

Catholic Courier

VOLUME XIV SEPTEMBER 18, 1942 NUMBER 37

Official Newspaper of The Rochester Diocese
With the Approbation of the
MOST REVEREND JAMES EDWARD KEARNEY, D.D.
Bishop of Rochester

BLESSING OF GRAVES

At various points in the diocese, this time of year, is conducted a ceremony which has for its purpose, remembrance by the faithful on earth of the suffering souls in Purgatory.

The ceremony is called by custom, the Blessing of the Graves. The faithful in the Rochester deanery will go to Holy Sepulchre Cemetery on Sunday, Sept. 13 for the ceremony to be conducted by His Excellency, Bishop Kearney assisted by priests of the diocese and students of St. Bernard's and St. Andrew's Seminary. Relatives and friends of those whose mortal bodies lie in that resting place will be present to offer with their Bishop the prayers of the liturgy for the souls of their faithful departed.

In the departure from this life of a relative or friend, the pagan or the unbeliever has no comforting thought. Those who have died, to them, have gone completely. To the Catholic, then, there is great consolation in the doctrine of the Communion of Saints. The spiritual solidarity which binds the faithful on earth, the souls in purgatory, and the saints in Heaven is uplifting. There is always present the realization that we can pray for the ultimate eternal reward of loved ones.

CALLS FOR FORTITUDE

"All of us here at home are being tested—for our fortitude, for our selfless devotion to our country and our cause."

This significant sentence from President Roosevelt's Radio address on Labor Day should sink deeply into the minds and hearts of all true Americans. It has special significance to the Catholic to whom fortitude has ever been held up as one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Making sacrifices is nothing new to the devout Catholic who sees in the practice the opportunity to offer up such sacrifice for a particular intention. The portent of President Roosevelt's predictions of things to come in the vast global war was that sacrifices will be expected of all whether at the front or on the home front. To meet these sacrifices we must be fortified by especial grace. Turn then to the Holy Spirit.

Prayer must be intensified in those times through which we are going and for which there is no precedent in the extent of danger menacing the practice of deep religious devotion. To others of the faithful in past times, the future looked to them to be particularly dark as far as life on this mortal globe was concerned. The early Christians faced their future with abiding faith, with firm resolve and with strong fortitude.

Throughout the history of the Church, the followers of Christ who died an ignominious death on the cross, have gone forward courageous in their faith. The faithful of today will face the future predicted by our Commander in Chief with the fortitude called for, because they can turn to Him who will make them strong in all sacrifices that are demanded of them.

STUDENTS OR WAR WORK

The headlines as school opened this week furnished the prediction that the war is expected to cut the high school roster. Boys and girls getting jobs in war industries will be forgoing their education to keep those jobs.

What is the right thing for the young people to do in this instance must be decided by their parents and themselves. The demands of the armed forces call for even better than high-school trained men to develop the officers with the proper knowledge and training to lead men in a mechanized war. That is the material side of the question.

Another phase of that side is that boys under 18 years of age are not sufficiently developed to enter into the mechanical work that requires the steadiness of older men. Accidents are possible.

Our thought in this problem which presents itself to parents is that if they permit their boys to go into industry they, the parents, have the added responsibility to see to it that the boys continue in the practice of their religion and in adding to the knowledge they have of it which was being given to them in high school.

Whether these boys eventually get into the armed forces or not they must be well-grounded in their religion or the results will be contrary to the parents' expectations and own responsibilities.

UNIVERSALITY DEMONSTRATED

The Church's development throughout the world and especially in those areas where dictator-minions would erase Catholicity would be nil if the missionary program of the Church had not been wise and far-seeing.

For many years Catholics have been called upon to give financial assistance to the missionaries in foreign lands. Many gave such help but gave little thought to what that financial contribution was going to accomplish.

Now is found a situation where American-born missionaries are being driven from those various areas in which they labored to plant the Cross of Christ and to extend Christ's Kingdom on earth. What do they leave behind, only a remembrance of them? No. They are leaving native priests, native sisters to carry on where they left off with the same devotions, the same Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the same Christian religion founded by Christ.

In some areas, in China for instance, missionaries are being permitted to remain at their posts. Their work, like those who have been repatriated is to develop native clergy and to convert the people of those lands with the ultimate aim of having them continue on as has been done in every land where the missionary first set foot upon the soil.

The story of the missionaries at this time of world upheaval is the story of the Church Universal.

QUERIES and REPLIES

God Has Foreseen From All Eternity Whether I Shall Be Lost Or Saved. Do What I May I Cannot Change My Destiny.

If we insist on measuring God by our own standards and think and speak of Him in terms that are wholly human we must come at length to clothe Him in mind with our own imperfections, distort the truth and create for ourselves difficulties without end.

In questions like this it is well to remember that God is an infinite Person. His attributes in every way infinite, while we being finite and possessing only a very limited conception of things that are infinite can think and speak of God only in terms that are miserably inadequate and far short of the truth.

Without doubt God sees and knows all things, past, present, and future. But God does not foresee. With Him there is no succession of time. He is the Eternal Present, the "I am who am" (Ex. 3: 14) Only we human creatures may be said to foresee. That is one of our imperfections as finite creatures. God simply sees. There is neither past nor future; with Him everything is eternally present.

God then sees all the actions of men; He cannot be said to foresee them. This seeing and knowing everything in the eternal present on the part of God comprehends of course all of our actions as free men. He sees and knows us as agents endowed with free will. His knowledge and comprehension of all of our actions in the eternal present does not destroy freedom of action; it contemplates and provides fully for that very freedom. This is a mystery which our feeble minds cannot fully fathom but a truth of which we can be absolutely certain.

God knows indeed what place each of us will occupy in eternity. He knows where we will go but His knowledge is not the cause of our going there. He sees and knows how we will use our free will and for that reason knows whether we shall be saved or lost. Man's own will and wish is the determining factor, not God's sight or knowledge. By way of comparison, suppose your good wife should say to you this evening, "My dear, God has foreseen from all eternity whether we will dine today or not. Do what we will, it will happen as God has foreseen. As for me, I'm going to the movies right now. The dinner will prepare itself as it may." No less foolish those who let their lives be ruled and ruined by the fantastic idea of fate or predestination. (From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Missouri.)

Diocesan Recordings

By the way—BUY BONDS.

With gas-rationing and rubber shortage curtailing traveling, there are difficulties presented in getting to spiritual devotions conducted in other cities. Despite this difficulty, men are finding their way to making retreats in various sections of the country because they realize that hardships must be endured to gain the spiritual solace afforded by such retreats. Alumni of St. Bonaventure College turned out in goodly numbers to make the retreat there. Men have been getting to our own Diocesan Retreat House on Lochland Road, Geneva. The Rochester Knights of Columbus are planning to be there on Friday, Sept. 18, and the Elmira Knights of Columbus on Oct. 2. Men of Auburn and of Steuben County are listed for Sept. 23. In the pioneer days of the Church, Catholics did not hesitate when distance seemed to make it impossible for them to practice their faith. Now in a time of danger when spiritual treasures can well be piled up, the Catholic layman who is sincere is making every effort in that direction.

By the way—Buy Bonds.

The winning of the war is paramount. Catholic men, busy as they are in war industries, will find that the Encyclicals of Pope Leo XII and Pope Pius XI are worth reading and re-reading to know the principles which should govern employer-employee relationship at all times.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY

Copyright, 1942, M. J. Murray



Along The Way

Even Your Own Fault

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

I was standing on the corner waiting for a street car when the man near me began to talk. I've a habit of reading my office in transit, and frequently find myself reading it as I stand and wait.

"I know what you're doing," said the voice. "You're reading your office. I used to be an altar boy. But it's ten years since I've been in a church."

I looked up. He was still young—under forty, I'd guess; and once on a time must have been handsome. He still showed signs of that fine Irish heartiness that makes Irish men attractively frank and winning. But now—shirt open, and in rags, old pants and shoes, and a face that was a wreck of what was once strength and good looks.

He squinted at me. "My eyes," he said, without whining. "Almost gone. Can't even stand these black glasses. My side hurts. A railroad dick hit me with a brick this morning when I came into town. But what hurts most is I just gotta have a drink . . . I gotta. I go crazy when I can't have it."

He meant it. There was a wild look in his eye, frightening me, not for myself, but for him. I gave him a coin—knowing how it would be spent, yet feeling it was no time to withhold charity, whatever uses it might know.

"What's your name?" he asked. "I told him. His face clouded up. "My little girl used to be in one of your shows." He mentioned her name. I remembered her vaguely as a sweet little youngster of one of my musical shows.

"Where is she now?" I asked. "With her mother, and I haven't seen either of them for years." His voice choked up. His squinting eyes were now hot with tears. "And her dad's a bum, just a bum, fresh off the rods."

I talked briefly, saying what I could of belated reformation. "Can I shake your hand?" he asked. We shook briefly, and then he held out his hand for me to look at. "Poor old hand, all out of shape. Fighting, Father. Drink does that to a fellow with a hot temper. All broken with my fights." He turned away. "Say a prayer for me . . . and my little girl," he added.

And he was gone down the street, my coin clutched in his hand. God have mercy on him and his.

Iconoclastic Paperhanger

The very word paperhanger suggests Schickelgruber these days. But Herr Hitler isn't the only paperhanger who dislikes Catholics. A young married woman living

in a southern city called a paperhanger to do some work in her apartment. He sported a large Masonic ring, and he didn't approve of Catholics, not one bit.

So she noticed that every time he walked through the house, he turned face down any religious object he happened to see. Half a dozen times she found he upset two little statues and one picture of the Blessed Virgin. Evidently, each time he passed them, he showed his dislike by laying them face down on the table they occupied.

Then he carefully smeared paste on the two lovely Madonnas that hung on the walls. They weren't chromos; they were masterpieces of religious art. He still managed to run his brush over them.

Finally when he was gone, she found that he had tossed the little statue of the Baby Jesus, she kept in her small daughter's room, into the waste basket.

"Darn it!" she said. "Why didn't I think to ask him to turn the Masonic ring in so it wouldn't offend me? Maybe I should have asked him to take it off."

Psychological Problem

The old porter—thirty-six years of service on the road—took care of my bags. Then he carefully handed me my breviary.

"Don't forget that, Father," he said, in his gentle, musical voice; "just about everything is in that book."

Then his face took on a puzzled look.

"Quart thing happened the other morning," he said. "Somebody stole a priest's rosary right out of his berth while he was getting himself washed and shaved. We turned the car upside down but we never did find it. Now can you tell me, Father, why anybody would steal a priest's rosary? If he was of the Faith" (I marvelled at his use of the term) "he certainly wouldn't do a thing like that. And if he was not of the Faith, what would he want with a rosary? I guess somebody with sticky fingers just saw it and said to himself, 'Here's good luck for me,' and took it." His puzzled look deepened. "How do you suppose a person feels when he's robbing a church? I can't figure that out. Don't he know anything about anything? Or don't he care about anything at all?"

I offer that unsolved question to some psychologist.

Soon Overcome

A soldier who stands face to face with the enemy and yet pays no heed to him will soon be overcome. So a Christian who is not constantly on the lookout will soon become a prey to the enemy within him.