

Catholic Courier

VOLUME XIV AUGUST 13, 1942 NUMBER 33

Official Newspaper of The Rochester Diocese

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

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

St. John Bosco spent his whole life with "bad companions," and wound up as a canonized Saint in Heaven.

He had a glowing soul and a tender heart; was prudent in the highest degree; and possessed great presence of mind and ready wit. By the sharpness of his mind he attained great success in all branches of knowledge.

Saint Don Bosco having been born poor, lived poor and died poor, even though large sums of money passed through his hands, for poor children, for the Church and for Missions. Don Bosco was always hopeful because he was full of faith. "God wills that all be saved," he often said. God created Paradise that we should live in it.

"He the saint, the saint who works wonders, a saint with great initiative." Every one is interested in this man of God, the wonder worker of the Nineteenth century.

In truth here we can see the power of personality in a priest. He shows what a man can do, in a union with God, in the power of faith and love, in the spirit and love of Him Who said: "I am the resurrection and the life."

In these times of destruction, when even the wisest do not know the way to the fountain of living waters, we may go to Saint Don Bosco to learn of God's power and glory which is the only way we may seek proper inspiration to work out the salvation of future generations.

We are constantly warned that we must avoid the black sheep, the bad apples, lest we, too, be contaminated. What is the answer to this riddle?

It is not as difficult as we may think. The secret consists in an adequate preparation, a sort of spiritual and mental "vaccination" in order to resist the subtle influence that is bound to flow from our unwise association.

It is a known fact that people can shape one another's lives, merely by their presence and their unspoken examples. In every group there is a leader and there are those who are led. Some influence, others are influenced. It is true in grammar school, high school and college and especially in institutions like this where there is a constant interplay of examples and counter examples.

In your own life, you are going to influence others or you are going to be influenced by them. If you have been wise in selecting your companions and try to associate both at work and play with fellows who are exemplary Catholics, personal influence will work its natural course all to your benefit.

It is only when, especially in this day and age, we find ourselves constantly in the company of religiously indifferent, that we must be on guard. Some of us find ourselves in such situations purely through the accidents of life. Don't worry about it. Perhaps God has chosen you as an instrument to lead these strayed sheep back into the fold.

Whether you accept it or not, you have been given a wonderful opportunity to carry out the Apostolate of Catholic Action, the Apostolate of Christ among sinners. It is not necessary to preach and to scold in order to make your influence felt. But make it felt, first and foremost by steadfast adherence to our Catholic ideals. You'll be surprised how much people will respect you for it, even if they deride you to your face. In many cases, they may even envy you.

You may, at times, find yourself involved in conversations of an indecent or immodest nature. As a minimum, it is your solemn duty to withdraw from them. Here again, it is not necessary to insult your companions. A discreet silence can be more powerful than any number of words.

Sometimes it may be wise to abandon your "bad companions," especially if you find that your prayers are becoming less fervent, your communications less frequent, your failings more prevalent. In this case, the harm that is being done to you is self-evident. To continue such associations is to flirt with disaster. You will have nobody to blame but yourself if you eventually find yourself as bad as they are.

Check up on yourself and your companions. Ask God to help you make a wise decision and to give you strength to carry it out, no matter what it may mean.

It is a peculiar riddle of religion that God can make good people out of evil ones. Indeed, it is not a riddle it is really true. What is your opinion?

Don Bosco Bulletin

THE WAR AND THE MIDDLE CLASS

If the depression pushed the middle class to the brink of disaster, the war seems likely to push its members over the precipice. The small business man or manufacturer, for instance, is feeling increasingly the pinch of defense priorities, unable to obtain an adequate supply of merchandise or raw materials as the case may be.

In fact, there is ample warrant for the fear being expressed with growing frequency that the middle class in general, and small business in particular, is being strangled out of existence. Over a period of many months prior to the outbreak of war it was charged Government agencies discriminated against the "little people," and the assertion that the banks co-operated in the "squeeze policy" by refusing small enterprisers the money needed to engage in war production

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY

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Pool of SLOAM
In which JESUS saw the blind man by whom he received sight (St. John 9:17)
WELL KNOWN: JERUSALEM, VEGETABLE GARDENS!

POPE ALEXANDER V
1409-1410
AS A BOY WAS A FAMOUS ORPHAN

TROGLODYTES
NEAR MOUNT ARARAT, TURKEY, have been hollowed & used for Christian worship since 6th century. HUGE GROTTO HOUSE, COMPLETE MONASTERIES: LESSER ONES CHURCHES & ANCHORITES' CELLS. Inhabitants are often helplessly dominated by BYZANTINE PRESBYTERS & MONKS.

OFFICES OF THE CHILDREN FREQUENTLY APPEARED ON THEIR PARENTS' TOMBS IN LATE MEDIEVAL ENGLISH CHURCHES. THE SIGNS INDICATE CHILDREN WHO DIED BEFORE THEIR PARENTS.

Along The Way

The Banks of the Wabash

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

The revival of "The Banks of the Wabash" thanks to the motion picture "My Gal Sal" brings back a vivid memory of my youth.

The song came out in the early years of the century at a time when I was struggling with piano scales and "Gradus ad Parnassum," not to mention Czerny's exercises. In those pre-radio days, a song was sure, once it made a hit, of popularity lasting from six months to a year. The repetition twelve times a night by various bands did not kill a popular number as happens today in two weeks.

So I hoped eagerly that if I did my exercises well enough and practiced that simple Chopin Waltz faithfully, I might graduate to "The Banks of the Wabash" some priceless day.

Then one evening my father came home from his business. He had in his eye that twinkle that meant a happy practical joke. And under his arm was a roll that could not possibly be anything but music.

He loved his little joke; he much preferred to present a present with an elaborate yarn than as a gift coming from himself, so he began "A customer today left this roll on the counter. Blessed if I know what could be in it."

"Music!" I volunteered.

"Think so?" he asked. "Well, maybe. Probably a book of piano exercises."

"Maybe," I cut in eagerly "maybe it might be 'The Banks of the Wabash'."

"Oh, I hardly think so," he said in mock gloom and handed me the roll.

It was "The Banks" all right. And for two weeks I struggled to master the ballad, pushing Chopin and Czerny far back in favor of Paul Dresser. So I salute an old friend as "The Banks of the Wabash" once more gladdens our musical ears.

The Natural Thing To Do
In a letter of the morning comes this delightful passage. I pass it along, for the young lady you don't know, and she wouldn't mind anyhow.

She is writing about a Catholic young man she has met. "Last night we were together going down Fifth Avenue about nine. When we passed the Cathedral, we heard music. Pietro Von was practicing. He did not say the precise, 'Let's go in'; he just jerked my hand in that direction, and we walked up the stairs together, not a word said. Well, we both said our good night prayers in the back of the semi-dark cathedral with the lovely music over us and the

tabernacle light very clear. It was one of those sweet things you don't ever forget, and what a lot of things can be built on them."

Names Linger

I knew that the cashier in the Greek market was herself a Greek girl. Indeed, she looked like someone that a Greek sculptor might have asked to be model for his Minerva, his Pallas Athena. So I was startled when I heard the butcher call to her what sounded very much like Miss Kelly.

"Excuse me," I said, "but did I hear him call you Miss Kelly?"

"Miss Callie," she corrected. "That's an abbreviation for my real first name 'Calliope.'"

Lovely that there should be people still named for the goddess of music.

Natural Enough

One of my good nun friends tells me of the high school student who in a paper handed in for class ended with this amazing statement:

"St. Catherine of Siena died of schism."

The nun who taught her was both perplexed and intrigued.

"Where in the world did you get the idea," she demanded, "that schism is a disease and that anyone could die of it?"

"Look," said the pupil flashing a history and she laid her finger on the very lines they stated "Saint Catherine died while hearing a schism."

Well, natural enough!

Beauty From . . .

To a Chicagoan, the Stock Yards always meant money, a civic enterprise of enormous proportions, a hideous smell, and slaughter. Yet today, I noticed a lovely etching by which Joseph Pennell made beauty out of a flock of sheep being herded through a wooden runway to their death. The triumph of art over reality!

Clips

Esquimos never drink liquor says an item. Gosh, and they've got a better excuse than anyone else to take a nip to ward off a chill. Spartanburg "Herald."

Henderson will stop the waste of brass in those desk nameplates. Usually there is enough brass behind the desk anyway. Philadelphia "Bulletin."

It is better to have perseverance than to have great talent.

QUERIES and REPLIES

We Farmers Are in Despair Because We Are Kept Constantly in Debt. Could Not The Church in Some Way Come To Our Rescue?

Ancient Israel was a theocracy, that is, a nation governed directly by God. The laws of Ancient Israel as related to the farmer might well be studied by our legislators today. These laws were chiefly three in number.

First, the law against the unjust accumulation of landed property. A curse was pronounced against those who exploited economic distress and bought up all the small holdings in their neighborhood (cf. Isaiah 5, 8).

A second law protected farmers from being overloaded with debt. In every seventh year, the so-called "Year of Pardon," all debts became null and void, all loans expired, and all those who in the meantime had been forced through poverty or necessity to sell themselves as slaves became free men once more (cf. Deut. 15, 1).

In every fiftieth year, the so-called "Jubilee Year," all land which had been sold or mortgaged through poverty or necessity became once more the property of its hereditary owners (cf. Lev. 25, 23). In this way the farmers were protected from being overwhelmed with debt and their families assured security and a home on the soil.

The third law was directed against excessive interest. It was not allowed to demand interest on a loan made to a needy fellow-citizen. The prophets called such interest usury (cf. Deut. 23, 20). The usurious dealer in foodstuffs is accused (2 Esdras 5, 7). On loans made to foreign merchants for purposes of business interest might be demanded. But on loans made to a fellow-citizen in order to relieve his distress interest-taking in any and every form was absolutely forbidden (From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Missouri.)

How To Make Friends

Be generous. In victory towards the vanquished, in failure, towards the successful rivals when wrong, in your apology when right, in your superiority. Never say "I told you so."

Be large-minded. Turn down all tale-bearers. They are busybodies beneath your notice.

Refuse to be hurt by criticism, made openly or behind your back. You criticize others yourself, and you must allow them the right you claim to exercise.

Give yourself the pleasure of rising superior to petty spite. If you can do it, you will enjoy a sense of freedom.

Don't be over-positive in argument, even though you are absolutely sure.

If someone has made a mistake don't rub it in, on the contrary, make light of it.

Politeness

Politeness means elegance of manners, refinement, gentility, courteousness.

Pope says that true politeness consists in being easy oneself, and in making everybody about one as easy as one can.

Goldsmith says "Ceremonies are different in every country but true politeness is everywhere the same."

Politeness requires one to be free from vulgarity in words or actions.

It supposes one to be well-bred, well-reared.

Feast Days

Sunday, Aug. 16 — ST. HYACINTH, APOSTLE OF POLAND AND RUSSIA.

Monday, Aug. 17 — ST. LIBERATUS AND SIX MONKS, MARTYRS.

Tuesday, Aug. 18 — ST. HELENA, Wednesday, Aug. 19 — ST. JOHN EUDES.

Thursday, Aug. 20 — ST. BERNARD.

Friday, Aug. 21 — ST. JANE FRANCIS DE CHANTAL.

Saturday, Aug. 22 — ST. TIMOTHY AND COMPANIONS.