" in my city. I think I know what the request meant, but at the time it struck me how careless we are in our use of words. Modern orders of nuns? What could possibly be more modern than the type of woman who today runs our magnificently modern school system—right up to and including our entirely standardized Catholic colleges? What would be more modern than the fully approved hospitals they operate? And the wonderful social work done by sisters seems to me of its very nature modern.

Indeed, I doubt if any group of women in the world more completely keeps abreast of the times and marches along with the needs of the age than do our nuns. They are always amazingly modern.

Very Modern Youth

His aunt was showing the little boy his first cherry blossoms. His eyes were wide with appreciation. "And everyone of those blossoms," she explained, "will be a lovely red cherry. Do you know what cherries are?" "Sure," he answered in youthful glibness: "they're the things you puts into drinks."

Church Etiquette

To chase your husband Around the church, Is against church Regulations.

And yet, it might Be perfectly right, If the old man's Making the Stations.

JOHN J. MCLEOD in the Church World.

Feast Days

Sunday, May 17.—ST. PASCAL BAULONA.
Monday, May 18.—ST. VENANTINUS, MARTYR.

Diocesan Recordings

"Give for Each" — "Give Enough for All" These slogans are rallying our Catholic people in the Rochester Community and War Chest Campaign and in the Elmira Community Chest and War Relief Fund Campaign, this week. His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, has declared this is a "test of charity," and "charity is the greatest of all virtues."

Deluged with news, all of us are apt to raise the importance of work being done by the United Service Organizations of which our National Catholic Community Service is an integral part. The U. S. O. which has organized theatrical companies to give shows in scores of military camps has learned that the chief demand of men in the camps is for clean shows. It has been likewise discovered that the service men prefer instructive literature rather than trashy, frivolous prints, novels, etc. This discovery by the U. S. O. is one that will be heartening to the folks at home. The fact that our nation's defenders are in the struggle with a knowledge of its gravity and are aware of their duty to God and country should impress those of us at home. This should deter any at home who seek their entertainment in night clubs, by reading salacious literature or by patronizing condemned shows.

In the Elmira news, this week, it is reported that student nurses of St. Joseph's Hospital made a week-end retreat at the Diocesan Retreat House of Our Lady of the Lake conducted by the Redemptorist Fathers at Geneva. In this period of stress, the laymen and laywomen of the diocese can find no greater solace than in a closed retreat.

For the Record—The young boy won the Diocesan Spelling Contest at Geneva. Thomas O'Connor of St. Patrick's School, Owego, is not related to the News Editor of this paper. The winner's namesake, however, joins heartily in congratulating the winner of the Contest sponsored by the CATHOLIC COURIER in cooperation with the Catholic Schools office of the diocese.

QUERIES and REPLIES

Why Does Your Church Make So Much Of Mary? The Bible Has Very Little To Say About Her.

We do not measure the value of a painting by the number of square feet of canvas it covers. Neither should we measure the dignity of a Bible character by the number of words expounded on him or her. A single sentence may carry more weight and worth than a whole book.

Here are four texts each of which predicate more of Mary than whole volumes from the pen of man could: 1. "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and therefore, also the Holy One which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God" (Luke 1, 35); 2. "Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who was called the Christ" (Matt. 1, 16); 3. "The Word was made flesh (through Mary) and dwelt among us" (John 1, 14); 4. "When the fullness of time was come God sent His Son made of a woman" (Gal. 4, 4). Thirty-three verses of the first chapter of Saint Luke are devoted to Mary. An Archangel is sent from Heaven to honor her in the name of God, to pronounce her blessed among women, and to acquaint her with the lofty dignity and signal honor to which God had dignified to raise her. This is surely reason sufficient to explain the attitude of the Catholic Church toward the mother of our Savior. "Honor to whom honor is due" (Rom. 12, 7). From the pen of Father Richard Fehl, O.S.B., Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Missouri.

Tuesday, May 19.—ST. PETER CELESTINE.
Wednesday, May 20.—ST. BERNARDINE OF SIENA.
Thursday, May 21.—ST. ROSATIUS.
Friday, May 22.—ST. IVES.
Saturday, May 23.—ST. JULIA.