

Catholic Courier

VOLUME XIV NOVEMBER 26, 1942 NUMBER 49

Official Newspaper of The Rochester Diocese
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 to what is transpiring in his church throughout the world as to rely upon unreliable sources of information or even to seek an information whatever. Let us have a last slogan "The CATHOLIC COURIER in every Catholic home."

J. JAMES E. KEARNEY, Bishop of Rochester

GIVE THANKS ALWAYS

All America today gives thanks to God in fulfillment of the proclamation of national, state and local leaders. Each proclamation recognizes gratitude to God as a duty, and merely requests observance of the last Thursday in November as a special time of thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving for all times and all places is truly meet and just, right and salutary. This speaks the liturgy of the Church in every Mass that is offered up throughout the year. The ancient hymn of the Church known as the Preface not only states our obligation of constant thanksgiving, but in its varying forms for the seasons and feasts of the ecclesiastical calendar cites the particular blessing of God around which our gratitude shall center at those times.

The Preface is an inspired hymn of thanks. It brings to a close the preparatory part of the Mass, and immediately precedes the Canon. It is a proper prelude to the solemn words and action of the Canon, culminating in the consecration and communion. Christ gave thanks before He changed bread and wine into His body and blood; the priest follows the divine example.

Our thanks go to the Father always through Jesus Christ Our Lord. He is our Saviour, our Redeemer, our great High Priest, constantly representing our cause before the throne of the Father, ever making intercession for us. He is our Mediator. All the blessings we have come to us by His gift, His grace; through Christ Our Lord we thank the Father for all. Through Him the heavenly choirs give thanks and praise and adoration to the Father, in one grand common hymn of trembling joy with humble faith, we ask that our tribute of praise and thanksgiving may be poured to that of the angels. On ordinary Sundays, our thanks centers on the mystery of the Trinity; on Lent on the blessing and bestowal for bodily fasting; in Passiontide, for the goodness of the Son of God in dying for us; on Christmas for giving us the light of the Saviour; on the Epiphany for revealing His power to the world; on Easter for the joy of the Resurrection which calls for more than ordinary gratitude when Christ, our Pasch, is offered up, on Ascension Thursday for the new glory revealed to us in Christ's preparation to send the Holy Spirit on His adopted sons, on feasts of Our Lady for the many mysteries connected with her dignity as Mother of God; on special feast for the gifts of Christ the King, of the Sacred Heart, even in the Masses for the dead, we find reason to thank God for the hope we have in Him in the resurrection unto glory, whereby the life of His faithful children is not taken away but changed for a better life.

Let us ever give thanks to God for His manifold gifts!

COUNTRY FIGHTS, CONGRESS FIDDLES

The action of Congress on the Poll Tax Bill is indeed a sad commentary on democratic processes. While our boys risk their lives on battlefronts abroad, Congress can take time to filibuster. Everyone must get into the fight, but the nation's representatives can fiddle away their time and talent, debating an issue which at its face value is patently undemocratic.

It is readily agreed that we are fighting to preserve democracy and to extend the opportunities of "free living" to all the nations of the world. We deny the enslavement visited upon the occupied countries of Europe. We declare, with reason, against the tyranny of Hitler, Hirohito and Company.

Totalitarianism denies the Right of Ballot to minority groups; it controls elections so that the individual can only vote according to the wishes of the leader. We vigorously condemn this denial of liberty. But in America this same condition is allowed to continue.

It is utterly ridiculous to sacrifice the Youth of America that all nations and minority groups might enjoy freedom, while right here at home we deny the same privilege to Negroes, citizens of the U. S. A. If we are fighting to give the Four Freedoms to Germans and Japanese to Javanese and Indians, then it's about time we gave them to the American Negro. If he can serve in the Armed Forces but he cannot vote. That is somewhat contradictory, at least.

People who live in glass houses should not throw stones. It is recommended that we put our own homes in order before we attempt to rearrange the homes of our neighbors.

It's about time the Southern Congressman saw the beam in his own eye and quit prating about the mote in his neighbor's. The Negro is an American, no matter the color of his skin. A such he has the same rights and privileges as Whites. Let Congress stop its fiddling and practice Americanism.

LIMA'S CENTENARY OBSERVANCE

The first to be canonized in our Western world was St. Rose of Lima. One hundred years ago the first parish to be erected in our own village of Lima was dedicated to St. Rose. She has watched over the parish, has been eager to answer the prayers of her children there, has witnessed from her place in heaven the saving power of the Church of God working in the hearts of the parishioner at St. Rose's parish.

Bishop Kearney presided last Sunday at the service in which a Mass of Thanksgiving for the blessings of a century was offered up. Priests and Sisters who were children of the parish, were there to assist in the celebration. Old parishioners who could look back over many of the years of the century, rubbed shoulders with little ones who are the present-day glory of St. Rose's. Young and old were in

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Diocesan Recordings

LAYMAN EXEMPLARY

Few laymen are called to their eternal rewards accredited with the record of spiritual activity which was made by George T. Boucher of Rochester, widely known throughout the diocese for his lay activity who died Nov. 20.

His last act Friday night was to attend a meeting of the Laymen's Retreat League of which he was a pioneer and to nominate the officers for the movement which was close to his heart the interesting of men in making closed laymen's retreats at Our Lady of the Lake Retreat House, Geneva.

He himself made two retreats at the diocesan retreat house, this year, one with the pioneers and the other with the Knights of Columbus.

Mr. Boucher had never missed a laymen's retreat when they were held at St. Bernard's Seminary. He was among the first to make the retreats in 1915.

When the Rochester Nocturnal Adoration Society was organized in 1929, Mr. Boucher was among those who undertook to keep an hour's vigil once a month during the night. His record totaled 155 hours. He led his Band No. 4 since the beginning of the all-night vigils and was planning to lead his band in meditation and prayer on the fourth Saturday of the month.

In Knights of Columbus circles he was ever in the forefront and especially in the Catholic Activity program. He served two years as Grand Knight about 25 years ago. He was chairman of the first K. of C. retreat at Our Lady of the Lake Retreat House.

A member of Rochester Assembly Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, a gold chalice was presented to his bereaved family, the chalice to be given a missionary priest and he will be remembered in all Masses celebrated with that chalice.

A devoted father, and a model husband, George T. Boucher has left a record for Catholic laymen to emulate. His memory will serve to inspire and inspire other laymen who knew him. May his soul rest in peace!

Along The Way Gift from a Quakeress

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

The lovely chalice with which I and Mass caught my attention the moment I opened it. It was beautiful in lines and into the gold was set pieces of jewelry, diamonds, still in the ring setting that had held them, pearls on the tips of a coronet that had once been a pin, two lovely little carved pieces of jade. I finished my Mass, and Father Tracy, spiritual father of St. Joseph's College, succeeded me. I served him gladly enough making my thanksgiving the while. When he had finished he called me to the vesting table.

"Did you notice the chalice?" he asked.

I agreed most heartily that I had.

"It was the gift to me from a Quaker lady convert," he explained, and then smiled. "I've been pleased that I've had the chance to use it." (Jesuits do not own their own chalices, any chalice that is given to them is turned into the chapel or church of the house in which they are living at the time.) "This was given to me at old St. Joseph's but when the community came out to the new college it was sent as part of our chapel furnishings. And by good luck - or happy providence, I've been using it regularly."

It was a gracious gesture of the Lord to turn back the use of the chalice to the man who had made the convert and inspired her to leave, at her death, this lovely receptacle for the Blood of the Eucharistic Savior.

Yet I could not withhold a little surprise. How do you suppose it happened that this probably quiet Quakeress had had all these lovely pieces of jewelry? I had thought that the extreme plainness of their dress made jewelry almost sinful.

The young professor of physics had gotten his naval commission on the strength of what he knew about electricity, not what he knew about navigation. So he hustled right down from his classroom and laboratory to the tailor, and when his uniform was ready, decided to wear it home. So with his civilian clothes in a bundle, he headed for home, strutting a little. And right in his pathway, strid-

ing down the street came a mature-looking man in a naval officer's uniform too.

"Oh, my grab," thought our hero, "Me with a bundle, and I don't know even how to salute."

He sweated in agony, and the mature officer continued to bear down upon him. At any moment, the new ensign expected to be blasted with the lightning of nautical wrath. Instead, he noticed that the other officer was grinning a little sheepishly. He grinned, too. He paused shifted his bundle again and said, "Sorry sir, but I'm just new, and I really don't even know how to salute."

The mature officer grinned right back at him.

"Sorry you're hands are busy or we'd shake 'em now, and I don't know how to salute either."

And they went their relieved ways like ships that almost collided in the night.

The recurrent agitation for a return of prohibition brings to mind that classic story of the Roman Monsignor who was asked what he thought of the whole idea.

The venerable gentleman, who had been raised on good Italian wine and who regarded it as the lifeblood of his people, raised his eyebrows in amazement. Distilled liquors he never touched. But wine outlawing wine, the fruit of the vine which the Lord Himself had given by miracle to the wedding party of Cana . . .

"Listen," he said impressively. "About prohibition I feel as the Church feels. Have you ever noticed the priest at Mass when he goes to the corner of the altar to take the wine and water? Observe closely. The acolyte offers the wine. The priest reaches out and takes it boldly. He pours it into the chalice with a free gesture. It is good, that wine. He is not afraid. Then the acolyte offers the water. The priest hesitates. He seems to hold back. He prays over that water. He blesses it carefully. Then into the chalice he pours oh, so hesitantly a few drops of the water.

"And that is the way I too feel about prohibition."

Feast Days

- Sunday, Nov. 29.—ST. SATURNIUS.
- Monday, Nov. 30.—ST. ANDREW.
- Tuesday, Dec. 1.—ST. ELIGIUS.
- Wednesday, Dec. 2.—ST. BIBIANA.
- Thursday, Dec. 3.—ST. FRANCIS XAVIER.
- Friday, Dec. 4.—ST. PETER CHRYSOSTOM.
- Saturday, Dec. 5.—ST. SABBAS.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY

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QUERIES and REPLIES

I Don't Believe in Predestination. If God Foreknew That Any Man Would Go To Hell, Why Would He Create That Man?

God predestines certain souls for Heaven. He does not predestine any soul for Hell. The Council of Trent officially condemned the heresy of Calvin who held that by an absolute decree of God part of mankind was predestined to Hell (cf. Sess. VI, Can. 17).

The predestination of the elect of Heaven is a positive act of God, the reprobation of the wicked is not. By their own act the wicked separate themselves from God and God leaves them where they are or as they are. As for the reason why it is not for us to question Him whose judgments are incomprehensible and His ways unsearchable (Rom. 11, 33).

Suppose for a moment that God could not create a soul who He foresaw would abuse free will, defy His laws, and in consequence condemn himself to Hell. It would follow then that every man by the very fact of his creation and without any effort on his part would be infallibly certain of Heaven. Virtue and vice would be on equal footing. The moral law would be without sanction and God's Justice count for naught.

God is omniscient. With Him there is neither past nor future. All things are eternally present. He knows the future before it happens. It does not happen because He foreknows it. He knows what men will do freely. His foreknowledge in no way affects their freedom of action. Men go to Hell because they use their very freedom to defy God.

God's foreknowledge of this abuse is in no sense the cause of their damnation. If a man goes to Hell he goes there through his own fault and not because of any foreknowledge on the part of God. In the words of Saint Augustine, "Whatever we may think or feel about predestination, one thing we may not do and that is attribute any injustice to God" (Ad Simplic. 2, 12). From the pen of Father Richard Felix O.S.B., Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Missouri.