

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 had 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 whatsoever. Let us have a brief slogan "The CATHOLIC COURIER in every Catholic home."

✦ JAMES E. KEARNEY, Bishop of Rochester.

PREPARATION

The last Sunday in Advent sounds forth a more insistent message to every Christian that the coming of the Saviour is near at hand. With that message goes the exhortation to better preparation for His coming.

All our life is a preparation for the life to come. Every day of life is a preparation for the graces and blessings of a day to come. This is true of all the year, but true particularly of the two great seasons of preparation, Lent and Advent.

Confession and Communion are now in order for the thoughtful soul. God's grace in the soul, God's love in the heart, God's blessing in all our being will make the best possible preparation for the coming into our lives of the Saviour. I.e. the final Sunday of Advent find us putting the final touches on our work of preparation.

A MUSICAL TREAT

The coming of the Frapp Family Choristers to Rochester during the Christmas season will mean joy to all who appreciate the best in music. The tradition of centuries of Catholic culture is perpetuated in the old country songs and hymns which this noble Austrian family give us by all the beauty of ancient melody and in all the artistic grandeur of modern harmony. There is science and art and training in all that the Frapp family do, but there is more than that: there is soul!

Christmas week will find many hundreds of listeners present at the Mercy High School Auditorium to hear these singers, who come under the auspices of the ladies of St. Michael's Church for this Christmas concert.

DISTINCTION WITHOUT DIFFERENCE

America has joined herself in military alliance to Russia, and other countries to repel the assault of predatory hordes on the Allied Nations. America went in with her eyes open; she knew the necessity of union between the victims of attack, and gladly and wholeheartedly she has given herself to all that a military alliance implies. She has not undertaken to approve theories and activities in communistic Russia that are diametrically opposed to all that America holds dear. She has accepted Russia as an ally in war, in overcoming force with force; she has not accepted the communistic way of life.

Religion has had a bad time of it in Russia under Communism. There has been a studied plan to exterminate it, that plan has been backed up by measures calculated to bring about that extermination. Churches have been seized upon, converted to secular uses, destroyed. Altars have been all but eliminated, religious services all but blacked out. That the faith has remained in the hearts of the Russian people, is merely another evidence that it takes more than force to destroy religious faith.

To say that the Communist rulers of Russia have been opposed not to religion, but to its abuse, not to the religion that gives people a new and upward vision, but to the organized religion that is the "opium of the people"; not to Christ and all that Christ stands for; not to the Judaeo-Christian moral and religious principles, but to "exploitation, obscurantism, priestcraft etc.", is to miss entirely the definite fundamental hatred of everything religious that flows naturally from a pagan philosophy such as Communism declares itself to be. Words are not what count; principles and deeds flowing from them tell the story. The hatred of Communism for the Church and organized religion, is not a hatred of organization, but of religion itself.

May we hope that the help America so readily gives Russia in her hour of need, that the brave struggle of patriotic and religious Russian soldiers for victory over our common enemy, may lead her rulers to get away from the pagan doctrines of Communism, and try the American way of guaranteeing religious freedom to all their subjects!

PILATE, HEROD, PHILIP ET AL.

Had anyone who lived 1900 years ago in and about Judea in Palestine, tried to pick one to whom the Word of God might come, perhaps the last one they would choose would be John the Baptist. Born in obscurity, of poor parents, hidden from men in his desert retreat all through his youthful years, alien to the homes and habits and habitations of the countryside, John would surely have failed in any Gallup poll of his countrymen.

But the Word of God did not come to Annas and Caiaphas, not to Pilate, not to Herod or Philip or Lysanias; in their palaces there was little room for the Word of God. They were the great men of their districts; ruling men not for God or for man, but for their own selfish ends. Left to their own devices, they should long centuries ago have faded from the memory of men. Their names remain, their careers are remembered, because of John the Baptist, to whom the Word of God came. Their sorry story still greets the gaze of the reader because they refused to listen to the son of Zachary, because they refused to accept the Son of God at His coming.

They interfered to the best of their ability with the Word of God, with John the Baptist, with Christ! But they did not prevail! The Word of God led John to preach his message of penance into the remission of sins. The Word of God led John to make known his office as Precursor of the Messiah. John performed faithfully and

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QUERIES and REPLIES

What is Meant by The Incarnation?
The word Incarnation means "enfleshment," the taking on of flesh. The Christian use of the word derives from the opening chapter of the Gospel according to St. John: "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" (Jno. 1: 14). As we know from many other passages in Saint John, this word "flesh" means a complete human nature, not merely the flesh of a body but also the soul of that body.

St. John uses the term "flesh" to convey without any danger of misunderstanding the fact that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity truly became man, a real human, and not merely a spirit with a phantom body as some heretics taught.

When therefore we speak of the incarnation of Jesus Christ we mean that in and through the Second Person of the eternal Trinity, God took to Himself a human body and a human soul, the two in union forming one human nature. The incarnation of Christ is the central doctrine of the Christian religion. (From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Missouri.)

Lesson in Humility

"And He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was subject to them." What a lesson in humility for all of us who are feverishly pushing ourselves and our children forward into public notice.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY

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Scripture does not mention the **ORASS** of CHRIST'S BIRTH. - Their presence is purely TRADITIONAL.

FOR NINE DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS in the PHILIPPINES. The "Mass of the Cock" was said at cock-crow (about 3 am) & attended by the whole population.

The INNKEEPER takes stock of his inn - AN ACTUAL SCENE FROM A ROMAN CHURCH CRIB!

Until recent years it was for long districts common to call the "CATTLE MARKET" AT MIDNIGHT ON CHRISTMAS EVE!

Along The Way

These Parents Of Today

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

More frequently than I care to admit I run into cases of parents Catholic parents at that who go a long way toward explaining "what's wrong with our young people." For instance:

A priest friend of mine is much interested in his young people's club. In fact, he has a series of clubs, Sodality, social club, athletic club with all the musical, religious, and literary features. So he's a genuine friend to youth and neither a prude nor a busybody.

One day a young fellow in the parish told him about a birthday party that was planned. One of the boys in the club was being entertained by his parents with a dinner dance at a night spot and the young man who talked of it was genuinely perplexed. For the night spot was nationally famous for its undressed chorines and its sooty black-outs. And to this club the young Catholic man was inviting the Catholic boys and girls of the parish.

So the priest promptly got on the phone. He called the parents of the various invited guests, told them he thought that particularly odoriferous place was no setting for a Catholic birthday party and with occasional hesitations they agreed. Then he called the father of the celebrant. He was apologetic and said he speak to his wife. Evidently he did, for an hour or so later the priest was called to the parlor and found there the indignant father and the quivering-with-wrath mother.

"What did he mean by spoiling her son's birthday party? Hadn't he enough to do without sticking his priestly nose into what didn't concern him? Her boy was old enough to know what was right and wrong, and if he elected that night spot for his party, he was going to go there. And what was good enough for her boy was good enough for the boys and girls of the parish. And she launched from that point into a summary of the priest's character which couldn't have been improved if she had learned her language on a whaling ship.

You tell me what you think. Here was a priest sincerely interested in keeping young people out of the occasion of serious sin. He had taken it for granted that the parents didn't know what sort of a place the smelly club was and had told them. In gratitude they turned on him and demanded the right to send their children to mortal sin. And then we blame the kids.

Why Religion Teachers Go Crazy

The religion teacher spent energy, time, and ingenuity telling his forth-year-high class about the

meaning of Heaven with special emphasis on the glorious vision of God that is the Lumen gloriosum of the Beatific Vision.

And in the examination, here is the answer he got from one of his brilliants:

"The Beatific Vision is what the Blessed Mother saw when the Angel appeared to her and told her that she was going to be conceived free from original sin."

Geography

Young people are getting quite a number of laughs out of the Englishman in the grand film Pled Piper, who thinks that Rochester is an American state.

So just for an experiment I asked a crowd of young people to name for me half a dozen counties of England. Practically everyone mentioned Kent and York, and then they were stuck.

Well, the counties of England existed long before there were states in the United States. So if it's funny that the Englishmen don't know the names of our states, it's just as funny that we Americans don't know the names of their counties. For that matter and to bring it closer home, how about naming the provinces of Canada? Oh, stuck on that too, are you?

Patriotism

It was an older brother of Marian Prondergast of Father Lord's office and the SSCAs, who put on enlistment a sane and reasonable face.

"I've had," he said, "almost forty years of wonderful living. This country of mine has given me just everything that I could want or ask. So if I have to die in payment for what it gave me, I should be absolutely content to die. I owe that much to the land that has given me a very very happy life all these years."

Which seems a very sane and reasonable way of phrasing our patriotism.

Parallel Not Perfect

I like the little youngster who, according to Sister Mary Ursula, ran away from home. She was retrieved promptly by a rather frightened family who proceeded to punish her in a most conventional and convincing fashion.

It was several days later when they thought she had forgotten all about it that she suddenly said at dinner table: "Once Jesus ran away for three days, and He didn't get spanked."

Diocesan Recordings

This year, more than ever our wish is for a Blessed Christmas and the peace that only the Savior whose birthday is commemorated can bring to the world He came to save.

War stamps and bonds will make appropriate Christmas gifts, this year.

A Christmas gift of Rochester Fourth Degree Assembly, Knights of Columbus will enhance the Chapel of Our Lady of the Lake Retreat House for the lady at Geneva on Seneca Lake. From the members a subscription was taken up to provide pews for the Retreat House Chapel which during its first year of existence was without pews of any sort. The pews will be presented by His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, state chaplain of the K of C to Father John P. Murphy C.S.S.R. Director of the Retreat House at a Christmas Party on Sunday evening.

This should inspire other Catholic lay organizations to see what they can do for the Diocesan Retreat House which has been termed by the Bishop the "spiritual power house of the diocese."

The prospects for 1943 indicate that spiritual exercises will be the thing to do even more than in peace times and the Retreat House should be in great demand. Already an asset to this diocese in appointments the Retreat House can be improved in many respects. Father Murphy has done a remarkable job with the former estate on Seneca Lake and with some assistance will make the Retreat House outstanding in the country.

Feast Days

- Sunday, Dec. 20.—ST. PHILIP-GONIUS.
- Monday, Dec. 21.—ST. THOMAS APOSTLE.
- Tuesday, Dec. 22.—ST. ZENO.
- Wednesday, Dec. 23.—ST. SERGIUS.
- Thursday, Dec. 24.—Vigil of Christmas.
- Friday, Dec. 25.—THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST OR CHRISTMAS.
- Saturday, Dec. 26.—ST. STEPHEN.

Clips

Husbands who are constantly late for supper go home to a lot of scrape.—"Philadelphia Bulletin."

Women who really know how to raise children are kept too busy to tell.—"Fect Meyers News-Press."