

Symbolism of Candle Explained To First Friday Luncheon Club

Like the candle shining forth in darkness, Christian living can be the means of bringing "The Light" to others. Catholic laymen of the First Friday Luncheon Club were told by the Rev. Benedict Ekmann of St. Bernard's Seminary faculty, Feb. 15 at Hotel Sagamore.

"The Significance of the Candle" was the topic of Father Ekmann's address and was selected because the Feast of Candlemas Day fell within the week. The speaker explained the place held in the liturgy by the blessed candle, its meaning at the Mass, in Baptism and other ceremonies of the Church.

The candle symbolizes "The Light" which is Jesus Christ in the world of darkness. Its light is sustained by feeding upon itself and its sacrifice itself to give forth that light.

Father Ekmann pointed out that in the candle is exemplified Christian living. Not only does it symbolize that "we hold the light but give of that light to others."

Good example, the speaker said, furnishes a guiding light to those in a darkened groping world. The good deed shines forth like a beacon in the night. Not only by their Christian lives can men influence those in darkness but by word of mouth, by counsel and advice can they diffuse their own light to others.

The First Friday Luncheon Club is open to any Catholic layman provided that he has received Holy Communion that morning. The next meeting on Friday, March 4, will be in charge of Albert Roache, chairman.

At the February meeting, attended by the Rt. Rev. Mgr. George V. Burns, pastor of Sacred Heart Cathedral; Rev. Raymond J. Heisel, Moderator of the First Friday Luncheon Club, president, Chairman for the February meeting was Cyril J. Statt.

The First Friday Luncheon Club is sponsored by Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus, as a Catholic Activity with George L. McKay as general chairman.

DR. CONNELL TO ADDRESS CATHOLIC SOCIAL WORKERS

Rev. Dr. Maynard Connell of St. Bernard's Seminary faculty will speak on "The Structure and Importance of Family Life," at the regular meeting of the Saint Thomas Society of Catholic Social Workers, Monday evening, Feb. 15, in Parlor A, Columbus Civic Center.

The meeting will open at 8 P. M. General discussion will follow Dr. Connell's address.

This program will continue the group study of the "Encyclical on Christian Marriage" of Pope Pius XI which was inaugurated at the first meeting of the New Year.

St. Augustine said: "I am but the basket of the Sower, that is, of Christ; He has designed to place the seed in me which I scatter to you. Look not to the vileness of the basket, but to the dignity of the Sower."



Home refreshment



CATHOLIC COURIER Staff Photo
CULTURE LECTURERS in the Aquinas Series, Sunday night at the Chamber of Commerce were Frank J. Sheed, standing and Mrs. Sheed, seated, shown with the Rev. Hugh J. Haffey, Director.

Personality Lacking In Best Sellers Aver Sheeds

"We can discover what has happened to literature by seeing what has happened to personality." This was the theme of the joint-lecture in the Christian Culture Series given Sunday night by Frank J. Sheed and his wife, better known as Maline Ward, authors, lecturers and publishers.

This was the first series held at the Chamber of Commerce to which the lectures were moved by the Rev. Hugh Haffey, C.S.B., Director, because of transportation difficulties.

Mr. and Mrs. Sheed were presented by Bernard E. Finucane.

Presenting a constructive criticism of modern literature, the speakers centered their discussion on the novel, not only because most people read novels, but also because the novel is concerned chiefly with people.

They stressed the fact that a novel is great if the characters in it are enough alive and if the reader is willing to re-read the novel. If the characters are really alive, and not just "lively," the reader will be eager to meet them in subsequent readings.

On the other hand, if the story is predominant as it is in most of the modern novels, it would be necessary to forget the story in order to again enjoy the book. This is the test in which modern novels have failed, Mr. Sheed declared, they are no longer alive.

It cannot be said that the whole fault lies with the author, for he cannot escape the influence of the period in which he lives. The influence of those who seek to form our minds for us, was decried. Especially to be deplored are those whose aim is to destroy personality.

Personality first began to go, it was pointed out, when God came to be considered as something represented as a mass of electrons and protons, not as a person.

Instead of someone, Man was then. If this be all that man is, then what does it matter what he does, there is no need for a moral law, Mr. Sheed declared. If God is not a person, He could not have made a law. Man considered as in the present day is only an animal which needs a law applicable to animals. The human will in man has been substituted by the law of the blood-stream.

Bequeaths Bulk of \$23,000 Estate To Catholic Groups

According to the terms of her will, which has just been admitted to probate, Miss Catherine L. Kane of 3 Marshall Street, who died Jan. 28, 1943, left the bulk of her \$23,000 estate to ten Catholic institutions.

To her sister, Sister M. Hortensia of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Miss Kane left \$2,000, and to St. Bernard's Seminary she bequeathed the three-story apartment building, the Ardmore which is valued at \$10,000.

Other beneficiaries include: the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, \$2,000, which includes \$300 for Masses; Society of the Living Word, Tarrytown, Ill., \$200 for Masses; Society Action Division of the Rochester Catholic Charities, \$1,000; Catholic Church Extension Society, Chicago, \$1,500; St. Ann's Home for the Aged, \$1,000; Rochester Benevolent, Scientific and Industrial School of the Sisters of Mercy, \$1,500; St. Mary's Hospital, \$500; St. Girard Maternity Guild, \$500.

The Catholic Diocese of Rochester was left the residue of her estate which was estimated at more than \$2,000.

Timothy J. Nighan, attorney, was named executor of the will.

plained Sows from the fact that we are persons or rational animals who have the power to think and choose for ourselves.

The trend toward improvement and development of the body instead of the mind was deplored.

"Fashion is the greatest enemy of personality," said Sheed. "For by it we are just imitating and not choosing for ourselves."

Ability to read, Mr. Sheed declared, is fast disappearing despite the sale of books of many pages. He cited two facts to substantiate his statement. First, the Scriptures are no longer read with the intensity they once were because they do not explain everything literally as in modern novels. The second point is found in the poetry of the day. Poetry, he stated, is the highest form of human expression. A poet is able to say in one line what a prose writer takes three pages to express.

"In this generation, we find no real poetry," Mr. Sheed said. The poet needs a reason, a moral law for expression, he cannot follow the line of least resistance and still be able to write real poetry.

Both the lecturers emphasized that there is a need to revivify both the writer and the reader by bringing to literature a true personality—a personal God, a real human being, a moral law.

Rita McBurney Enlists As U. S. Army Nurse

Commissioned a second lieutenant in the U. S. Army, Miss Rita McBurney will report for duty as an Army nurse at Fort Niagara on Monday, Feb. 15.

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James F. McBurney of Dearcup Drive, the newest army nurse is a graduate of St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing, class of 1937. Her enlistment brings the number of St. Mary's graduates to approximately 20.

Leutenant McBurney's early education was obtained at Holy Family School. She is a graduate of Nazareth Academy.

Catholic men's Retreat House is at Lockland Road, Geneva.

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Personality Attacked
"There is a doctrinal attack on personality," said Mr. Sheed. The radio with its mass appeal is an attack on the personality of man. He cited Hitler's propaganda appeal as being designed to have the people respond en masse as are the mechanical advertising appeals in this country.

Best sellers of the day are in most instances like the radio appeals to the people as a mass.

This distortion of personality, the speakers declared, is affecting literature. Personality it was ex-

PALACE
CLAUDETTE COLBERT
JOEL McCREA
in
THE PALM BEACH STORY
Plus
ALAN LADD
in
Lucky Jordan

GENTURY
SILVER SKATES
KENNY BAKER
PATRICIA MORRISON
and BELITA
Plus
LLOYD NOLAN
in
Time To Kill

REGENT
3rd BIG WEEK
JAMES CAGNEY
as Cos. M. Cohen in
Yankee Doodle Dandy
MARCH OF TIME
RUSSIA 1943

TEMPLE
2nd BIG WEEK
CASABLANCA
HUMPHREY BOGART
INGRID BERGMAN
PAUL HENREID
Plus
MILTON BERLE in
Over My Dead Body

CAPITOL
Two Big Hits in Technicolor
Arabian Nights
JOHN HALL
SABU MARIA MONTEZ
Plus
THUNDER BIRDS
(Soldiers of the Air)
GENE TIERNEY
PRESTON POSTER

LIBERTY
Robert Taylor
Charles Laughton
STAND BY FOR ACTION
The Andrews Sisters
GIVE OUT SISTERS

STATE
Paulette Goddard
Fred MacMurray
FOREST RANGERS
J. Colson, A. Miller
PRIORITIES on PARADE

MADISON
Joan Crawford
John Wayne
REUNION IN FRANCE
Red Skelton
Whistling in Dixie

MONROE
Joan Crawford
John Wayne
REUNION IN FRANCE
Red Skelton
Whistling in Dixie

CAMEO
Betsy Lamarr
Walter Pidgeon
WHITE CARGO
Freddie Bartholomew
JUNIOR ARMY

WESTEND
Betsy Lamarr
Walter Pidgeon
WHITE CARGO
Freddie Bartholomew
JUNIOR ARMY

DIXIE
Betsy Lamarr
John Payne
Sprinkling in the Bushes
Freddie Bartholomew
JUNIOR ARMY

LAKE
John Wayne
Anna Lee
FLYING TIGERS
D. Annora, J. Emmett
GIRL TROUBLE