

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

WAR WEEK

As an expression of the patriotic determination of all citizens to do everything possible to help our country fight its battle for freedom right on to victory, Rochester is staging WAR WEEK from June 11 to June 21.

WAR WEEK calls for the earnest participation of every group and society. Labor and industry, retailers and civic organizations, fraternal orders and municipal employees, the Chamber of Commerce and the Red Cross, the banks and the schools, the religious faiths, all are planning for a definite and important part in WAR WEEK.

It is significant that Religion and the Churches have the first call for service on the Week's program. The worship of God and the confidence that God will protect those who fight for freedom, for the rights of men, for home and country and school and church, are the surest foundation for that patriotism that must win the war. Love of freedom, love of the grand old United States that has stood as its bulwark, devotion to duty, earnest attention to the obligations entailed by citizenship, are best nurtured in those hearts that know God and that turn to Him in prayer. Our places of worship on this Sunday will be devoted to the cause of victory for our country, to prayers for the welfare of our men in service, to the honoring of our flag, to petitioning for a just peace that can come only through the over-coming of those who would destroy all liberty.

Bishop Kearney's letter (Page 1) sets forth a program for the Catholic churches of the city and vicinity. Patriotism and religion will join hands in the program for War Sunday. Special mention will be made of the soldiers and sailors and marines from the parish, prayers and communications will be offered for them. Fraternal societies, labor unions, other associations, have given their financial help to the country by buying War Bonds. Bishop Kearney is asking that each parish subscribe for War Bonds, the parishioners advancing the money for them through a special collection on War Sunday.

Religion in occupied countries and in countries dominated by dictators is today in bonds—bonds that bind and restrict and hinder, bonds that are the forerunner of proposed destruction and extinction of the Church, bonds that destroy religious freedom, penalize religious practice and belief, brand as traitors to their country all who would be loyal to their God.

Bonds are offered the Church in America! Not the bonds that speak of slavery and repression and injustice. But the bonds that talk of freedom, competition, support of our country in her struggle against the enemies of all freedom.

The Grand Parade of Friday of War Week will bring to a climax the whole program for the observance. Stirring martial music by all the bands available, military demonstrations in marching companies and parade of war equipment, floats telling the story of religion and industry and labor and men and women all striving mightily to help us win the war—all will place before us a thrilling story that he who runs may read.

America faces trying times, dangerous days, powerful foes! That America may face them confidently, bravely, determinedly is the hope and the prayer of every loyal citizen. From the heart of each one of us goes up the appeal to the God of Freedom: "Long may our land be bright with Freedom's holy light. Protect us by Thy might, Great God, Our King!"

A MIGHTY PROTEST

News has just come through to us of the Passion Sunday Pastoral of the German Bishops, protesting against the persecution of the Church in the Reich, and demanding its cessation. The letter was read in all the churches on Passion Sunday. It accuses Hitler of failing to keep the promises for State protection of the Church and for freedom of worship and of religious education, made in the Concordat of July 20, 1933, of menacing Nazi attacks on the Church since the war began, of trying to destroy Christianity in Germany before the soldiers begin to return home.

In strong language the Bishops bravely protest against all violations of personal liberty, against the killing of the insane and the incurable, against the seizure of property including Church holdings from the lawful owners, and against the Gestapo accusations of treason made against supporters of religious freedom. It demands liberation of prisoners who have been jailed without proof of crime and the protection of all citizens against false accusations.

The spirit of Christ is still in the world, the spirit that led the martyrs to death for their faith, in the hearts of these intrepid Bishops who have edited and distributed this Pastoral Letter. May their brave act be the means of holding from apostasy those men and women in Germany who are so severely tried for their faith. May the plight of those who in their own country suffer the persecution of the Nazi regime, teach us what would be in store for us were America conquered by that regime! "We intend to defend our sacred creed against all attacks; we decisively and finally refuse the Nazi suggestion that we should prove our patriotic faith through faithlessness toward Christ and our Church." The age of martyrs has not passed; such men as those who wrote this Pastoral Letter would gladly die rather than prove false to Christ and to His Church!

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Jubilee At The Chancery

The completion of twenty-five years in the service of God is always a theme for congratulation. When that service has been divided over various fields of priestly service and many different groups have been richer because of the conscientious devotion to duty of a priest, the occasion seems to demand special consideration.

Monsignor Bergan has served the diocese of Rochester as Teacher, Chaplain, Spiritual director of prisoners, Pastor and Chancellor of the diocese. To each of these responsibilities he has carried a consecration of service and an enthusiastic devotion to his work, that conveyed the idea that each one was his sole interest and responsibility.

The office of Chancellor is the most difficult position in the diocese. Like the desk

of the executive director of every big organization, the desk of the chancellor becomes the final resting place for most of the knotty problems of the diocese. In the administration of his office he has won the respect of ecclesiastical authorities throughout the country, and civil authorities with whom his office is in constant relationship.

His personal priestly life has always been an inspiration to his associates and on this occasion they join with his large circle of friends and admirers in extending the hand of sincere congratulation. To this the Bishop of Rochester is happy to add the sincere prayer that God may give him grace, health and strength to carry on for many years the magnificent work which reaches a temporary climax in his Silver Jubilee.

♦ James E. Kearney

BISHOP OF ROCHESTER

Along The Way

Those Wedding Rings

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

Again I shall prove myself an old crabbled, head-shaking reactionary.

The trolley line that takes me from the Jesuit house where I live to my office is flanked by a number of St. Louis' somewhat minor defense plants. The big plants lie in another section of the city. Normally, the cars are never crowded, but since the defense program has boomed they are jammed at working hours. And largely with young women.

We are all accustomed to the idea of women working. And we know the pressure on the labor market brought about by the war. Yet the thing that suddenly has startled and appalled me is the number of these young women who are wearing wedding rings—often notably new.

With one eye to the future, I breathe and ask you to join me in breathing, a little prayer. Time was when young brides centered their lives in their new homes, and loved every inch of them and every minute of the day. Now they leave their made-over flats or their one room in a boarding house, and while their husbands travel one way, they head off for the day's work. What kind of homemakers will they ever be? What sort of training will they have time or opportunity to give their children—if they have time or opportunity for giving the nation children?

And what will be the effect on our nation's life when they are forced later on to give up their work and to go into homes about which they know nothing and for which they have been trained at a punch machine or an assembly line?

Maybe among my readers is some generous young woman who might accept a tentative idea. How about a new religious community (or a reshaping of the work of one already in existence) to take these women later on and train them for the home? How about nuns to teach these girls cooking and homemaking and child care? How about a religious order dedicated to the saving of the American home and with it the future of our country?

It would be hard work. But God alone knows how necessary.

From a Chaplain's Letter

This little passage from the letter of one of my good chaplain friends is interesting.

"During May we had devotions. Before we started the minister who is my associate chaplain told me that night devotions were not practical. He'd tried them, and they didn't work.

"I told him we'd take the chance, and did. The first of May was also the First Friday and by seven-thirty there wasn't an empty seat. By eight, the boys were standing in the aisles and grouped out front

After that we had two services every evening and both of them overcrowded. The devotion of these men to Our Lady is inspiring. They never sing so well (or so loudly) as to her. They realize the dangers ahead and know no better place to go for protection."

That's a side of war the news weeklies don't both to give.

Greetings

Anyone who wades through Wright's new Utopia, Islandia, will find it full of problems as well as interest. But with one custom of this mythical land he will agree. Whenever two people met no matter how well they knew each other, their greeting was not to call the other by his name but to mention their own names. So if I met you in Islandia, I should not say "How do you do, Mr. Jones?" I'd say, "Father Lord." Then having announced my name, I should immediately ask you how you felt. But not until you had replied by mentioning your name first.

Ah if that custom were only introduced into America, what heartaches and headaches and embarrassments it would save. Instead, you meet someone entirely out of his normal setting far away from the place where you met him before, he greets you and then says, "I'll bet you don't know who I am." And ten to one he collects his bet.

I'm no Islandian, but for years I've been announcing my name whenever I meet anyone. How about your dying the same?

The Answer

Near Incarnation Parish in Minneapolis, Father O'Sullivan tells me, the big announcement board of a Protestant church put up the title of a forthcoming sermon "Where is God?" "They shouldn't have done it," continued my good friend, "but I'll bet it was one of the kids from our parochial school who under the question wrote: "At Incarnation Church, 38th and Pleasant."

Feast Days

Sunday, June 14.—ST. BASIL THE GREAT.

Monday, June 15.—SS. VITUS, CRESCENTIA AND MODESTUS, MARTYRS.

Tuesday, June 16.—ST. JOHN FRANCIS REGIS.

Wednesday, June 17.—ST. AVI-TUS.

Thursday, June 18.—ST. EPH-RAM.

Friday, June 19.—ST. JULIANA FALCONIERI.

Saturday, June 20.—ST. SILVE-RIUS.

Diocesan Recordings

MRS. TERESA GANSTER

The extensive work accomplished by an exemplary, outstanding Catholic lay woman whose leadership qualities brought her national renown came to a close with the death of Mrs. Teresa Ganster this past week. Honored in her home city by repeated election to the presidency of the District Ladies' Auxiliary, Knights of St. John, she was equally honored on a vastly larger scale by repeatedly being elected to the high office of Supreme President, Ladies' Auxiliary, Knights of St. John an office she held with great distinction over a period of 32 years. Mrs. Ganster, "Tessie" to her old school mates, friends, and intimate associates in the Knights of St. John was highly esteemed in all diocesan circles. One diocesan official said she never hesitated when called upon to cooperate. She was most affable, generous and a leader of Catholic women who drew to her the type of workers always to be depended upon to get a job done.

This year the supreme convention of the Knights of St. John and Ladies' Auxiliary was called off due to the war, but in other conventions over three decades of years the person who was the center of all activity for the Auxiliary at the conventions was the Supreme President, Mrs. Ganster. It was in 1924 when the convention came to Rochester that this writer learned of her leadership and of her stellar Catholicity. This was again brought forth in 1940 in Rochester, to thousands more than knew of her when the Knights and Ladies from various sections of the country gathered here again. That the Ladies' Auxiliary, Knights of St. John has made notable progress throughout the country is due to her energy, foresight and ability to organize.

It was not too surprising when through the intercession of the late Bishop O'Hern, Mrs. Ganster was selected with four other exemplary women of the diocese to become recipients of the "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" medal bestowed by His Holiness, Pope Pius XI. The Papal honor was justly awarded to these women, Miss Alice F. Kirk, Miss Cecilia M. Yawman, the late Mrs. Cora McParlin, and Miss Elizabeth A. Harmon of Auburn and Mrs. Ganster in April, 1932.

Mrs. Ganster will be sorely missed by not only her own organization but in the general circles of diocesan activity. Her memory will be an inspiration to all Catholic women to carry on zealously for Holy Mother the Church, as she did. May her soul rest in peace! T. H. O'G.