

Library Special

Apostles In The Pews

By Rev. Benedict Egan

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 obediently 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 8 and 1. You are Christ-bearers 7 days a week. Through your 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 apostles 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 absolve, 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 man uttered.

We are all words of Christ; all who are baptized words to speak His love: all down the ages men go on carrying the love of God, we are on earth to do that, talking 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 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, melodious and simple; they tell us that it is our Father in Heaven who rocks the cradle, teaches the cottage, kindles the fire, brings us the clarity of old age.

Some are peals of bells, ringing out the splendor of His being, arduous, ringing 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 voice 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-McCreery 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. Long, 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.

EDITORIALS

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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, of 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 spreading 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 unflinching love of his fellow man, 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 loved to serve all types of men, because he had an abiding love for all. His work in the Y. M. C. A., nationally known, and has left a lasting mark on Elmira 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 steward 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 his attempted marriage be-

fore 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. Gill, C.S.P.

As far back as January, 1922, 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. Probably that was an exceedingly important occasion. Actually, its potentialities were not realized. The intention was to launch a movement to develop schools of tropical medicine in our own Southland 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 equal resources at Guayaquil in Ecuador, and in Guatemala.

The sponsors of the movement expected 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 districts could be likewise transformed. If the tropics proper could be made comfortable and even habitable for white men, one great cause for war, the demand for what Hitler calls Lebensraum (the "living room") would be removed. The civilization 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 vastly increased. This present dilemma, which 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 as an international scale. But what was needed was a world-wide cooperative effort of all the Great Powers—and some of the Little Powers—to reclaim 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, *Amateurs in White*. He says that in South America about one out of a population of 120 million, "at least ten million are sick of everything from spruce to leprosy." Yellow fever has not been stamped out," says Lewis Gannett in a summary recapitulation of Wilson's book. "It killed 17 times as many Brazilians in 1905 as in 1906," and he goes on to enumerate a dozen other diseases that still work havoc in the tropics.

Evidently the noble and beautiful project launched in Alabama in 1922 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 impounded 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 remain 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 more in continental United States, no less than 500 million people. We could feed them all and have enough left over to save a few hundred million of people on other continents from the danger of starvation.

The process of making the tropics habitable, and the deserts fertile, would give work to an incalculable number of people. If we can afford to build armies of seven-eight-ten million men, and back 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? Wars are already finished (if ever) there remain starvation, bankruptcy, financial panic, international hatreds and a hundred other calamities. If we would set to work to create rather than to destroy, and put so 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 man as we exercise in his destruction, we could make this globe something like a paradise.

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Feast Days

- Sunday, July 13.—ST. VINCENT DE PAUL.
- Monday, July 14.—ST. JEROME.
- Tuesday, July 15.—ST. PRAEDEX.
- Wednesday, July 22.—ST. MARY MAAGDALEN.
- Thursday, July 23.—ST. AUGUSTINE.
- 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 love has been joined 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 shave the line between vice and virtue, how far he can consort with the enemies of Christ and yet not quite lose the Saviour's friendship."—Father Land.

"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 not. It is a matter of simple duty."—Leo XIII, *Graves de Communi*, Jan. 15, 1901.