

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 so indifferent as to what is transpiring in his church throughout the world as to rely upon unreliable sources of information or seek no information whatever. Let us have a brief slogan "The CATHOLIC COURIER in every Catholic home."

JAMES E. KEARNEY, Bishop of Rochester

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH JUBILEE

All the Catholic world celebrated on last Monday the Feast of the Dedication of the Basilica of the Holy Saviour. This most ancient of churches in Rome was the first church to be built after the years of persecution. In beauty of psalm and hymn and lesson the Breviary sets forth what a church dedicated to God means. No more beautiful office is found in all the offices of the year than that for the Feast of the Dedication of a church.

Holiness becometh the house of God: Christ, her spouse, let us adore within her. John speaks in the capitulum of his vision: "I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down from heaven, adorned as bride for her husband." In beauty of poetic imagery, the hymn speaks of the church as the Heavenly City, "O Heavenly City, Jerusalem, blessed vision of peace, raised up from living stones toward the stars on high, and joined in nuptial rite by thousands of thousands of Angels. O they who are by a generous destiny espoused, thou most beautiful Queen, joined to Christ the King, Shining City of Heaven."

Another church dedicated to the Holy Saviour is the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer in Rochester. Like Zacharias of old, a faithful people heard from Christ seventy five years ago that He would dwell in their house, the house they had made ready for Him. Marking the jubilee, the same people have garnished and prepared anew their beautiful church for the continued dwelling of Christ among them.

The COURIER extends to Father Stauder, Pastor, to his Assistants, and to his devout flock, hearty felicitations on the Diamond Jubilee of their parish Holy Redeemer Church stands today not only as a monument to the faith and devotion and self-sacrifice of those pioneers of its earlier years, but as a living testimonial to the zeal and ability of its present Pastor and to the fine cooperation he has received from his parishioners. On the walls of first Church of the Holy Redeemer in ancient Rome appeared to the first worshippers the picture of Christ on the walls of our Holy Redeemer Church artistic paintings of Christ: His work of Redemption today greet the eye of all who come to pray.

THE BIRTH RATE IS UP

Notwithstanding all the earnest work of those busybodies known as Birth Controllers or of late as Planned Parenthood Associates, there is a pronounced increase in the birth rate. The increase is not among the busybodies; it is among those who prefer the way of nature to any doctrine of sinful frustration.

Even worse news awaits the Birth Control advocates: their bill to allow the dissemination of birth control information has been defeated in Massachusetts. Dismay has filled their hearts. They fear for the welfare of their country, they state openly a body blow to demography has been delivered by this defeat.

How long must decent people put up with the interference of these advocates of the unnatural? Were they by themselves to practice their tenets and let decent people alone, it would be bad enough. But they must constantly be badgering the decent people who still believe it is good to increase and multiply. Left to themselves, their problem will soon solve itself: they will eliminate them from the earth within a few years.

Good sense, decency, normal thoughts and normal principles, fidelity to human nature and fidelity to God the Creator, will always be the portion of the great body of men and women. Queer people will always be in the minority, and when those queer people happen to specialize on what they call Birth Control, they will be an ever decreasing minority.

America is better today for the children that have been born; America is safer today because of the babies born a score or more of years ago. No better bulwark to democracy can be built up than a constantly increasing number of normal babies who have the priceless blessing of parents who have the natural desire to beget them and the spiritual and mental equipment to train them as good Christians and useful citizens.

MISSING THE MAIN POINT

Commander Shea's famous letter to his son was shorn of its most important sentence in the version printed in the public press. Just why the Associated Press should feel it proper to eliminate that sentence is hard to understand. Was it lacking in news value? Was it an uninteresting item among many more interesting ones? Whatever the answer, it will indicate either a lack of understanding of the importance of religion in life, or a tendency to keep religion far in the background. Which gives one of the leading reasons for our maintenance and patronage of our Catholic press.

At best, the public press will reflect a worldly spirit. People of faith will appreciate all that their daily papers do for them, including the recording of religious events; but will at the same time appreciate that a correct picture of the world and its current history can be given them only through their Catholic paper.

"Be a good Catholic, and you can't help being a good American." Commander Shea was a good Catholic, a good American. He could not have written a letter such as this were he not a good Catholic and a good American. He saw the probability of early death as he wrote his touching letter to his son. From his heart he spoke to his little son, "Be a good Catholic, and you can't help being a good American."

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Diocesan Recordings

The United States Army is now "carrying the ball" on the African gridiron. The folks in the stands will shout for victory by buying War Bonds and Stamps.

He wanted to get into the Army. Repeatedly he was turned down because of a physical defect but that did not dampen his ardor to get in with his friends and do his bit. He kept trying and persistence won. Back home he had been an exemplary Knight of Columbus. He was always ready to respond when parish duties called him. He was referred to, this week, as an unusual young man because while often arranging for Masses for departed relatives and friends and for favors he sought, he never forgot to have a Mass said in thanksgiving for favors granted. He is in the Army now. He knows how to take discipline and is happy that he is doing his duty. He cannot help but be a strong influence on his Catholic associates in his branch of the service and will win the respect of non-Catholic members of the armed force. His career is being watched by many who rejoice in his having achieved a goal that has taken many many months to reach.

A typical Midwest family full-page photographed in last week's "Life" magazine showed the father and son reading on the front porch with mother and another son resting. The father of the Tholen family was reading "Our Sunday Visitor" one of the sons was looking intently into "Columbus," the national K. of C. publication. The Catholic family which reads the Catholic press is an informed family and an example to fellow-Catholics.

My Christmas box is to say my three Masses on Christmas day for all my good benefactors. May God bless you all. Reading the Christmas cards to this desk is one from the Rev. B. J. MacLoone, Chaplain, Loper Hospital, Nyenga Jinja P. O. Uganda.

The First Friday Luncheon (club) to be sponsored by Rochester Council Knights of Columbus, beginning with the First Friday in December can well lead the way for other Catholic men's organizations in the diocese. Inspired by His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, state chaplain, this movement deserves cooperation on the part of the men. Admittance to the luncheon will be based on reception of Holy Communion in the parish church on the First Friday morning. Increase of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is the primary purpose.

Those Army Shows

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

At long last we notice the rising of protest against the type of entertainment swept up for soldiers. And swept up seems to be the phrase. When Mayor LaGuardia closed Minaki's and the other foul-smelling burlesque houses of New York, the strippers, out of work, found themselves with the camps for their objectives. So with the soldiers and sailors in mind a new kind of filthy entertainment broke across the country like a streak of leprosy. The producers of "Life With Father" decided to abandon their pleasant, wholesome comedy that had made them clean money and went in for the story of a burlesque troupe stranded in an army camp. Sweet idea, and so reassuring to the wives and mothers and sweethearts at home. Burlesque queens were sent to entertain the men in service. They set out to become the "sweethearts" of the camps. And even the large shows sent by some of the advertising agencies of national products went on the supposition that the men had to have dirt to be entertained. Meanwhile Maurice Evans with "Macbeth" broke all records for camp entertainment. Which didn't effect the smut-spreaders one little bit.

Well, we notice that the reputable theatrical world has risen indignantly. Eva LaGallienne protests furiously that the men are handed has-been burlesquers when they might rightly be given decent, fine plays. And while the general public has been silent and the men in authority strangely acquiescent, the theatrical profession itself had demanded a chance to give the men entertainment without seduction, fun without mortal sin. Maybe we'd all better get into this campaign. What a crime to let a lot of filthy men and women treat our boys as if their one interest were sex and their only fun was smut.

Polite Introduction

The priest who waited in the sacristy to begin his sermon was a visitor to the parish. He had a well-deserved reputation as a pulpit orator and had come prepared to give one of his very best sermons. But he noted that the old pastor was nervous and grim and sour. What he did not know was that the neighboring parish had recently been given a course of sermons by one of the most famous speakers in the country and that in this parish rivalry the people of that parish had bragged and the people of the parish he was now visiting had written a letter or two to the pastor.

So just as he was about to leave the sacristy the old pastor waved him back.

"I want to talk to them first." He strode into the pulpit, leaving behind him Father Blanke, who of course isn't Father Blanke at all, but a very sensitive man.

"My dear people," the pastor began. "I hear you are complaining about the service you get in this parish. You want to know why our neighbors can have sermons by some of the greatest pulpit orators in the country while you don't. Well, let me tell you, if you'll build me a rectory with a decent bedroom for a visiting celebrity I'll get you preachers as fine as any heard in any parish in the city." He paused. "In the meantime, we will hear tonight from Father Blanke."

Spelled Ad Lib

Sometime back I commented on eclectic spelling, and a charming nun who is also a fine historian writes:

"A century ago there doesn't seem to have been much fussiness about how proper names were spelled. Bishop Loras wrote to Bishop Rosati about an Italian missionary whose name Mazzuchelli, the Irish settlers had simplified into Father Matthew Kelly. Bishop Doran follows suit: sometimes he refers to him by his correct Italian name sometimes as Father M. Kelly. A little later a Father Ophlin turns out to be Father O'Flynn."

The Perfect Answer

This young secretary works for a Southern gentleman who looks as if he had the red earth of the plantations still on his feet. Recently he dictated a letter to one of his customers that ran thus: "Though his account was not overdue, though he had always in the past been prompt to pay he was asking that the customer pay in full. He added 'I will leave you to guess why we are taking the step of forcing you to settle your account with us immediately.'"

His secretary looked puzzled. "I don't get it," she said. "What's the matter?"

The old gentleman lifted his dignified eyebrows. "My dear young lady," he said, "the man is wasting his substance in riotous living."

That settled that.

QUERIES and REPLIES

Why Have So Many Men of Prominence Joined Your Church Recently?

The ordinary men and women who stand on the sidelines and watch the procession go by realize and recognize that in the Catholic Church they behold something permanent, something that rests on principle, something that challenges their attention and respect. A little study soon convinces them that the Catholic Church is the only one that goes back historically to Christ and speaks to men with His divine authority.

Faith however is a gift of God. No two men are led to the Church in exactly the same way. Different reasons will be given by different men. Few men seemed further from the Church a few years ago than Heywood Brown, the eminent journalist. He was received into the Church shortly before his death and set down his reasons for wishing to become a Catholic in the following words:

"Firstly a visit which I made to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico brought home to me the great inspiration for womanhood there is in devotion to Our Lady. Secondly the election of Pope Pius XII convinced me that there is only one moral authority left in the world and that is the Papacy. Thirdly a fear of Death.

"I should dislike to appear before the Judgment Seat of God with my soul in the condition that it is now. Since we live in a moral universe, God cannot be indifferent to those things that we do or leave undone. I believe He has provided means by which we may avail ourselves of His pardon and penance, and principal among those means is the Absolution of the Church. Finally there is nothing more ridiculous than individualism in either economics, politics, or religion. I can see no reason why I should have my own individual religion than my own astronomy or mathematics." (Ave Maria, vol. 51, p. 37).—(From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Missouri.)

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY Copyright, M. J. M. C. W. C. New Service

Within the Acheson Communicating with & venerating the memory, First of the glorious Mary, ever a Virgin, Mother of Jesus Christ, our God & our Lord; likewise of the blessed apostles & martyrs Peter and Paul, Andrew, etc.

THE CHURCH'S RELUCTANCE TO ALTER THE CANON OF THE MASS CAUSED THE REFUSAL TO INCLUDE EVEN ST. JOSEPH'S NAME WHEN GROWTH OF POPULAR DEVOTION TO HIM INVOKED THE REQUEST IN 1915.

20th ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY OF HIGHEST GRACE WAS COMMEMORATED ON SIX DOMINICAN REPUBLIC POSTAGE STAMPS, ISSUED ASSUMPTION DAY - 1942.

TRADITIONARY CHURCHES BY WESTERN AND ROUNDED STAMPS HERE WITH BUILT BY ST. JOSEPH'S.

The Archbishop of LISBON has the peculiar privilege of always being created CARDINAL at the first CONSIDERY after his appointment (PRESENT ARCHBISHOP CARDINAL CEREJEIRA, elected when only 41, is youngest Cardinal)