

Sermon Cords

Waves of the Spirit

By Rev. James M. Gilha, C.S.P.

Years ago a professor at Columbia University in the City of New York used to exploit the thesis that Americans are characteristically emotional, hysterical, victims of their own quickly varying moods...

So it goes: one people sizing up the other and each reaching the judgment that its own type of character is best.

Amongst ourselves we can disown our own national temperament and admit our own shortcomings, but being human we dislike to have outsiders tell us what they think our faults to be.

This little Anglo-American controversy (if you care to dignify so small a matter with so big a name) came to my mind once again in the past few days because the newspapers are discussing the ups and downs of the national spirit...

The President, you may remember, gave us a warning not to be too sanguine about our chances of victory, or too hopeful that the war would be short rather than long.

The New York Times on May 24 said: "We have been hungry for good news, and it has to be said that our Government has ministered to that hunger, both by overplaying good news and by drugging up or withholding bad news..."

In the same paper on the previous day Anne O'Hare McCormick had written in her invariably excellent column on the editorial page: "Mr. Roosevelt attributed the sharp ups and downs of public sentiment to the American tendency to exaggeration..."

On the 25th of May, the New York Herald-Tribune also took occasion to place responsibility for our emotional fluctuations where they thought it belonged on some Washington door-steps.

As I read those editorial statements, my memory flashed back to the Columbia professor's invidious thesis of years ago: Could he have been right? Are we a mercurial people?

"This newspaper does not believe that the spirit of the American people is so fragile that it can be crushed by bad publicity, that if it gets too much cheer one week it can only be saved from a psychological letdown by pumping it full of gloom in the week following..."

To put the matter even more plainly, some of our doctors have erred in their diagnosis. We don't really suffer as much as they think. Our cheeks do not flush one moment and our hearts freeze the next moment.

FIVE and TEN Years Ago

-in the files of the CATHOLIC COURIER

From June 16, 1932, Edition His Excellency Bishop O'Hern officiated at the laying of the cornerstone for the new St. Patrick's Church in Corning of which the Rev. E. A. Rawlinson is pastor and dedicated a monument in honor of the late Rt. Rev. Msgr. Arthur A. Hughes in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery Rochester, during the week.

Two Archbishops the Most Rev. Edward Mooney and the Most Rev. Thomas F. Hickey and about 30 fellow priests attended the Silver Sacerdotal Jubilee Mass of the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles F. Shay, pastor, at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The Silver Jubilee edition of "Lantern," Nazareth Academy Senior Year Book, was dedicated to Sister M. Teresina, a member of the faculty.

Library Digest

The Pastoral Care

By Rev. Benedict Ekmann

(The June selection of the Catholic Book Club is FAITH THE ROOT, a novel by Barbara Frances Flury, published by Dutton. Mary Agnes Dougherty, of the Rochester Catholic Worker group, reviews it for the Catholic Evidence Library this week. A copy will be on hand there for anyone interested.)

In a popularly accepted sense, this is not a sensational book. But then people such as Father Germaine are generally not sensations in our present disoriented world.

The characters take form naturally and leisurely, with clarity and sympathy. Emma definitely knows her place in this household of Father Jerry and Ted, his devoted dog. On the surface she manages rather successfully at being the stereotyped, unobtrusive housekeeper but is actually so devoted and industrious that when her "career" is threatened with a sudden ending, the real Emma is unmasked.

Faith the root whence only can arise The grace of life that wins the skies." Father Germaine was a man who did the ordinary things of life extraordinarily well and is really at his best when caught at odd moments of his daily routine.

The following books have recently been added to the Catholic Evidence Library: The Emancipation of a Freethinker, by Herbert Ellsworth Cory.

The Origin of the Jesuits, by James Brodrick, S.J. Heaven and Charing Cross; Sermons on the Eucharist by Msgr. Ronald Knox.

Progress in Divine Union, Raoul Plus, S.J. Good Cardinal Richard, Archbishop of Paris, 1804-1904, by Yvonne de la Vergne.

Faith by the Road, by John Moody. A G. K. Chesterton Omnibus, containing The Napoleon of Notting Hill, The Flying Inn, The Man Who Was Thursday.

A Declaration of Dependence, by Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen. Christ's Comet, by Christopher Hassard.

Feddler of Dreams, by Sister Mary Angelina, SSND. The Heroes of the Alcazar, by R. Timmermans.

The Jesuits in Modern Times, by John LaFarge, S.J. The Ancient Journey, by Anna McCure Skell.

Westward the Course, by Paul McGuire. The Song of Bernadette, by Frans Werfel. (3 copies) Gall and Honey, by Edward Doherty.

All the Day Long, by Daniel Sargent. A life of Bishop James A. Walsh, who founded Maryknoll. Hernan Cortes, Conqueror of Mexico, by Salvador de Madariaga.

The Vatican, by M. Therese Bonney. Dark Symphony, by Elizabeth Laura Adams.

Admiral of the Ocean Sea, by Samuel Eliot Morison. A life of Christopher Columbus, engagingly written.

Places, by Hilaire Belloc. Typical Bellocian essays on such places as Danzig, Warsaw, Moscow, Luxembourg, Prague, Lisbon, Damascus, Nazareth, Capernaum, and a dozen others.

Catherine of Aragon, by Garrett Mattingly. Flight to Arras, by Antoine de Saint-Exupery.

Paddy the Coy, by Patrick Gallagher. New Hope, by Ruth Suckow.

Young John Takes Over, by Elizabeth Jordan. The Timeless Land, by Eleanor Dark.

Officials in the Capital City have been listening to the radio commentators, some of whom try to whip us up with a simulated enthusiasm and others to bring us down with an equally unnatural and unwarranted tone of depression.

Let us assure the President and Mr. Hull and the various unnamed "official spokesmen" that they needn't worry over our alternations of mood. We are not really so excitable. We have more poise than some people give us credit for.

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EDITORIALS

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FOUR JUBILARIANS

Many things can happen in twenty-five years. Two World Wars fit into the period; one still raging in 1942, one just well started in 1941. Both are wars against the invasion of human rights...

Religion must form part of a normal life. Religious faith and religious practice are essential to the individual and the community. Order in the citizen's life and order in the social groups can not be had without the solid influence of faith in God and the moral implications of that faith.

Four such men are celebrating today the Silver Jubilee of their Priesthood. All four have given distinguished service during a quarter of a century to the cause of Jesus Christ and His Church.

Four such men are celebrating today the Silver Jubilee of their Priesthood. All four have given distinguished service during a quarter of a century to the cause of Jesus Christ and His Church. Their fields of service have been varied. Two have spent all their years in parish work, two have had as a prelude to their parish experience a long period, as chaplains at the Academy of the Sacred Heart and also as teachers and officials of the preparatory seminary.

Monsignor Bergan added to his experience as a teacher a career as Chaplain of Auburn Prison, and the assignment in which he is still active as Chancellor of the Diocese. Bishop Kearney has had a special word to say of him because of his work of caring for the business of the Diocese in the Chancery Office.

A priestly devotion to duty, an unmeasuring determination to seek always what is best for the Church and her program, an energetic approach to the solution of the diocesan problems that are laid daily on his desk, are part of the equipment that enables Monsignor Bergan to perform so well the duties of his office as Chancellor.

May it be the privilege of one who has been close to all four of these worthy priests over thirty-five years of their lives as students and as clerics, to felicitate them on their Silver Jubilee! Much of the preparation for a priest's life comes from seminary discipline, seminary training; with many another the present writer would acknowledge the part in his training that has come from the appreciated association with these four men of God, their pleasing personality, their dedicated lives, their constant good example, their helpful companionship.

BISHOP CORRIGAN

To the Church in America has come deep sorrow in the death of Most Rev. Joseph M. Corrigan, Rector of the Catholic University. He was the sixth Rector of the University since its founding in 1900. His work over his first five-year term had been so fruitful in results that he was chosen in 1941 by the Sacred Congregation of Seminaries and University Studies at Rome for a second term.

The work of Christ is carried on through his priests and Bishops and through His devoted children of the laity. Bishop Corrigan is but another example of a life lived for Christ and His cause. Into every diocese of America have gone those whose training in Christian Culture, in the learning for which the Church over twenty centuries the Church has been the recognized Teacher, has been imparted under the direction of this self-sacrificing Man of God. May his soul rest in peace!

THIS MAN RECEIVETH SINNERS

Criticism of the Church of Christ is not to be wondered at. Christ Himself was criticized, and criticized most for His acts of mercy. The Pharisees and Scribes murmured when they saw the Pharisees and the sinners coming to Christ and being received by Him.

Christ turned on His critics with unanswered logic. He pointed out to them how they would quickly leave the ninety-nine sheep of their flock to seek the one that was lost; how the woman who lost one of her ten groats searched diligently through the house till she found the great she had lost; how they would be filled with the joy of the ninety-eight things they had recovered. Christ contrasted the values of the souls for whom He was seeking. We should rejoice in the mercy of Christ, so necessary for each one of us, so gloriously effective in the recall and conversion of those who have been steeped in sin. Pharisees and Scribes are expected to find fault with God's mercy shown to others. Good Christians are expected to praise God for such acts of mercy.