

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 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

TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE OUR COUNTRY'S CAUSE

One year ago the Bishops of the United States gave to President Roosevelt a pledge of their cooperation and wholehearted support in the war brought on by Pearl Harbor. The President replied in words that are now historic: "We shall win this war, and in victory we shall seek not vengeance, but the establishment of an international order in which the spirit of Christ shall rule the hearts of men and of nations."

Again this year at the recent General Meeting of the Hierarchy of the United States in Washington, Archbishop Mooney spoke the mind of the Bishops when as General Chairman of the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, he said: "We face the greater conflicts of the future with the same resolute determination to do everything possible to protect and to promote our country's cause." He spoke of how the Conference's record of achievement in the past year indicates how well we have fulfilled our patriotic duty to our country.

Catholics in America ought to give to their country that loyal voice spoken of by Archbishop Mooney. They have in the words of President Roosevelt a statement of our aims that all can subscribe to: not vengeance, not exploitation of weaker peoples and nations, but justice and charity for all in the spirit of Jesus Christ. When that spirit rules the councils of men, when that spirit guides their actions, things are bound to look up for the world. Contrast that with the deplorable mentality that would enslave men in the interest of an alleged superior race of Aryans. To protect and to promote our country's cause—that has been our purpose that shall be our purpose.

Catholics will loyally strive to live up to the patriotic ideal set before them by their spiritual and national leaders. In word and in work in thought and in action, in sacrifice willingly made for the cause, in financial help through purchase of war bonds, they will show their determination to protect and promote our country's cause.

WOMEN FOR WAR WORK

Two weeks ago the United States Employment Service mailed a questionnaire to all the women of Monroe County. This was done with the hope of discovering women ready and willing to take up the slack in the labor market, which, admittedly, because of production expansion and Selective Service, is faced with a serious shortage.

The results thus far reported by the U. S. E. S. would tempt one to say that the women of Monroe County are not going to bother their heads about this war. They didn't start it so, they are not going to get into it.

That is truly a harsh statement but on the basis of the figures reported, not without apparent foundation. A quick glance at the tabulations from the questionnaires returned gives one cause for alarm.

Only 10,000 questionnaires have been returned out of the 110,000 mailed. More than 50% of the women replying stated that they were unavailable for employment for reasons of personal choice, age, physical defects or home responsibilities.

Approximately 6,000 declared themselves ready to go into industry immediately. An additional 1,400 agreed to take work, but admitted that they had children to whom care must be provided.

Where are the 90,000 to whom nothing has been heard?

This war is going to be won on the Home Front, which means the Production Front. There are not enough men to staff the machines that turn out the weapons for victory. Certainly then, it is no more difficult than adding two and two to draw the deduction that women, preferably without dependents, get into the fight and keep the wheels of production whirling.

Slacks and overalls may not be so becoming as some of the more decorative ensembles that other services can offer. But this isn't a synthetic war. It's real and for Victory it needs men and women with real American spirit and courage.

The latest figures on labor requirements in Rochester show that 12,000 workers will be needed in the next six months. This figure does not take into consideration the men who will inevitably be lost to the Draft.

This new labor force must come from the women of Monroe County.

If you have not returned your Womanpower Survey, do so today. Whether you can take a job or not makes no difference. Those whose duty it is to find these new workers must have a complete picture. That will be had only when your questionnaire has been returned.

If you did not receive a blank, ask your postman for one. He has an extra supply in his pack. Get it now and mail it in today.

Ultimate victory depends on everyone. Let no one shirk her duty!

HE COMETH

Advent has for its one theme the coming of Christ. "He cometh" sounds out in prayer and psalm and vesicle, in lesson and chapter and antiphon, in hymn and responsory. It is a time of preparation in which each Christian looks forward to the coming of the Redeemer.

Nor is it only the historical coming of the Saviour 1900 years ago that the Liturgy speaks of. The note of expectancy, the exhortation to, right preparation of soul, the urgent appeal to the promised Saviour to come, looks to the rebirth of Christ in every soul.

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QUERIES and REPLIES

What is Meant By The Immaculate Conception?

I proposed this question to three of my friends who are not of the Catholic Faith. The first said it meant that Christ was conceived and born without sin. The second said he thought it was a privilege of the Blessed Virgin whereby she became the Mother of Christ without contracting sin. The third one said he took it to mean that the Blessed Virgin was conceived in some miraculous way as our Lord was. None of these answers is correct.

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is not concerned with the Conception or Birth of Christ at all. Then too, since no legitimate wife contracts sin in becoming a mother, the Blessed Mother certainly could not contract sin in becoming the Mother of Our Saviour. Neither is it correct to say that the Blessed Virgin was conceived miraculously as our Lord was. She had a human father and mother, Saint Joseph and Saint Anne like any other human being.

The Immaculate Conception simply means that when God created the soul of the Blessed Virgin He did not allow it to be stained with Original Sin. Since the Fall of our First Parents she is the only one of the human race who has escaped this penalty. This great privilege was given to the Blessed Virgin because of the fact that she was destined in the Providence of God to become the Mother of Christ. Precisely because she was to be the Mother of Christ God would not permit Satan to have dominion over her for one second (Gen. 3, 15; Luke 1, 28).

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception has been the firm belief of the Catholic Church from the beginning. When this doctrine was called into doubt, Pope Pius IX on Dec. 8, 1854, officially pronounced it a dogma of Faith in these words: "We pronounce and define that the Blessed Virgin Mary in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ the Saviour of the Human Race was preserved exempt from all stain of Original Sin." From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Missouri.

Diocesan Recordings

A DIOCESAN ASSET

In less than a year... into actual operation has come a "spiritual powerhouse" for laymen of the Rochester diocese. On the shore of Seneca Lake at Geneva now stands Our Lady of the Lake Retreat House. The Redemptorist Fathers, widely known for their success in conducting laymen's retreats, are in charge. The Retreat House exterior is an imposing estate. Interiorly, largely due to the personal labors of the Rev. John P. Murphy, C.S.S.R., director, the former summer estate has been transformed into an adequate weekend home for some 40 men of the diocese.

It was termed the "spiritual powerhouse" by His Excellency Bishop Kearney, under whose direction this establishment for weekend closed retreats came into existence last year. Opened with a retreat for pioneer retreatants in this diocese who had attended retreats at St. Bernard's Seminary, the retreat house attracted other groups of laymen. Many more men know of its advantages now and parish groups are being formed to interest Catholic laymen in making the retreats next year. Transportation problems loom as the war progresses but these can be solved, leaders in the retreat movement are sure.

The war makes it all the more important that men of this diocese now have the privilege of making weekend retreats as do men in New Jersey, New York and Philadelphia. Fathers of sons in the service will find great consolation in the religious atmosphere of Our Lady of the Lake Retreat House. The weekend is one to be experienced to be fully appreciated.

While it will be some time before the retreats are resumed, leaders of the movement are now launching a plan to prepare our Catholic laymen to make the retreats. Members of Rochester Assembly, Fourth Degree, Knights

PRAY FOR VICTORY AND PEACE



The Archbishops and Bishops of the United States at their recent annual meeting designated Tuesday, December 8—the Feast of the Immaculate Conception—a National Day of Prayer for Victory, asking divine guidance and protection of our soldiers and sailors. Pictured is the statue of "Our Lady of Washington" in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D. C. (N.C.W.C.)

Along The Way

Introducing Tony

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

Not far from St. Joseph's High School in Philadelphia is a little barber shop. It is much the same in appearance as a thousand shops in the country presided over by a cheerful, musical, temperamental Italian barber. But you should meet Tony. Tony is different. Since the war began Tony's been making his contribution in a most practical way. He never charges any man in service who appears at his place. The uniform is payment enough.

Me, says Tony shrugging expressive shoulders, "me I gotta biga family. I make little money. So I can't buy much war bonds. But I can serve the men who serve the country. Free haircuts! Free shaves! Free shampoos!"

But for years, Tony has been practicing a very quiet and effective charity. Each week he sets aside one day. He is up at four and off at four-thirty and at the doors of the Little Sisters of the Poor at five. From then until now he cuts the hair of the poor men of the Home. His eminently practical act of love of neighbor and care for the poor.

Predestined?

When her little son was ten years old, she entered his name among the "future prospects" of the retreat house. He wasn't old enough to start making closed retreats as yet, but he would be soon and she wanted that cared for in plenty of time. During his high school and college days, he made four closed retreats, taking down with him groups of his young friends. The other day he entered a Jesuit novitiate. One wise mother had learned that there are sweet and natural ways of "predestining" a child to religious life.

Might Be Sinister

These are queer days (as if you didn't know). But take an instance. One of the big New York advertising firms got a contract

of Columbus, are conducting a financial campaign to provide suitable pews for the retreat house chapel. The more the Retreat House is discussed the more men will make the retreat. This is a diocesan project for Catholic laymen. Few dioceses have the privilege extended in this establishment. A "spiritual powerhouse" for the diocese Our Lady of the Lake Retreat House is a "spiritual reservoir" for the laymen. The only "sabotage" will be indifference to its advantages and neglect in promoting closed laymen's retreats in the diocese.

from an important client that called for the picture of a girl, pretty frock, attractive pose, all the essential glamour without loss of dignity. The model arrived and was photographed to the satisfaction of everyone. Then began a long series of hurried and pretty frantic phone-calls. It seems that the girl wore around her neck a locket or charm or some mystic piece of jewelry. The client wanted to know if the thing had any significance. Was it by any chance religious? They tried to locate the girl. She was out of town. The advertising firm looked at the picture under a magnifying glass. Ah, perhaps that was the symbol of some subversive group—might even be Nazi or Japanese.

Finally they scrapped the whole thing, took a new model and did the picture all over again.

When the original model was finally reached she explained the locket easily enough. Five-and-ten-cent store jewelry that she had had picked up because it looked

just the same nobody was taking no chances on nothing. So neither the locket nor the girl did in the national ads.

Obedience

My good friend Mr. Schulman out of his many adventures as ticket agent of the St. Louis Union Station tells this choice bit.

The fussy old lady kept pushing her way toward the window with a sublime disregard for those in line. He looked up at her and said, as kindly as possible "One at a time, please one at a time. Whereupon she meekly subsided into her place. When she reached the ticket window she said, "Give me a ticket for Cape Girardeau," which was a short distance and a small fare.

Mr. Schulman handed her her ticket.

"Now please give me another to the same place," she said.

"A little puzzled he gave her the second.

"Now I'd like a third," she continued.

He looked at her puzzled and a little put out. "Wouldn't it have been just as easy for you to let me get you those three tickets all at once?"

She regarded him with innocent surprise.

"I thought you told me one at a time."

Remember the word that I have spoken to you. No servant is greater than his master. If they have persecuted me, they will persecute you also.—John 15, 20.