

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 an information elsewhere. Let us have a brief slogan "The CATHOLIC COURIER in every Catholic home."

JAMES E. KEARNEY, Bishop of Rochester

THE NEW ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL

Eighty-five years of service to Rochester by the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul culminated today in the solemn opening of the new St. Mary's Hospital. The poor and the sick and the needy have looked to these consecrated women in the past and have not found them wanting; they shall look to them in the future and find them still awaiting every opportunity to help. Today finds them better equipped than ever before to minister to the sick. An enlarged hospital one which has given all the thought and experience and trained understanding of the Sisters and their friends among the business and professional men of the community, stands today as the up-to-the-minute institution for the care of all who need medical or surgical attention.

Our community rejoices today at this new evidence of consideration for the future needs of its citizens. National authorities have well judged the new St. Mary's as a necessary provision for possible war casualties. Peacetime needs demanded its erection. The labor of the Sisters and their savings down through the years are in this building. The gifts of people of every faith have been united to the Sisters' portion and subsequent savings and later gifts will eventually care for the amount borrowed, to secure the \$1,300,000.00 which the edifice cost.

Great credit is due to those who have worked so faithfully with the Sisters to secure the erection of the new St. Mary's. It would not be possible to name all who have helped, but it is proper to pay high tribute to the architect, Joseph P. Flynn, to the contractor, Daniel J. Mcagher, to the President of the Hospital Board, Doctor Leo F. Simpson. The accomplished fact of a building that combines stately beauty with practical usefulness to so high a degree, of a work of construction carried on so skillfully and so persistently and so successfully in the face of all the difficulties of peacetime with war-time restrictions and limitations added; of a work carried on to its complete perfection for opening on this happy day for the service of the people of Rochester; will stand always as a monument to the spirit and determination and ability of all who have sponsored this movement for a new St. Mary's Hospital.

Bishop Kearney offers up the Pontifical Mass at the opening services of the new hospital this morning, and officiates at the solemn blessing of the edifice. The ancient prayers of the Church's Ritual shall resound throughout the rooms and corridors today, calling down the blessing of God on the building and the staff of Sisters and Doctors and Nurses that shall exercise within it the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The prayers with the sprinkling of holy water shall forever mark it as a holy place, wherein shall abide with merciful graces for all who enter the Father of all consolation, Christ Jesus Our Lord.

WHAT IS LIFE?

Webster has tried to define it—as animate existence, vitality, the union of soul and body, period between birth and death. Scholastic philosophy calls it the power of immanent action, or self-movement. The Gospel of St. John says "of the Word of God: 'In Him was life.' The Nicene Creed speaks of the Holy Ghost as the 'Lord and Giver of life.' The soul is the life of the body; on its departure, the body ceases to live. Life is a gift of God, a created perfection; like all other created things, it calls for God's constant support to continue in being. Grace makes life supernatural; Christ says, 'I am the way and the truth and the life.'

Life is difficult to define, hard to understand. It is an entity filled with mysteries. Common sense preserves men in general from erring concerning its origin and its nature. Immature training may lead men into error about it. Materialists felt it was just a function of matter. Lately the death notice of a celebrated Doctor noted that he looked upon life as a phenomenon of electricity. What there is in electricity that can be considered as vegetable or animal or intellectual life, is impossible to find. There may be electrical energy manifest in functions of life, just as there are chemical agents and reactions in bodily processes. But all the electricity in the world could not explain movement or growth or thought. Electricity is used in capital punishment to take away life. It never has and never will give life to a dead body.

Life is a gift of God. God gives to each individual a living soul, which is the form or life of the body. Natural life is the foundation on which is built the supernatural life of grace. Death erases life through the separation of the soul from the body; the body dies, the soul continues to live, and on the last day will be reunited to the body which shall then live again. The sure hope every Christian has of renewed natural life and of the life supernatural is based on the words of Christ which are recited at every committal service in our cemeteries: "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in Me even though he be dead, shall live; and everyone that liveth and believeth in Me shall not die forever."

IN MEMORIAM

The death during the week of Mr. William G. Wynn will bring sorrow to his many friends throughout the diocese. His many years of service as an official of the Laymen's Retreat Movement in the diocese secured for him a wide acquaintance among our Catholic men. His later activities in founding the Nocturnal Adoration Society in many

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY

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Along The Way

The World on Wheels

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

Since the city dwellers, thanks to gas rationing, have returned in droves to the street cars and buses, almost any car or bus will give you a pretty complete cross section of humanity, and a magnificent laboratory for the study of human nature.

There's the man who enters the car, and utterly without ambition or observation, plunks himself far up, standing wearily, though there are plenty of seats in the back of the car. He never looked that far ahead in his life. There is the well-dressed woman who stands and glares at you for not giving her your seat, and there are three empties right under her eyes—but she declines to sit with the colored women who partially occupy them. There are the people who jam into the center doorway, despite all the efforts of the car operator to keep them open. The nervous soul asks the conductor to let her know when she reaches her street, and then, with complete distrust of human nature, asks her neighbors at regular intervals if she has reached it yet. It's an even bet that when the conductor finally calls it in a loud voice, she is momentarily abstracted and fails to hear him. There's the woman with the purse which she never thinks of opening until she is right in front of the conductor, whereupon she gets at her carfare in a ritual that makes the morning opening of the First National's vaults seem a casual gesture. And the man who can't find his transfer. The conductor patiently waits for the man who runs after the car . . . and then keeps on waiting for any sign of gratitude when the man boards it. The woman training her child to a selfishness which will cause many a person suffering later on, lets him occupy a full seat while adults stand, where she could so easily transfer him to her lap. The young fellows, loud and aggressive, who laugh uproariously at their own jokes—which will never cause Bob Hope to look to his laurels. And the well-to-do women who haven't dragged their furs into a street car for a long time, and are bent on letting the world know how strange they feel in this low-class environment. Frances Bittner tells of two such who loudly talked on the street car of their feeling of complete strangeness in so plebeian atmosphere, and the young man who leaned over them and said quietly, "Then give us low-class people an example of good manners. I had always thought that one of the finest signs of good manners is speaking quietly and in a low voice."

ing a first class fight. What better scrap than when a truck driver and a taxi man mix?

Out of the truck jumped—a trim young woman in slacks. Out of the taxi jumped—a second trim young woman in slacks. They met at the bumpers, which were still nose to nose. The crowd held its breath. "I'm so sorry I hit you," said the taxi driver. "Oh, it wasn't bad. I don't think the bumper's even dented," replied the truck driver. "It really was my fault," said the taxi. "No, I think it was mine," said the truck. "Hope I didn't jolt you too much?" "No, feeling fine."

So they smiled and climbed back to their wheels and were off. The crowd groaned in disappointment. What a silly generation!

Sweet Pathos

We have always known how close together lie smiles and tears, comedy and tragedy. But sometimes we get a very vivid illustration.

The little Mexican girl had fallen very much in love with the sweet nun who taught her. How she managed it no one can guess, but with infinite patience she succeeded in saving up, penny by penny, a dollar, and with it she bought a Christmas present for her beloved nun.

She wrapped the gift carefully in Christmas paper and managed even a silk ribbon, then with smiles wreathing her sweet little face, she presented it to the sister. Later the nun opened the package. It was a book, a blank book, and on the cover in large letters was, "Pay Roll and Social Security."

Promotion

The veteran teaching nun had spent several decades in the classroom. Fifth grade had been her specialty. But during the summer superiors transferred her to sixth grade.

One of the children stopped her in the hall the first day of class. "Didn't you teach fifth grade last year?" The sister admitted the imputation. "And you're teaching sixth grade this year?" The sister nodded. "My. I'll bet you worked hard all summer to get promoted like that."

They'll Be Judged

Do you ever smile in silent ridicule at people who are over-religious? Don't—because all others who do not equal or go beyond their enthusiasm for the Creed of the Cross shall be judged for their lukewarmness by the fervent Heart of Jesus.

Scene in the Fashion

One of my Detroit scouts reports a scene in the strictly modern manner.

On a crowded street a taxi barged heavily into a truck. The crowd, as usual, stopped expect-

QUERIES and REPLIES

Why Not Take The Bible At Its Face Value, Without An Interpreter? Like any other book, the Bible does not explain itself. To let everyone interpret the Bible as he sees fit would result only in confusion and contradiction, not in order and reliable guidance.

If the laws found in our statute books were taken by each one at what he individually considered to be their face value, our laws could fall of their purpose, namely, the maintenance of order and equity.

As rational beings we have wisely set up courts of justice to interpret and administer the laws according to their intent and the exigencies of the specific case to which they are to be applied. So too with the Bible, God gave us the Bible, but, knowing that only disorder and confusion would ensue if each one were allowed to read into that book his own meaning, established an official interpreter to expound and explain it to mankind.

As long as Judaism was the religion of God, the occupants of the Chair of Moses were the official interpreters of God's law. With the rejection of Judaism and the coming of Christianity, Christ's Church with the occupant of the Chair of Peter as its visible head is its official interpreter.

What Is A Pallium?

A Pallium is a narrow woollen band embroidered with crosses that is placed around the neck of an Archbishop when he is installed. It is symbolic of the powers which an Archbishop shares with the Pope. Pallia are woven annually from the fleece of two white lambs, which are blessed in Rome on the Feast of Saint Agnes and sheared at Easter time. (From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Missouri.)

Getting On In The World

TONGUES OF MEN

I am an advocate of more courtesy, not only in business, but the business of life.

A frown isn't even marketable; a smile pays dividends all down the line.

"I thank you" is just an ordinary decency we owe to those who have helped us along the way.

"Please" is a little word, but it sometimes works wonders.

The grouch is his own punishment.

Kindliness is the light that is always in our power to shed upon the paths of our fellowman. —Selected

Be charitable in your thoughts, in your speech, and in your actions.

Be charitable in your judgments, in your attitudes, and in your prayers.

Think charitably of your friends, your neighbors, your relatives and even of your enemies.

And if there be those whom you can help in a material way, do so in a quiet friendly, neighborly way, as if it were the most common and everyday experience for you.

Tongues of men and angels, gifts of prophecy, and all mysteries and knowledge are as nothing without charity. —Cardinal Hayes.

Clips

O, how good a thing it is to live only in God, to labor only in God, to rejoice only in God! —St. Francis De Sales.

"Magnanimity, greatness of soul, is no who, convinced that God is all, esteems as nothing everything else."

Feast Days

Sunday, Jan. 17.—SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.

Monday, Jan. 18.—ST. PETER'S CHAIR IN ROME.

Tuesday, Jan. 19.—ST. MARIUS AND COMP.

Wednesday, Jan. 20.—SS. FABIAN AND SEBASTIAN.

Thursday, Jan. 21.—ST. AGNES.

Friday, Jan. 22.—SS. VINCENT AND ANASTASIUS.

Saturday, Jan. 23.—ST. RAYMUND.