

Catholic Courier

VOLUME XIV DECEMBER 31, 1942 NUMBER 52

Official Newspaper of The Rochester Diocese
With the Approbation of the
MOST REVEREND JAMES EDWARD KEARNEY, B.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 the 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 leaf slogan "The CATHOLIC COURIER in every Catholic home."

• JAMES F. KIRBY, Bishop of Rochester

CHRISTMAS 1942

There is little of peace in the world into which the Christ Child comes this Christmas. Practically all the nations are at war. Those not at war are surrounded with war's threats, war's dangers, war conditions.

But the Prince of Peace still reigns in the hearts of those willing to receive Him. Only those can be ready and willing to receive Him who are prepared to follow His way of life, His teaching, His program for men. Peace on earth as God's gift to men of good will. Good will prompted by God's grace and supported by His help. Nothing can be farther from the minds of those who would enslave their fellows, who would deprive them of their freedom to worship God, who have made their plans to destroy Christianity.

Resistance to the program of the dictators is necessary to enable the program of the Prince of Peace to be carried out. American rejection of the message of our President setting forth religious liberty as one of the four freedoms we are fighting for. Christians in the coming years will mean more for the blood and sweat and tears that free men are expending to secure anew into men the guarantee of peace on earth.

May the Christ Child be in our hearts and in our homes this Christmas. Day as we pray and sacrifice and labor for peace in the world. May He be with our soldiers and sailors in every part of the world to give them comfort in their trials, confidence in the righteousness of their cause, assurance of ultimate victory over the enemies of God and man. May Christmas of 1942 be to America and to all nations a renewed promise of Peace on earth, good will to men.

MIDNIGHT MASS FOR SAILORS

An event unprecedented in the history of the Diocese occurs at Midnight Christmas. His Excellency, the Bishop, will celebrate Solemn Pontifical Mass at Sampson Naval Training Station, outside Geneva, New York.

It is the custom of the Ordinary of the Diocese to celebrate Midnight Mass in his Cathedral. This year, however, the boys preparing for active service in the Navy take precedence over every other group. And that is as it should be. No one comes ahead of these men every resource of the Diocese will be put at their disposal.

The fact that His Excellency should so readily inconvenience himself to provide this Mass for the men compels us to stop and review the past year in the light of our participation in the war effort.

The Diocese is extremely indebted to those young priests who have volunteered for military service. Their going meant that others at home had to shoulder an extra burden. It required a curtailment in services to the people. Yet all responded wholeheartedly. It was being done for "our boys" and nothing is too good for them. Twenty-two priests of the Diocese are setting out for the war front in Africa, and others are ready, awaiting their call to duty.

"Our boys" have responded with alacrity to the country's call. Many of them have distinguished themselves in action. It is estimated that upwards of 12,000 Catholic men from the Diocese are in active service. Countless thousands more are in the muffs of the "production front."

The boys and girls of our parochial schools have covered themselves with honor. To list their efforts briefly, for a complete account of their activities would consume an entire edition.

Fired with the spirit of sacrifice, ignited by Japanese treachery at Pearl Harbor, our pupils, big and little, began to pour their savings into War Bonds and Stamps. Before school closed last June they had purchased more than \$100,000 in War Bonds.

When their Bishop called for their dimes and nickels for the Red Cross War Fund, they contributed \$2,500. It will be repeated, yes, bettered this year.

When they were requested to get busy about the various salvage drives, they burnt up the pavements in search of scrap.

They built model planes at the request of the Navy. They are in the High School Victory Corps and Schools at War programs.

Their greatest contribution again came at their Bishop's invitation. Each boy and girl adopted a man in service and promised to pray for him daily. Realizing that material forces alone can only achieve partial victory, they lent their spiritual powers to ultimate, complete victory.

Our school faculties have never been unmindful of the role they must play. At least one priest or Sister in every school has completed the Standard Red Cross First Aid Course. Every school of the diocese is ready to receive air raid signals and the children trained to respond.

Most of the parishes of the city have put their halls at the disposal of the Red Cross for First Aid instructions. Many parishes have cooperated with the Blood Donor Bank and encouraged their people to offer blood for the welfare of the wounded. More than two hundred students from St. Bernard Seminary had donated blood on one occasion at least.

When it became apparent that the men stationed at Sampson would visit Rochester, priests and people united with our community groups to form a local U. S. O. Catholic families generously opened their

(Continued on Page 19)

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY



It is generally agreed the first two chapters of ST. LUKE'S GOSPEL were lost, possibly dictated, to him by OUR LADY.

In PARTS OF PORTUGAL ST. ANTHONY'S SINTUM WHISKY WAS THE RED SASH OF THE OLD TIME BRITISH FIELD-OFFICERS' BUNK. Commemorates BRITAIN'S "rolling" of him in her Army as a graceful tribute to Portugal's share in the NAPOLEONIC WARS.

THE ARDUOUS TRAMP OF MARY & JOSEPH FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM WAS 93 MILES OF ASHRAH ALAND FLUCTUATING IN LEVEL BY 2,300 FEET.

Along The Way

Aimee Semple McPherson

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

I wondered as I got to Los Angeles if Aimee Semple MacPherson was still going strong. Since her catastrophic appearance in vaudeville in New York, I'd heard little of her. So I asked about the red-haired lady who had founded a church all her own. Still going strong I was told with radio programs and all the trimmings.

Later in the week I passed her famous temple, and for the first time took a good look at it. Over the door is an enormous statue of the Holy Mother Foundress who hasn't waited for death to place her in a haloed niche. The most surprising thing about the statue was, however, the fact that she wore over her famous flowing gown what was without shadow of doubt a large preaching stole of a Catholic priest. A great showman I mean woman had seen the artistic value of the priestly vestments.

As always, her church is called The Church of the Four Square Gospel. I remember how a number of years ago I went into the Art Department of the Pathe Studios. Drawing boards, blueprints, designs, instruments everywhere and on the walls a large sign. The Church of the T-Square Gospel. It's a hard subject that somebody can't parody.

Some naval friends of mine in the days of Aimee's first fame went to hear her preach. As a high ranking naval officer he thought it wise to go in mufti. After her sermon, conversions began, and down the aisle streamed "the saved." Suddenly the naval officer was startled to hear her powerful voice cry out:

"Look brothers and sisters, The United States Navy is saved. Look my friends, the United States Navy is coming to God."

And up onto the platform struggled one nervous, embarrassed, perspiring gub in uniform.

Government and Conventions

For a time it looked as if the war was going to end conventions. Some of the Washington bigwigs had the idea (probably they'd never attended a convention) that conventions were magnificent opportunities to get together, raise high jinks, and run up the dividends of the distilleries. One important official called the American Legion Convention "the typical convention"—which it surely isn't. And because he thought the Legionaries were a crowd of merry-makers on the loose, he excoriated all gatherings in hotels.

As a matter of stern American fact, the average convention is pretty serious business. Oh, they have their banquet, and the ladies take a morning off to do a bit of shopping, but usually they are efforts of men to learn more about their business, to promote a cause, to learn how better to sell something that makes American life pleasanter or more efficient.

And so the government has seemed to discover I dropped in to an important metropolitan hotel recently to learn that they had fifty conventions that month, and most of them were called by the government. Instead of wasting energy and of holding up the wheels of production by sending men to visit the various people concerned, they called to a central spot the people concerned and in three days got their program completed and their orders in operation.

Nice isn't it, that even bigwig learn.

How Times Change

The young man was standing looking in the grocery window. He turned to his friend as I passed.

"Boy," he said, "look at that bunch of bananas. Don't they look good? Seems months since I've seen a banana."

War does strange things to our interest, doesn't it?

QUERIES and REPLIES

Is It Wrong To Gamble?

To gamble means to stake possessions of value on an issue of a game of chance. When the issue depends largely on skill or ability, it is called betting.

Gambling in itself is not sinful for the reason that it is not wrong to take a legitimate chance. Strictly speaking there is an element of chance in nearly everything we do. When we cross a busy street, we gamble with our lives. We take a chance that the man driving toward us at forty miles an hour will apply his brakes and stop before hitting us. If his brakes hold, we win; if they fail we lose. Thus it is with many things in life. All kinds of insurance are a gamble. It is not wrong to take out insurance, why should it be considered sinful for one to wager two dollars that a certain horse is going to come in first or to stake a dime on the possibility of hitting a jackpot on a slot machine?

While gambling is not in itself sinful, there are certain conditions that must be observed to make it licit. Gambling is wrong if these conditions are not fulfilled. These conditions may be enumerated as follows:

1. First of all, the money with which a man gambles must really belong to him. To use money for gambling that does not belong to one is always wrong and usually and rightly lands the culprit in a penitentiary.
2. Secondly, one must be free to use his money for gambling without violating any of the claims of justice. Thus, it would be wrong to use money for gambling that is needed and necessary to support one's family, to pay one's debts, or even to take care of one's health and personal appearance. Many a man sins by placing money on the ponies that he should pay to church and school or to the butcher and baker or to the doctor and dentist. Experience bears witness to the fact that more than one person goes around in shabby clothes and worn-out shoes because the price of a new outfit was lost in a dice game. Obligations of justice always come first. Only after they are fully satisfied may one consider himself free to gamble.
3. Lastly, on the part of the promoter the element of fraud must be entirely eliminated to make gambling legitimate. Loaded dice, marked cards, "fixed" games, bouts, wrestling matches, races, and the like are always fraudulent and opposed to the principles of justice. When such practices are resorted to, restitution is in order.

With the conditions here set forth observed to the letter gambling is a legitimate pastime and certainly without sin. When practiced in measure and moderation gambling is only another form of recreation. As normal human beings, we need a certain amount of recreation. If the bow is ever kept taut it soon loses its elasticity. We cannot work constantly. We must get a change from time to time. Recreation is a necessity of our being. Whether it consists in playing golf, going to the movies attending a ball game or even in gambling, it is legitimate and good if done moderately and properly, and is in no way sinful.

To this however we must add a caution. Just as some people are morally bound to abstain from the use of liquor altogether because they cannot take a drink without proceeding to get drunk, so too some people are morally obligated to refrain from gambling altogether for the reason that they cannot engage in it without squandering their last cent. This is particularly true of men and women who have families dependent upon them. (From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Missouri.)

Feast Days

- Sunday, Dec. 27.—ST. JOHN, EVANGELIST.
- Monday, Dec. 28.—THE HOLY INNOCENTS.
- Tuesday, Dec. 29.—ST. THOMAS BECKET.
- Wednesday, Dec. 30.—ST. SABINUS.
- Thursday, Dec. 31.—ST. SYLVESTER, POPE.
- Friday, Jan. 1.—THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD, OR NEW YEAR'S DAY.
- Saturday, Jan. 2.—ST. MACARIUS.