

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 by 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

A PERFECT LANDLORD

The Blessed Mother and her Child were denied a place in the inn more than 1900 years ago. The practice of denying children a place to live seems not to have gone out of fashion.

Only a week ago a friend of ours told us that he and his wife and their two children were finding it most difficult to locate a house in which to live. We do not know if the landlords approached were Catholics but if they were the charity of Christ has been beclouded in their minds with the fear of childish harm being done to material property.

A contemporary in the Catholic press field recently paid tribute to the type of landlord who would have admitted Mary and her infant Son had he been living in those days. This landlord who died recently and was accorded the title of "model landlord" appreciated the problem of children in the home.

He even built a special baby carriage garage alongside the apartment he owned. When approached by prospective tenants no hostile question of "Any Children?" was uttered by him. He must have been the old-fashioned kind who could see an apartment, as well as a home, empty, unless the joyous shouts and laughter and the weeping of kiddies are heard.

"He had the strange habit," the writer declared, "of giving his tenants a fifty-dollar gift on the birth of a boy and a twenty-five dollar gift on the birth of a girl. With Francis Thompson, he is no doubt everlastingly at home in the 'nursery of Heaven,' welcomed even by little girl saints in spite of the fact that he put a lower evaluation on girl babies than on boys!"

WAR INDUSTRY REWARDED

Told by the United States Army and Navy, through accredited representatives, Monday night, at impressive ceremonies in Red Wing Stadium, Rochester, that they are doing an outstanding job, Eastman Kodak Company officials and employees are being widely congratulated, this week.

The CATHOLIC COURIER joins in the congratulations and rejoices with the nationally-known firm in commendation deservedly given for cooperation in the war effort.

This total war in which we are engaged affects the men, women and children behind the lines. The all-out effort for overcoming the forces of evil rampant in the enemy camps means that the heroic defenders on the fighting fronts must get the full cooperation of those on the home fronts. That cooperation is being given by the firms in this area. The national government is recognizing this repeatedly with awards of merit to those firms and their loyal employees. Other firms will be recognized and honored as the days go by.

Eastman Kodak Company and the other firms which were listed in the recent double-page spreads sponsoring the "Four Freedom" messages in this newspaper are setting an example in patriotism and war effort cooperation which, each of us can well emulate.

WHAT PRICE LEISURE?

Speeches are sometimes as notable for what the speaker did not say as for what he did mention. Some time ago a prominent member of the Administration delivered a talk of this kind at a dinner of the Greek "Anepa" (American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association). Much of what he said was excellent, but there was one glaring exception.

In ancient Greece, the speaker declared, it was not hard to make a living. "Their word for unemployment was the same as for leisure, and their word for work the same as for lack of leisure. . . . Our Greek ancestors did not need to worry over much for that modern imperious freedom, the freedom from want. . . . What wonder that freedom could exist within city walls where wants were few, simply and easily met. . . ." The Administration leader then admitted this condition was due to some extent to the forced labor of women and slaves, but made no attempt whatsoever to extend or clarify his remarks.

His statement concerning the relatively few wants of the Greeks of old is true enough, and it is a sad commentary on our present mode of existence. But what he did not say was that the simplicity of living was based in great part on a contempt for labor, especially manual labor. The highest ideal of the dominant class in Greece—whose members attained their status by reason of their birth—was a life devoted to gymnastic and other contests, toward which pursuit they devoted all their energies.

That the words unemployment and leisure should be synonymous indicates that at least a segment of the people performed no manual labor, while others were obliged to do all of it. No honor attached to work, even when performed by freemen, while the majority of the peasants were but serfs.

The eminent Swiss historian, Jacob Burckhardt, whose works the Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences places "among the most profound" and whose influence "continues even in present day political history and thought," advanced the opinion that the time and conditions under which a nation develops the ideals of its existence are essential in determining the respect in which labor is held ever after. If this be true, the Greek ideal, roughly paralleling that of the Amer-

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY

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FIFTH CENTURY MONASTERY OF MARI SABA
LITERALLY CLINGING TO WALLS OF 600 FEET
PRECIPICE IN KEDRON VALLEY, PALESTINE.

had a remarkable memory. Among many horrible events in his respect he could, to the end of his life, read a sermon over twice and then recall it word for word.

A TORMENT OF CARCER!
IN ASSIST, which caused in the prison of ST. FRANCIS, MO., it is said, only a few or occasions of great public calamity, and MORIFICATION OF THE FACT MUST BE MADE TO THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES!

A MIRACULOUS RIBLE SPOON ON SOG ABES SKINS
PRESERVED IN STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN.

Along The Way

Advanced Technique

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

Some statistician recently compared the deaths at Pearl Harbor with those in some of the bigger battles of the Civil War, and said flatly that more Americans had been killed by the Japs in that one attack than were killed in the Union Army at Bull Run.

I don't know for certain. But this is clear, that the way of announcing casualties has been tempered with the advance of years.

Most of us have seen the long death lists printed during the Civil War. Copies of those old newspapers and handbills, either originals or photostats, hang in most war museums and in many libraries.

Men and women found out whether their son was killed or missing by running a finger down row after row of the dead in battle, wondering how soon they'd find his name, feeling as they skimmed past unfamiliar names, the horror of the multitude who had been killed in action.

My father used to love to tell how as a very small boy one of his thrilling adventures was to ride to town during the Civil War to get the newspaper that was dropped from the train at Herkimer. The farmer neighbors all knew the minister's son was riding for news; they waited at their gates when he came riding back, and each in turn grabbed the paper, scanned it eagerly, then patiently combed the black lists of the dead looking for a boy of theirs or someone they knew.

It was a callous way of letting people know of the brave death of a son, father, brother or husband. And though war has grown more terrible and the death lists of the entire Civil War would hardly equal that of one major engagement today, we've learned to break the news to the relatives more gently and kindly.

OUR OWN NAMES

The morning's mail brought me a feverish query.

"I just wrote so-and-so a little note. Do tell me if I spelled his name correctly. My period as a society reporter made me grimly aware that the easiest way in the world to insult a person or to lose his friendship is to misspell his name. I'll be happier when I find out that I didn't misspell this one."

I was able to give the reassurance. But that took me back to the days of my youth, when I presented my dean, Father Cassilly, with a picture of myself. He took it graciously, and then said in his most charming manner, "Now you must autograph it for me, please." I picked up the pen from his

desk, and then with horror realized that I wasn't sure whether he spelled Cassilly with two s's or one two i's or one. And in youthful timidity I didn't dare to ask him which was right. So on the photo I wrote, "To Father Cassilly, from DAL," and added a sentiment.

It was not more than five minutes later when I realized that I'd deprived him of an essential i, or in the words of a later popular song, I had knocked the i out of—not Kelly but Cassilly.

Months went by. Then one day I was in his office again, and we were talking about the college magazine.

"One thing," he commanded in his stern and always slightly ironic voice, "be sure that you get people's names spelled correctly. Nothing in the world so infuriates a person as to have someone who ought to know spell his name wrong."

That was all. But I crawled out of the office without bothering to open the door. I went right under it, flat on my stomach.

But since then, I do try to spell proper names as the owners spell them.

STRANGE EFFECTS OF ECONOMY

Along the highways in St. Louis County, the blackberry bushes stand covered with berries—un-

QUERIES and REPLIES

Why Fast And Abstain?

It is passing strange that Americans of all people should object to the rules of the Church regarding fasting and abstinence. There is Mr. Smith who resolutely passes up certain rich delicacies but he becomes too rotund. That is abstinence with a vengeance. And there is Mrs. Smith who for days at a time subsists on water and raw carrots in a vain endeavor to recapture a dreamed-of girlish figure. An extreme form of fasting, you must admit.

The Church prescribes nothing so radical as what you will find in the formulas of recognized beneficians. And what she does prescribe is from a altogether higher motive. She wants man to be master of himself. She knows that he must eat to live but she would not have him live to eat. She knows that the appetites unregulated and unrestrained lead to anarchy. She knows that the primacy of the soul is best assured by diet and discipline.

The ocean liner is meant to be run from the bridge and not from the engine room. The Latins have a phrase to the effect that a full stomach does not like to study. With equal reason we can say that a full stomach does not like to pray.

Mere fasting is not in itself pleasing to God (cf. Luke 12, 12) but when performed in obedience to God's Church it means self-denial and the following of Christ (cf. Luke 9, 22). It brings the body into subjection (cf. 1 Cor. 9, 27; Gal. 5, 24) and prepares the soul for the grace of the Holy Ghost (cf. Acts 12, 2). Our Lord Himself fasted (cf. Matt. 4, 2). So too did John the Baptist (cf. Matt. 3, 4) and the Apostles (cf. Acts 13, 23). From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defenders of the Faith, (Conception, Missouri.)

picked. In other years the poor and many of the better circumstances, made for the blackberry thickets as soon as the fruit turned black. There was a pleasant but frank competition in early arrivals. Today the fruit stands untouched. The sugar rationing is the problem. Next year as always the well-to-do will have their fruit. The poor will be short on the healthful fruit they might have preserved and canned. Too bad. And when regulations are made and enforced, it's a pity that some of the obvious aspects of economy might not be taken into consideration.

LIFE'S UNEXPECTED

Life in our land is full of so many delightful surprises. For instance: I passed the Chinese laundry. Two typical orientals were ironing shirts in the window. Their radio was blasting at top tilt—hill-billy music.

Think About Others

Tact means thinking about others. It means considering what others will think. Instead of considering only what we think about ourselves. It means acting in concert with others; imitation tact may be insincere and selfish in its purpose, but real tact is unselfish in action, and that is why it gains so much and wins so many hearts.

Diocesan Recordings

What three-word slogan appears on the U. S. War Savings Stamps? That was the jackpot question on "Take It Or Leave It" radio program, Sunday night. It is—we had to look it up, too.

Saving for the future through U. S. War Bonds is being constantly urged. The practice should be increased to assure the future of the nation which guarantees among other rights, religious liberty. It's not a bad idea, too, to save for a spiritual future. The opportunity afforded men of the diocese at Our Lady of the Lake Retreat House, Geneva, should be looked into by our laymen. The weekend retreat is something to be experienced before being really appreciated. Those who have never made such a retreat can take the word of those who have that it is consoling, refreshing and stimulating to the soul. The material welfare of the nation depends upon the purchase of U. S. War Bonds and Stamps and the spiritual welfare depends upon men whose lives are an example to those in their com-

munities. The laymen's retreat furnishes a springboard for Catholic living which is an asset to any community. The laymen's retreat offers a depository for spiritual treasures which will be invaluable not only after the duration of the war but for the duration of eternity.

Since the CATHOLIC COURIER became the official diocesan newspaper, no one was more encouraging to the staff and enthusiastic over progress being made than was the late John J. E. Kennedy of Kennedy Brothers, Printers, who was called to his eternal reward last week. Mr. Kennedy knew of the problems of the Catholic press. For ten years from 1903 to 1913 he was editor and publisher of the Catholic Citizen, a viable Catholic weekly newspaper circulated in Rochester. He was a highly respected citizen and an exemplary Catholic layman. To his brother and other surviving members of the family this department offers sincerest sympathies. May his soul rest in peace!