

Library Special

Apostles In The Pews

By Rev. Benedict Elmson

Things are such these days, that the Catholic layman hardly thinks of himself as marching side by side with the priest in the crusade of Christ. That's not the layman's fault. Nor (taking matters as they have developed since the Reformation) is it very much the priest's fault. His education has been along very conservative lines, accepting the laity as steadily led along the way of salvation.

But within our own lifetime a revolutionary manifesto was issued. It was revolutionary not because it was new. A revolution is a "turning around," a "turning back." And this manifesto was a turning around, a turning back to some forgotten consequences of the Gospel. This manifesto was the Encyclical on Catholic Action. It was written and signed by Pope Pius XI. Its program, its provisions, are the only practical answer to the attempted conquest of the world by the Communist Manifesto of Marx and Engels.

It says in effect: Laymen, you too are apostles with your priests. You too are instruments of the Redemption. You cannot divide your time into 6 and 1. You are Christ-bearers 7 days a week. Through you Christ continues His mission. You are where your priests cannot be—in shops, in factories, in offices, in mines, in foundries, in trucks, in department stores, in army camps. You are Christ-bearers there. That's what the state of grace means. It should not be something that you are hardly able to preserve in your tough environment. It should be what it can be if you let it, a force drawing those around you to Christ. Instead of letting them draw a circle that shuts grace out, with their dirty talk, with their profanity, with their heavy pagan manners, you should draw a circle of grace that draws them in out of their darkness and foulness into the light of Christ.

This call to the lay apostolate was so beautifully described in the English *Grail* magazine that I give it here in full for the benefit of many readers who will treasure it and be inspired by it to become apostolic in their daily life.

The lay apostolate is an apostolate of love. It is the showing of Christ to the world by "other Christs."

We are those other Christs, you and I. We are not preachers, we do not give the sacraments, but we have to reveal Christ by what we are, to prove His reality. His being in us, His love for everyone, by what we do.

Our life must be sacramental, we cannot abuse, but we must forgive, we cannot lift the Host up in our hands, but we must lift it up in our hearts; we must be living monstrances.

"I if I be lifted up, will draw all men to Me."

We have to lift up Christ in our lives, to show His love and pity to show His beauty and attraction, through the medium, He has given to us—ourselves.

That is the lay apostolate.

The name that St. John loved to use for Christ was "the Word."

Christ is the spoken word telling us the secret of the Father's love. "the Word was made flesh," the Word spoken God's love for men uttered.

We are all words of Christ; all who are baptized are words to speak His love, all down the ages men go on uttering the love of God, we are on earth to do that; nothing else matters.

We all express Him in different ways, so that everyone may hear in the language he understands; that is why we are all different to one another, why no two people are never wholly alike, why life seems so unequal, why we are all in such different places and circumstances, simply that in all places in all languages Christ may be uttered through men to men.

Some sing His love; their lives are like folk songs, melodies and simple; they tell us that it is our Father in Heaven who rocks the cradle, thatches the cottage, kindles the fire, brings us the felicity of old age.

Some are peals of bells, ringing out the splendor of His being, millions swing over the cities of the world.

Some are muted music tuned to ears accustomed to the sound of tears.

Some are stammered words uttered painfully to those who cannot yet bear the flute-like clarity of the glory of Heaven.

Some are whispers of love revealing the innermost things to the very attentive hearts who can receive them.

Some are a loud cry like the wail of John crying in the wilderness.

Some are the pause, the stop in the music which expresses the rhythm expressing the Word even by silence, like the silence of the Host.

Each one who lives, Christ's life is a word of God telling His love.

That is the Apostolate of the laity.

FIVE and TEN Years Ago--

—in the files of the CATHOLIC COURIER

From July 15, 1932, Edition Appointment of the Rev. James E. Kearney, pastor of the Church of St. Francis Xavier in the Bronx, New York City as pastor of Salt Lake City, Utah, by the Holy See at Vatican City, was announced in a message received by the Most Rev. Fumasoni-Biondi, Apostolic Delegate to the United States.

From July 15, 1937, Edition New York State's highest tribunal, the Court of Appeals dismissed an appeal from a decision by Supreme Court Justice Philip A. McCook, declaring the Kelly McCreevy School Bus Law constitutional.

Charges against the Catholic Church in Spain made in the magazine "Life" were declared false and facts were cited to enable the magazine's editors to rectify the misstatements, in a letter sent to the magazine by William A. Lang, associate editor. CATHOLIC COURIER.

We cannot be guilty of a greater act of uncharitableness than to interpret the afflictions which befall our neighbors as punishments and judgment. —Addison.

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the duration will be until death ends the career of each Sister. The soldier or sailor enlists for the duration; until peace with victory can be restored to the world. The end of war releases him for his ordinary civic duties.

Each Sister gives herself for the duration, that is for all her days on earth. There can be no finishing of her work, it must go on forever. The call of charity, of divine love, on Almighty God and on His servants, is one that shall remain as long as the world endures. With this idea in mind, the young postulant gives herself unselfishly to the cause until death. Here is no limited bargain, no restricted contract, no one-sided compact!

In a time when wicked men are spending themselves and despoiling their subjects, to drive Christian charity out of the world; to bring degradation on men and women, death to the aged and afflicted; to sacrifice every human right and all human dignity to the vile claims of a totalitarian state; it is consoling to know that chosen souls are answering God's call, the call of vocation, to promote charity, practice its precepts, applying them in the loving care of children, of the sick, of the aged. The call of God will still mean great things for suffering mankind, when the call of the devil shall find our world dictators no longer able to respond. God speed that day! The prayers and good works of our Sisters shall arise constantly as a powerful petition to the Queen of Peace to secure by her intercession an early close to hostilities, with that peace that can come only through victory over those enemies of all men, the dictators.

HERBERT LANSDALE

The COURIER learns with regret of the passing of a grand soul who has served his community in an outstanding manner, Mr. Herbert Lansdale. Executive ability of a high type joined itself to an unselfing love of his fellowman, in a career of usefulness that marked Mr. Lansdale as a revered public servant, a friend to all men. Difference of belief, of race, of color, never became a barrier to him in dealing with people. He longed to serve all types of men, because he had an abiding love for all. His work in the Y. M. C. A. is nationally known, and has left a lasting mark on Elkhart and Rochester. The valued service this organization is giving to its members is made possible in large part by what Mr. Lansdale has accomplished in building up its centers.

The thousands of friends of Mr. Lansdale will long treasure the memory of a valued fraternal association with one whose happy smile was the outward expression of a soul that loved and approved the better things. He shall be missed at community gatherings. His inspiring presence meant much to us, and his word of welcome made one feel very much at home. To his son and the other members of his family, we extend our deep sympathy in the sorrow that has come to them in his passing.

THE UNJUST STEWARD

Christ praises the unjust steward not for his morality, but for the wisdom he showed in his dealings with the debtors of his master. The use he made of his master's goods was such as to win him friends among these debtors. He was not satisfied with the present, he was looking to the future. He knew he might one day be out of a job, and he was preparing for that day. He was so eager to do this that he added to his reputation as a waster, the dishonesty of mismanagement of his accounts. Christ has no word of praise for his shortcomings; but has a word of commendation for his wisdom.

So many that could imitate the wisdom of the steward with no show of sin refuse to do so. They have the goods of this world, they own them, have the right to use them, to distribute them, to profit by them. But they never look to the future, never anticipate that the day may come when their property will be gone. How many in Europe that felt they had amassed a competency against their old age, find themselves today bereft of all goods!

Make unto yourselves friends! We all need friends, friends on earth, friends above all in heaven. Money and property can not of themselves merit true friendship; but the love of our neighbor that we manifest through our use of our money and property can easily win us lasting friendships.

Wise men of means, wise men of lesser possessions, do well when they use their possessions for themselves and for others. What God has given them they receive gratefully, they use graciously. God's poor, God's Church, God's interests, share in their possessions. By their gifts to the poor, to the aged, to the Church, to charity, they use their goods in a way to make friends for themselves in heaven and on earth. They are children of light, they know God, they show the wisdom that should belong to children of light. They are wiser in their generation than the children of this world, because they have learned how to use earthly goods to obtain heavenly treasures.

'Quiz' Corner

Is it a sin for a boy of fifteen to smoke cigarettes if he does not inhale?

A boy fifteen years old may smoke cigarettes only if his parents approve of it. If they disapprove, and he smokes in spite of their disapproval, he commits a sin of disobedience.

A Catholic man married a non-Catholic girl but she was baptized in her own church. They were married by a minister. After a year of marriage they were divorced. Could he marry again in the Catholic Church?

Yes, if in the meantime the attempted marriage has not been revalidated in the Catholic Church. The Catholic party incurs the censure of excommunication by reason of this attempted marriage before a minister. There must be a duly ordained priest present to witness a marriage to make it a valid Catholic contract.

Can any one be elected Pope except a Cardinal? Can a young man be elected Pope? The Popes seem to be elderly men.

According to the present law governing the election of a Pope only one who is a Cardinal can be elected. While it is not necessary that the Pope be an elderly man it can be easily understood that only a man pretty well advanced in years would have the necessary knowledge and experience to fill so exalted a position.

Lady of the House: I don't need none. Salesman: How do you know—I might be selling grammars.

Reclaim The Tropics

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

As far back as January, 1921, in the midst of a series of missions in Alabama, I had the opportunity of speaking at a particularly interesting meeting of the combined Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs on the campus of the University of Tuscaloosa. Potentially that was an exceedingly important occasion. Actually, its potentialities were not realized. The intention was to launch a movement in developing schools of tropical medicine in our own southern and elsewhere throughout the world. Alabama was chosen as the starting point of the crusade because it was the native State of Colonel Gorgas who had done so much to combat and to conquer tropical diseases at the Panama Canal, at Cuba, and perhaps with less success because of similar resources at Guayaquil in Ecuador, and in Guatemala.

The sponsors of the movement reasoned that if the Panama Canal Zone had been made a "health resort" as Theodore Roosevelt used to call it after having been a pest-hole, other tropical zones could be likewise transformed. If the entire tropical zone could be made comfortable and even habitable for white men, one great cause for war, the demand for what Hitler calls Lebensraum (in our idiom, "Elbow Room") would be removed. The population problem would be solved. There would be no need to limit the population of the earth by unnatural means. The food supply of the world would be greatly increased. This present hideous war might have been avoided—the history of the world would have been changed.

The project was a noble one. The project was magnificent. Why it was not carried out and why no considerable effort was made to realize its possibilities, I cannot say. I am aware, of course, that the Rockefeller Foundation has dealt with the yellow fever problem on an international scale. But what was needed was a world-wide cooperative effort of all the Great Powers, and some of the U. S. States—to sanitize the tropics, and thereby to open up no less than one-third more of the globe to white habitation.

All this came back to me as I read in the New York Herald Tribune of June 25, 1942, reviews of Charles Morrow Wilson's book, "Ambassadors of War." He says that in South America there are of a population of 120 million, "at least fifty million are sick of everything from malaria to leprosy." Yellow fever has not been stamped out," says Lewis Gannett in a summary recapitulation of Wilson's book. "It killed 37 times as many Brazilians in 1926 as in 1908," and he goes on to enumerate a dozen other diseases that still weigh heavily in the tropics.

Evidently the noble and beautiful project launched in Alabama in 1921 didn't go very far. It seems to have met the fate of some of the ships that go off the ways one day and are torpedoed the next.

Perhaps when the war is over the nations may have acquired wisdom. Let us hope that they will see their way to appropriate some of the hundreds of billions of dollars now devoted to death-dealing instruments for life-saving devices.

Even if the tropics are too hard a nut to crack (Colonel Gorgas didn't think so) there still remains enormous deserts—for example in our own southwest, that could be turned into food-producing regions. All that is needed is water. The new dams we have built and that we can still build, will make the water supply possible. Statisticians say that we could support here in continental United States no less than 600 million people. We could feed them all and have enough left over to save a few hundred million of peoples on other continents from the scourge of starvation.

The process of making the tropical habitable, and the deserts fertile, would give work to an uncountable number of people. If we are smart it could employ seven-eighty million men, and each of the armies keep as many more millions occupied in war-work at home, why could we not afford to engage in the magnificent and stupendous task of changing the face of the earth? What wars are finished (if ever) there remains devastation, bankruptcy, financial panic, international hatreds and a hundred other calamities. If we would set to work to create rather than to destroy, and put as much effort and money and technical skill into the job as we put into a war, if we could work up as much enthusiasm in the rehabilitation of men as we exercise in his destruction, we could make this globe something like a paradise.

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Feast Days

- Sunday, July 18.—ST. VINCENT DE PAUL. Monday, July 19.—ST. JEROME. Tuesday, July 21.—ST. FRANCIS. Wednesday, July 22.—ST. MARY MAGDALEN. Thursday, July 23.—ST. APOLLINARIUS. Friday, July 24.—ST. CHRISTIAN. Saturday, July 25.—ST. JAMES, APOSTLE.

Quote--End Quote

Is there any institution in the world more happy, more contented than the Christian family? It begins before God's altar, where Jesus has been hailed as a holy bond that can never be dissolved, and by that love, which is fed in its turn by heavenly grace, it takes root and grows. —Pope Pius XII.

"The Catholic who finds the Church hard is the amateur Catholic, the Catholic who tries to see how little he can do for God, how close he can shut the line between vice and virtue, how far he can connect with the enemies of Christ and yet not quite lose the Saviour's friendship." —Father Ford.

"We would have them consider for themselves that they are not free to choose whether they will take up the cause of the poor or rich. It is a matter of simple duty." —Leo XIII, Graveris Comment. Jan. 18, 1891.