

Catholic Courier

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With the Approval 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

THANK GOD YOU ARE AN AMERICAN

The typical American day of observance is with us this week, Thanksgiving Day. To the early Pilgrim Fathers America meant all the freedoms that were denied them in their home-lands. In the practice of their religious faith, they would give to God a special day of thanks for all that the new land meant to them. Days of privation, failure of the crops, near starvation, had for a time been their lot. Had they stayed to make futile for them all the hope they had had in their new homes. Now all that was past. Material conditions in the new land had improved, life had become livable, food in abundance was now on their boards. God had blessed them with material blessings even as He had before blessed them with blessings of the spirit. And the continuance of their material happiness guaranteed the continuance of their spiritual heritage.

Thanksgiving Day, first established by the Pilgrim Fathers, became a day of national observance by proclamation of the President of the United States. Well might it be that. Newcomers from all the persecuted groups in European nations had followed the Pilgrim Fathers into the land of promise. They passed not at the seaboard, but penetrated into the wilds of the forested interior. They spread out across the broad acres of America. They found in their new home an abundant living opportunity denied them at home, freedom under a free government among a free people. Gladly they joined in the spirit of the Great American feast, Thanksgiving Day.

Thanksgiving Day of 1912 prompts us to say to one another, "Thank God you are an American!" The enemies of men and of the liberties of men are at it again in Europe, in Asia, in the far north and in the islands of the Pacific. They have taken hard won liberties from millions of people, they would include Americans among their slaves. Were they to win, we should see an end to the Four Freedoms here in America. We should worship only as they wished, not as we willed, we should read not the truth, but what they willed to feed our minds through an enslaved press, we should find freedom from want disappearing in the calamity that would come on us through destruction of freedom of effort, ambition to produce, we should train our children only as the dictators would direct. Thank God, this is all in the subjunctive mood! The condition is there, a condition that shall have no fulfillment, while Americans still feel the warm pulsing of the blood of freedom through their veins.

"Thank God you are an American!" Make your thanks effective in helping America win the battle of freedom! Help your country by buying War Stamps and War Bonds. Buy constantly, but also make this month of November in its closing weeks a Banner Month for War Bond Sales! By direction of Bishop Kearney, priests in the Rochester Diocese will make this the theme of their sermons on Sunday, Nov. 22: the vivifying of the spirit of gratitude proper to Thanksgiving into the strengthening of America to preserve the liberties for which we now show our gratitude. "Thank God, you are an American!"

THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION

Like a fresh breeze wafting an odor of sweetness into a world befuddled by pagan thoughts and pagan deeds, comes the Proclamation of President Roosevelt designating Thanksgiving and New Year's Day as days of prayer for all the people! Belief in Almighty God, realization of our dependence on Him, consciousness of His presence, yearning to thank Him for His blessings, all these are in this Proclamation. Blessed contrast to the confusing mouthings of power mad pagans who would substitute the foolishness of a worn-out mythology for the certainties of Christian faith!

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord." "Across the uncertain ways of space and time our hearts echo these words, for the days are with us again when at the gathering of the harvest, we solemnly express our dependence upon Almighty God. It is fitting that we recall the reverent words of George Washington: "Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection, and that every American in his own way lift his voice to heaven." The President then gives in full the Good Shepherd psalm.

We are sure the devout invitation of our Commander-in-Chief will have a hearty response from all Americans. We are confident our Catholic Americans will act on his invitation to turn at this time to Almighty God in thanksgiving for His favors, and ask His blessing on our determination to plan and labor for better service to our country in her need and for deeper devotion to Him.

A DESERVED PROMOTION

The many friends of the Rev. Dr. William J. Mahoney, C.M., Dean of the Rochester School of Niagara University, rejoice in his promotion to one of the most important posts among the Vincentians, that of President of St. John's University in Brooklyn.

Father Mahoney had been a frequent visitor to the diocese even before he became a resident here nine years ago when the Sacred Heart School of Niagara University was opened. He has been in charge of this school since 1933 and has seen it grow from humble beginnings to its present size. Father Mahoney's administrative ability, his scholarship, his long and varied experience as an educator, give him a splendid equipment for the new responsibility to which he has been called. Nearly 9000 students were registered at St. John's last year.

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY

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A REMARKABLE EXAMPLE OF MODERN CHURCH ARCHITECTURE WITH MODERN MATERIALS IS THE CONCRETE CHURCH OF ST. CHARLES LUCERNE.

Along The Way

Young Things of Interest

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

One of the vivid recollections of my reading past is a paragraph about the way people always stop to look at young things in a store window—young puppies, a solitary little kitten, birds, monkeys. If they are young, they are interesting.

Quite aside from their magnificent vitality, they are, I suppose, symbols of recurrent hope. Youth has everything before it and no doubts about any part of the future. And we sigh less for our lost strength than for our lost hope. We love it as it exists in the eyes, amazed, delighted, expectant, brave, of all you life-humans or otherwise.

I hope they won't mind the transition, but I stopped in briefly the other evening at St. John's School of Nursing. The probationers, their white uniforms still stiff from disuse, were finishing up the three-day retreat with which the Sisters of Mercy wisely open their course of training. And as I stood in the corridor, they looked past me, the sixty and more of them, released from the silence of a retreat and eager to plunge into their new life.

Half a dozen of them, Sodalis who had come from schools I knew best, stood and talked with me. And their voices fairly vibrated with interest and excitement. "We start on the floors Tuesday morning," they confided in a burst. "We're so excited we can hardly wait. Imagine, we're beginning our work as nurses."

I thought swiftly of the long succession of unpleasant chores, the grouchy and exacting patients, the endless parade of trays, the lights flashing on insistently hours in the hot operating rooms, the night watches when the rest of the feminine world their age were dancing and dining. But none of those things entered their minds, only the joyous start of something new, the beginning of a brand-new life.

"God bless youth!" cynically Bernard Shaw once remarked that youth was such a lovely thing it was a shame to waste it on unappreciative young people. Maybe. But what would the rest of us do if we didn't come at times into rehabilitating contact with the unconquerable hope that burns in the soul of the young?

Prompter

The priest was addressing the Sodality meeting in the boy's college. The front benches were occupied by some Mexican lads, recently in the country, but keenly alive to our methods and manners. During the course of his address, the priest suddenly stopped. He fumbled, as speakers will, for the name of a man he wanted to quote.

It was a very familiar name and exasperated at the failure of his memory he paused scraping, scraping around for that missing name.

The Mexican lads sitting far forward in the chapel pews squirmed in mingled interest and sympathy. And finally one of them blurted out loudly "Skeep it, father, skip it, and go on with de rest." The priest did just that.

Tribute

From a young convert now of several happy years standing, comes a letter with this delightful passage.

"There is no adequate way of explaining feelings, is there? One day very suddenly like a beautiful golden ray, it dawned upon me that the Catholic Church makes sense, that she holds in her hand all the answers to the contradictions and confusions and shams that religion had meant up to then. From then on, the feeling has been happy, determined, excited, dominating everything. I love the Church with a quiet, calm, steady passion that dismisses everything else as superfluous. Just sitting in a chair and looking at Our Lady gives a deeper feeling of content than being with the nice young people."

I recently thought I wanted to marry. It's abnormal and idiotic, I suppose, but deliciously true.

Grinning At Life—And Death

I just got a letter from a Marine the kind of letter that makes you proud of our fighting men. He talked casually about going to Mass, praying for the kid from the Bronx who was on duty and couldn't get there and then he told of the nearness of death the close call for the ship heading across the Pacific the plane that crashed a few hundred feet from him the men who were going out to battle knowing their slim chances for return.

And then "But speaking of tragedies I hit the worst just yesterday. I stood for two hours in line outside the PX waiting to buy a package of crackers and a can of sardines... and miss a show. And what do you know? They had chicken peas hot biscuits, ice cream and cake... and I'll bet they won't have it again for the duration. What luck!"

Clips

Do unpleasant things for God's sake, and you will not feel the difficulty attendant on doing them.

QUERIES and REPLIES

I Don't Believe in The Traditions of Men.

Neither do we. Every Catholic makes his own the words of St. Augustine written fifteen hundred years ago: "I would not believe even the Gospels did not the authority of the Catholic Church move me thereunto" (C. Ely, Fund. Manich. c. 3).

Our rule of faith is not the opinion of any man no matter how learned he may be, but the word of God vouchsafed and interpreted by that Church which Christ set up in this world for that very purpose. "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you" (Jno. 20, 21). "He who hears you, hears Me (Luke 10, 16). Not the voice of a Luther or a Calvin or a Harnack or a Rutherford, not the opinion or tradition of any man but the voice of the Catholic Church which is nothing less than the Voice of Christ telling men with Christ's own infallible authority what they must believe and what they must do in order to be saved that and that alone is the Catholic Rule of Faith.

Why Stress Sacrifice And Penance And The Hard Things Of Life?

The road to Heaven is not a highway strewn with roses. It is a long and rugged path blood-stained by the feet of the Savior. That same Saviour has told us, "If any man wishes to come after Me let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me" (Matt. 16, 24).

All men are called to the high honor of sainthood. Only saints enter into Heaven. That is the reason why we must do violence to nature. That is the reason why we must live supernatural lives. We cannot be content with mediocrity. We dare not just go along with the crowd. To do so is to get lost in the crowd. We must daily lay up treasure above. We must become spiritual millionaires. We must be saints. (From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defender of the Faith, Conception, Missouri.)

Diocesan Recordings

BROADCASTING

"The Cross and the Crisis." Under that general theme a series of radio addresses are being sponsored by Ithaca Council, Knights of Columbus over Station WHCF, the Cornell University station.

The program of last Sunday on "The Pope and Social Justice" was heard in Rochester and other points in the diocese. Speaker was the Rev. Donald M. Cleary, Catholic Chaplain at Cornell University who, with other priests of Ithaca and of religious communities, is giving the series.

Each Sunday evening at 8.15 P. M. this series of radio addresses is heard. Members of the Knights of Columbus in the Central New York Chapter are urged by Chairman Michael J. Leary of Ithaca to send in their comments and suggestions to Knights of Columbus, Station WHCF, Ithaca, N. Y.

Here is a Catholic activity well worthy of support and cooperation in these times of stress. Qualified speakers in a well planned Catholic program are giving the public sound information. The series is tentatively booked until Jan. 3.

Each topic is selected for its timeliness.

Coupled with the Rochester Catholic Hour at 12.15 P. M. each Sunday on WHAM, this Ithaca broadcast gives excellent opportunity for those who would be better informed about their own Church's stand on matters of the moment. The priests and laymen sponsoring these broadcasts should be encouraged by response from listeners.

Feast Days

- Sunday, Nov. 22.—ST. CECILIA, VIRGIN.
- Monday, Nov. 23.—ST. CLEMENT OF ROME.
- Tuesday, Nov. 24.—ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS.
- Wednesday, Nov. 25.—ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA.
- Thursday, Nov. 26.—ST. JOHN BAPTIST.
- Friday, Nov. 27.—ST. JAMES INTERCLECT'S.
- Saturday, Nov. 28.—ST. STEPHEN AND COMPANIONS.