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.

ORDER AND TRANQUILLITY

Essential to any peace are tranquillity and order. When men live together in tranquillity, when men live together in order, then we have the only peace worth the name. There can be order without tranquillity. The Gestapo keep things in order in Germany, but can not maintain tranquillity. Our discussion today will be on the meaning of tranquillity. Just what did Pope Pius XII have in mind when he spoke of men living together in tranquillity?

Tranquillity is a state of calm that results from the general consciousness that the demands of justice and of charity are being met by the state. The rights of every class of society are respected, there is no favoring of one group at the expense of another, the welfare of all the people is constantly sought after. Charity steps in when misfortune, emergency, accident, disturb the ordinary ability of groups and individuals to care for themselves. Everyone is satisfied.

Satisfaction with the just manner in which government is conducted begets that calm, that tranquillity, of which the Pope speaks. He makes special mention of the labor problem. The worker in striving to better his lot is opposed by unnatural machinery. All forms of Marxian Socialism are condemned: a false foundation can never support industrial tranquillity. But a true foundation must be found, and the structure of industrial peace must be built upon it. The unnatural machinery that would hinder the just striving of labor for better things is not capital in itself, but the unjust exploitation of private capital to produce industrial slavery, economic dependence, excessive herding of men with no consideration for their rights or their spiritual nature. Pope Pius speaks of the seeming "calm" that warfare has brought about in labor conditions: seeming it is, not real, for even today we find certain types of employers laboring mightily to tear down all that social reform has done to protect labor from exploitation through decent laws, enabling acts, limitations on hours, outlawing of starvation wages, enforcing labor's right to organize and bargain collectively.

Real calm, true tranquillity, will come to the nation when all are assured that every class in the commonwealth shall have the unquestioned right to those guarantees that will provide full enjoyment of every right with no infringement on the rights of others. The pursuit of happiness becomes, then, a fruitful errand, not a futile chase. Our constitution aims at the ideal according to which all citizens shall live together in tranquillity.

ET A QUOLIBET ALIO MALO

The words are Latin, but all the faithful heard them over and over again yesterday when the throats were blessed. St. Blase was called upon to intercede for his friends on earth to ward off from them all throat trouble. Cold weather, chilly winds, snow and ice and sleet, ever-present germs, are all working so persistently and zealously to smash the throat, that it is most necessary to have a heavenly friend to guard and protect it.

But the Church would not have St. Blase confine the power of his intercession just to ills of the body with emphasis on the throat. There are other parts to the individual that need protection from evil. The soul, the mind, the will, the emotions, the conscience, the memory, the dispositions, are all subject to attack, all open to evil influence. St. Blase did a good thing when centuries ago he saved the throat of the boy who swallowed a fish bone: through saving his throat, he saved his life. We may be sure the good Bishop also did something for his soul.

The Church calls on the sainted Bishop of Sebaste to preside on February 3 over the ceremony of the Blessing of the Throat: not now from his episcopal seat, not now from his diocese on earth, but from his eternal seat in Heaven above, to intercede from all who receive this blessing. What need we have today for the more important part of the blessing: "et a quolibet alio malo"—"and from every other evil." May the countless thousands who yesterday felt the candles against their throat, who heard the official prayer of the Church spoken solemnly by the priest, who saw the red color of the priest's stole and knew that color indicated St. Blase as a martyr,—may all who thus made themselves sharers in his intercessory prayer before God's throne, feel bodily protection and spiritual succour in the days to come as the proper effect of this potent sacramental. Repeat occasionally the words of the blessing, find in them renewed devotion to St. Blase: "By the intercession of St. Blase, Bishop and Martyr, may God free thee from throat trouble, and from every other evil: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen."

CANDLEMAS

So many of our Feasts have the syllable "mas" as part of their name, Catholics know that it means "Mass": millions of our friends of other beliefs use the names constantly, Christmas, Candlemas, Michaelmas, without knowing that they are using terms that came into being when all the world was Catholic, when the Mass was the devotion of every Christian. The celebration of the mystery, of the Saint, of the devotion, always centered around the great act in the Catholic Liturgy, the Mass. Christmas was named not just for Christ's birth, but for the Mass that celebrated that birth.

During the past week we have celebrated Candlemas Day. It is the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin, but common prac-

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QUERIES and REPLIES

Why Can We Not Agree On The Fundamentals Of Religion And Forget About The Details Of Dogma?

But what do you consider to be fundamental and what non-fundamental in matters of religion? Those who urge this contention fail to tell us either what criteria are to be used or what doctrines are to be accepted. Unless it be agreed what doctrines are fundamental and what are not, it is futile to dwell on a distinction such as this.

The truth of the matter is that the distinction between fundamental and non-fundamental doctrine has no warrant in Scripture whatsoever. Neither is it ever mentioned in Christian Tradition. It is a figment of the mind resurrected in our days to explain the lack of unity so painfully evident among the various religious groups outside the Catholic Church today.

A thousand five hundred years ago Saint Augustine met with the same contention in his controversy with the Donatists in North Africa and answered it thus: "Both of us have Baptism in this we are one. We have the same Gospel; in this we are united. They celebrate with us the Feasts of the Martyrs; in this we also agree. But they are not with us in their schism; they do not agree with us in their heresy. And by reason of the things in which they are not with us, the things in which they are with us avail them nothing" (Unity of the Church, ch.). From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Missouri.)

Diocesan Recordings

CATHOLIC PRESS MONTH

The 28 days of February are chosen to focus attention on the Catholic Press. Lay organizations join in this observance as do schools and colleges.

The statement of the New York State Council, Knights of Columbus Chaplain, appearing in the February issue of the **Empire State Bulletin** covers the entire field for our lay organizations.

His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, the state chaplain writes:

"For Catholic Press Month I can think of no more important message than to urge the following special projects as outlined by the Supreme Council of our Order:

"Enroll more readers of religious publications: our greatest possible service is to campaign for subscriptions to our own Diocesan weekly.

"Start and renew Catholic Press subscriptions for Council library.

"Begin or renew Catholic press subscriptions for parochial library.

"Confer with local public and special libraries regarding (1) their regular receipt and display of "Columbia," (2) Catholic books being assigned to a special shelf, and (3) lists of Catholic publications announced in the local press and distributed to interested groups.

"Arrange portable displays of Catholic newspapers, books, magazines and pamphlets to be shown during February at meetings of the Council, youth organizations, parish groups, schools and societies.

"Conduct essay contests on the Catholic Press for parochial pupils.

"Every Council in the State should feel a responsibility in the cause of our Catholic Press. Its importance at the present time cannot be overestimated."

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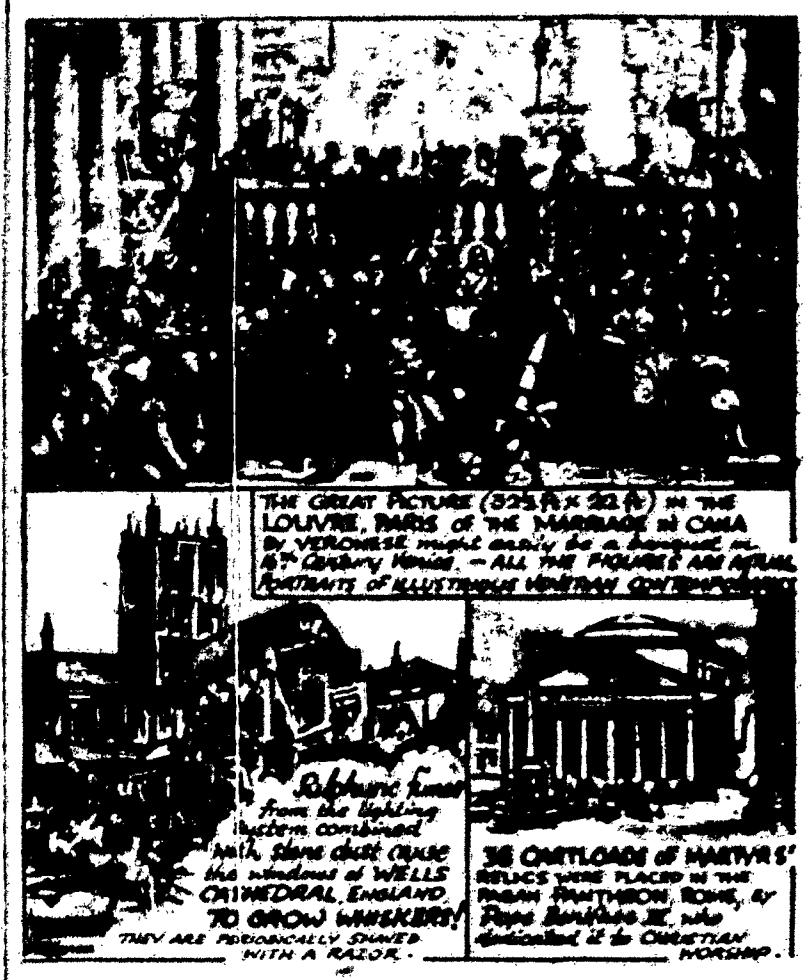
The Catholic Press would be remiss in its duty if it did not observe closely the news appearing in the secular papers. Here is what is sometimes found. On the society page of a recent daily issue—eight-column banner-line emphasis given to the Planned Parenthood campaign — the same organization dubbed Birth Controllers a short time back. Under this story a Catholic organization is given publicity. On another page the story on Planned Parenthood Federation meeting with speaker saying in part: "In those cases, however, where there is no reasonable prospect of economic support for a child, parenthood should be postponed by the use of such methods as are best suited to particular cases." It is obvious what is meant and such an organization is hardly fit company for Catholic women who are duty bound to observe the law of God as parents. The Catholic Press does not and never will print the advice given by the so-called Planned Parenthood organization.

STRANGE BUT TRUE
Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY



Along The Way

For Whom Bells Don't Toll

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

Apparently the film version of **For Whom the Bells Toll** is running into snags. The government, quite wisely preferring not to add to the number of our armed enemies, has decided—or so we are told in rumor—that this story of seduction and violence, even in its modified film version, had better not appear. There is no reason, the authorities seem to feel, to add the large Spanish army to the number of those who are shooting at our boys. Not that a film more or less would precipitate another nation into war but our government has a rather smart policy of trying to make as few people mad at us as possible—at least at one time.

We were talking of this a group of us, not long ago, and one of our party made a very shrewd observation. The hatred in the hearts of certain Americans for Franco is so violent that they tremble with rage because he doesn't go to war against us. They were sure he'd throw in with the Axis. He hasn't. The mere realization that he hasn't, stirs them to fury. They would be quite content to see another army attacking our boys, another front opened, more hundreds of thousands of American lives endangered, just to prove that Franco is a scamp and they knew all the time he'd attack us.

This is no brief for Franco. I grow more and more interested in America and its problems and less and less in the dark jungles of European politics. But the fewer nations fighting us, the better I like it. It's been grand that thus far Franco has not joined our enemies. May he long remain neutral. Every day he does, a few more American boys are not killed or wounded. And if the government, to keep the peace with a potential enemy, withholds a film, I think we can bear up under the blow. The years will prove that Hemmingway is one of the most overestimated crazes of our time. His stories of bullfighters and pornography and futile men and drunken women will puzzle the readers of the future. What could we possibly have seen in them, except intense animalism? It's too bad that those who hate Franco aren't permitted to egg him on to fighting us. That must be a keen disappointment to them. But let's take care of the enemies we now have. When we finish them, if we still want to fight Franco, it may be time enough to toll the bells for the film . . . and our boys who will die on new battlefields.

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Just A Matter of Words

In the Los Angeles filling station, says Father Ring, the new slate had been posted, on which the patrons could write their need of sharing a car or their willingness to share one.

Two citizens were scrutinizing the new signatures. One of them picked out a small, badly scrawled name.

"That name sure ain't very determinate," he commented.

The other looked puzzled for a minute, and then light dawned.

"Oh," he said, "you mean it's eligible."

* * *

Comments on Rosalinda

As the noon Altoa sped along toward New York, the young man began to talk to me. He had just graduated from Springfield College and was headed for Naval Aviation. I marveled a little at the up-and-comingness of the young man whose father is an auto dealer and who is himself already a licensed pilot. He had been for a week in New York, and was pleased that he had managed to take in the better shows.

"I saw **Rosalinda**," he said, referring to the streamlined version of Strauss's **The Bat** which had been a bit on Broadway. "Liked it a lot. But I was surprised that the voices weren't better."

My eyebrows lifted involuntarily. I knew the critics had thought the voices considerable above normal. His comment puzzled me. Then I got a light.

"Tell me," I said, "did you ever hear an operetta on the stage before?"

"Well," he hesitated, "I heard one of them at the St. Louis Municipal Opera, and another at the Dallas outdoor theater."

That was the explanation. In all his life he had never heard a natural human singing voice. He had always heard voices coming to him over a mechanical amplifier—radio, motion picture, microphone. He had become so accustomed to the sound of the human voice blown up by tubes and electrical power, that when he heard a voice with none of these artificial aids, he found it a little thin and weak.

The way in which mechanical things have sometimes distorted life . . .

Or is it distortion?

* * *

Grapevine

I was talking to a shrewd businessman who gave me his secret for getting secrets around.

"When I want a competitor to know something I am doing, I have a very simple technique," he explained. "I always tell it in absolute confidence to one man who I know will be sure to tell him. It always works."

Contentment at home is the result of comfort found there and such comfort is both material and spiritual.