

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 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 indifferent as to what is transpiring in his church throughout the world as to its own reliable sources of information or even to seek no information whatever. Let us have a brief slogan "The CATHOLIC COURIER is every Catholic's home."

* JAMES E. KEARNEY, Bishop of Rochester.

LABORERS INTO THE VINEYARD

To His followers traversing the fields ripe for the harvest, Jesus said: "The harvest, indeed, is great, but the laborers are few; pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that He send laborers into His harvest."

The Church answers the instruction of Christ by praying to the Almighty Father for new laborers in the harvest of souls. Her prayer is a practical one, one accompanied by action; she builds her schools, gathers around her those who give signs that the Lord is sending them, calls on her people to support these schools and to supply also the candidates.

The Ember Days are especially set aside for prayers for the Priesthood, its development, its sanctification, its fit preparation, its success in saving souls. But every day the Church prays, every day her children pray with her, that the Lord may send laborers into His harvest. Today when sympathies are closed in so many lands, when missionary fields are closed and missions destroyed, America is called on to be more than usually earnest and generous in the preparation of laborers for the harvest. Pray always for these laborers, be interested ever in the seeking out of priestly vocations and the fostering of them into a constantly growing body of clergy.

The Diocese of Rochester adds on Seminary Sunday to her prayers for new laborers in God's harvest, its gift of money for the training of these laborers. Our gift to the Seminaries is a sign of the fervor of our prayer for a well-trained clergy. Our gift contemplates all the spiritual riches that shall be made ready for our souls and the souls of coming generations by the young priests it sponsors. "Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that He send laborers into His harvest."

THE ABOMINATION OF PERSECUTION

Well may the world today heed the wholesome and humanitarian action of the Holy Father against the wholesale expulsion of Jews from France and other subject countries. Banishment would be cruel enough; the present policy of the Nazis is far worse. Into the hands of their most bitter enemies, into the power of those who are prepared to torture and kill them, Jewish men and women and children are being sent by those who are too timid to say no to the conqueror.

Murder and all that precedes it is wrong always. The fear of the oppressor can never justify Petain and his fellows in power in unoccupied France in cooperating in the murder of Jews through deporting them into Nazi hands. Thank God for those Frenchmen who have resisted in this matter, for the Vicar General who has been jailed for hindering such deportations!

There is no timidity about Pius XII! He is God's vicar on earth, he must and will speak out against abominations such as the world faces now. The Jews are entitled to every respect by their superiors and by their equals; they have from God the rights to life, liberty, happiness. No man has a right to deprive them of these rights. Pope Pius sets the example for all the world in defending this persecuted race!

MYRON TAYLOR AT THE VATICAN

All the world sits up and takes notice when the representative of the President of the United States visits the Pope. No military power supports the Holy Father, no large army and navy stand by to protect his rights, no wealth of worldly holdings gives him prestige! Yet he stands unique among all leaders of men, the recognized Spiritual Father of all.

Newspaper writers in all parts of the world make guesses as to the matters discussed in the two audiences granted by the Holy Father to Mr. Taylor. Rome has given out no information. But all understand that matters concerning the war, the hoped-for peace and its terms, perhaps the abuses and persecutions visited by the Nazis upon subject peoples and in particular the Jews, were probable subjects on the program.

WAR AIMS AND PEACE AIMS

Americans have every cause for joy in the purposes that guide our country and its leaders in war, and for the purposes that will guide them in consummating peace. Ours is a righteous cause. There is no aggression, no injustice, no violations of the rights of God or of man. There is a universal arising of all the people against aggression, against injustice, against murder and rapine. The powers of evil on earth must be brought low. The dictator and the persecutor must be deprived of their power to hurt the earth.

Where the totalitarian leaders boast of the ruin they have made of religion in subjected countries, of the desolation they have brought into communities and homes; where they tell of the plan already partly carried out of destroying Christianity in their own country, to be carried on to completion when victory is theirs: no room for doubt is left that our battle is for the preservation of religion, of human rights.

Archbishop Mooney read to the Pan-American Seminar in Washington the letter of our President stating that Christian principles

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Diocesan Recordings

LAYMEN ON RETREAT

A closed laymen's retreat was a new experience. Going with other members of Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus on Friday evening to Geneva. Stopping in front of the Diocesan Retreat House of Our Lady of the Lake on the shore of Seneca Lake.

A quick glance at the beautiful landscape. Then hearty greetings from the Rev. John P. Murphy, C.S.B., retreat house director. Into the library on the first floor. Beautiful leather upholstery. A refinished table, the refitting, the work of Father Murphy. Assigned to rooms with beds of great comfort and ease.

Dinner in the spacious dining room overlooking the lake. To the beautiful chapel. You are told that the full length stained-glass windows came from old St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The retreat master is the Rev. Thomas W. Tobin, also a Redemptorist Father.

His impressive discourses, simple but direct, assure the spiritual success of the retreat. Up bright and early at 6:30 for private devotions. The bell-ringer did his job thoroughly. Holy Mass followed by breakfast with a college professor on retreat reading Monsignor Sheen's words of wisdom as you eat in silence.

Conferences and Stations of the Cross. The Way of the Cross led by a former Supreme Court Justice.

The discourse on Moral Sin and the results of dying in it. A child's description of Heaven and Hell told as summing it up totally. The youngster said according to the retreat master: "Heaven is where God is and Hell where God is not."

A silent walk about the 14 acre estate. A summer pagoda at the foot of the grounds overlooking the lake.

Large shade trees and ample room for walking. A prayer garden you are told is in process of becoming a reality with an out-

door-altar covered by a canopy. The afternoon discourse on making a good Confession. Telling what is right in the right manner and holding nothing back nor coloring it. Men recite the Rosary led by a downtown florist. They make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament with a prominent architect reading the prayers. At Mass and at Benediction the acolytes are retreatants serving their priest as they did as altar boys in their youth. Above the altar which was fashioned by the Redemptorist Fathers is the beautifully colored and striking Our Lady of Perpetual Help picture. A special devotion of Redemptorist Fathers. Its symbolic meaning of Our Borrowed Mother consoling the Christ Child as the archangels appear with the Crucifixion symbol, is explained. Free time is declared for a period and Father Murphy holds an extra special conference in the library. He tells of missionary labor in the deep south. He recalls a woman who, was under instruction but hesitated on Baptism because she felt she "wasn't good enough for the Catholic Church." A thought deeply impressive. In a lighter vein, the indefatigable worker in charge of the retreat house tells of acquiring the beautiful art collection. How weeks were spent in restoring masterpieces. How pictures considered of no use to collectors were restored and found to be of great value. The conferences and exercises on Sunday draw to a close. The Papal Blessing is imparted. Reluctantly the lay retreatant leaves the deeply spiritual and inspirational atmosphere for the outside world and its problems. Another week will find other retreatants there. Each retreatant leaving becomes a devoted promoter for this movement which has made the Diocese of Rochester and its laymen especially privileged.

Along The Way

Ned Wayburn's Memory

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

The brief newspaper comment, buried far back behind the war news, tells of the death of Ned Wayburn. I grow momentarily wistful and nostalgic sweeps over me. Once more I'm sitting with my mother at the theater and knowing one of those unforgettable moments that come seldom in a dramatic lifetime. The play I do not remember; the star stands out very clearly, famous May Irwin who sang the "coon songs" of her day as no one has sung them since. How artificial and pallid the blues singers of the present would sound beside her lusty, full-throated singing and shouting.

Suddenly there comes in the play this climactic episode. May Irwin has just finished a song. On the stage stands a piano. She sits down in an easy chair, relaxed and smiling. And out comes a thin, gangling youngster, blacked as for a minstrel show. He grins in minstrel fashion and sits down at the upright piano. (No, they didn't bother to give him a grand; just an old-fashioned upright.)

Then he begins to play, and electric sparks leap through the audience. It was genius, no doubt of that; ragtime genius, of course, genius taking the popular music of the day and doing incredible things to it, twisting and turning and beating and syncopating it. But the audience goes wild. He rises, grins, and leaves the stage. May Irwin, like a doting mother, applauds, and the audience goes wilder still. Back he comes and does more of that amazing music of his. Another grin, bow, and departure. Another recall, and while the star sits and smiles and applauds, the audience keeps begging the kid at the piano to keep up his music.

That was Ned Wayburn, called in later musical history the "Father of Ragtime," then, an unknown given a chance to show his talents thanks to a generous woman who loved music wherever she found it. Wayburn passed along to become a great dance teacher and director and then the producer of innumerable musical shows. I didn't know him in that capacity. To me, he was always that amazing kid at the piano beating out of the strings rhythm and melodies that were to change the course of musical history.

I don't know anything about his religion or his personal life. But I say a prayer for him, gratefully remembering the delight he gave to the boy who sat beside his mother enthralled by what a man could do to a piano.

Devotional Instinct

He was a very little youngster, says Alice Schatzman, but though his knowledge of religion was primitive, it was devotionally deep. So he listened to the story of the loss of the Child Jesus in the temple with sympathetic interest. Then said the teaching sister: "And when Joseph and Mary realized they had lost the dear Child, what do you think was the first thing they did?"

His hand shot up instantly "They knelt down," he cried, "and said a prayer to St. Anthony."

That Power of Ours

As I entered the New York crosstown bus, I found the passengers in a mild uproar. Toward the front of the car a red-faced drunk was finishing an exhortation to the assembled travellers. He turned with a snarl. "Here's where I get off," and spotted me. At once he stambled forward, grabbed me with a loud, "Hello, father!" and fairly veered on the verge of a fervent embrace. I dodged that, and he managed the door.

But just as he reached the door, he turned, pointed a finger at me and cried eloquently, "There, ladies and gentlemen, is the only man in the world I'm afraid of."

And with that dubious tribute to the priesthood, he made his dramatic exit.

Counter-Irritant

I like the letter from the charming nun who recently celebrated her silver jubilee.

"The kind things said to me on the silver day," she writes, "made me feel a little as if I were attending my own funeral and hearing an undeserved eulogy. Fortunately I went right from jubilee into retreat and looked at myself for eight days. A most disillusioning experience and I got over the slight expansion of my ego completely."

Seminary Renamed

Near one of our larger Jesuit seminaries is a famous girls' college. Recently I learned that the young ladies, for the most part foreign to all things Catholic, had a name for our seminary. They called it "Pope Factory." Cute, except that if they studied

QUERIES and REPLIES

Why Do You Say That Divorce Is Contrary To The Natural Law?

Justice is the foundation of the whole social order and the requirements of justice are absolute. Justice is universal in its application and under no circumstances does it permit anyone to increase his own happiness at the expense of others.

If A for instance has been wronged out of a thousand dollars by B, the civil court cannot on that account permit A to swindle C or D. Such a procedure would swiftly bring about social chaos. In like manner, if A has been the wronged party in a divorce action, the courts cannot for that reason permit him to inflict wrongs on C or D or anyone else in the community.

This is frequently what happens when a divorce is granted. In the supposition that A has children he inflicts a grave injury on them by securing a divorce. There is in the nature of the child a need for the attention and care of both father and mother. No substitutes can satisfactorily take their place. To be properly formed, the character of the child needs unified training and both father and mother have an essential part to play in this work.

The little one needs the tenderness which only a mother can give and the firm discipline of which only a father is capable. Besides this need for the training of both his parents, there is also in every child an innate love for both his own father and his own mother. This innate love for both parents is an instinct of nature and will not be denied.

In the supposition that the divorced husband and wife have no children, nevertheless if either remarries, they commit a grave injustice against all the other members of the community. The force of a single example of divorce reacts disastrously upon the whole community. It strikes at the stability of the home. The power of example is tremendous and plays a most important role in the drama of life. The very possibility of divorce tends to chill the warmth of marital affection. Intimate love and mutual confidence cannot thrive where husband and wife look forward to the possibility of a future separation. No one would dream of investing his money in a stock company if he thought that after a few months the company might fail.

All this is but the natural basis of the supernatural command, "What God hath joined together, let no man put asunder" (Mat. 19, 6). — (From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Mo.)

Feast Days

Sunday, Sept. 27.—ST. COSMAS AND DAMIAN.

Monday, Sept. 28.—ST. WEN-CESLAUS.

Tuesday, Sept. 29.—ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL.

Wednesday, Sept. 30.—ST. JEROME.

Thursday, Oct. 1.—ST. REMIGIUS.

Friday, Oct. 2.—THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS.

Saturday, Oct. 3.—ST. TERESA (THE LITTLE FLOWER).

Clips

"The true way to advance in holy virtue is to persevere in a holy cheerfulness." St. Philip Neri.

"There will be joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, more than over ninety-nine just who have no need of repentance."

The Presence of God should not be lost sight of, however busy one may be, whatever the sorrow or the joy.

The first virtue is to restrain the tongue; he approaches nearest to the gods who knows how to be silent.

their history a little more closely, they'd find out that Jesuits do not become popes or bishops either for that matter. (Yes, I know, there are rare exceptions . . . but that's another story still.)