

Catholic Courier

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Official Newspaper of The Rochester Diocese 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.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Lincoln's Birthday comes in this year of war to be a needed inspiration, encouragement, support, to all the people of the union he loved. The privations of a frontier existence could not hold him down. Poverty, hunger, cold, were not permitted to rule his high spirit. He made opportunity where it seemed to be non-existent. He used the advantages at hand. He strove humbly and confidently with the deep trust that a religious nature gave him.

He entered on the Presidency at a time when trouble and turmoil and incipient rebellion were in the front. Slave holders could see no injustice in any restriction on their manner of dealing with the negro. They were ready to break up the union to have their way. The Civil War found President Lincoln faced with every form of difficulty; poorly trained soldiers, carping criticism of his every effort, continual demands to battle incapable generals. But Lincoln was true to his oath, true to his duty, true to his country. He refused to see anything but ultimate victory. He lived to see the fulfillment of his purpose, the crushing of the rebellion in order that government of the people, by the people for the people should not perish from the earth.

Our President and our military leaders have no such dark picture before them as that which Lincoln faced. Even the most gloomy minded must see the beginning of better things for the United States and for the world in the wonderful advances made by our troops, the stupendous record of our war production, the daily news of encouraging victories in every quarter of the fighting fronts. The patriotic spirit in which those at home have gladly accepted every privation, every limitation, every new burden of taxation, speaks of a country far better governed than it was in Lincoln's day.

Inspiration, encouragement, support, are ours in the blessed memory of the Great Emancipator. God has wrought the wonder of an ever increasing love and regard for the rude farmer boy who led his country in its battle for the preservation of the liberties in which our way of life was built. One who loved his fellowman, one who labored and suffered and died for his fellow citizens, what a contrast to some present-day worthies who have made it their purpose to enslave mankind, to destroy liberty, to ruin the earth for all who love liberty!

ORDER IN SOCIETY

Pope Pius XII insists on the truth that order must be the foundation on which government is founded. Disorder produces totalitarianism, order produces democracy. Where God is forgotten or banished, where the dignity of man is destroyed, where men are enslaved to the state, there is disorder. Where natural and divine law are forgotten, where good and evil are determined by the will of a dictator, there is disorder. No system built on disorder can rightly be called a government.

Peace in the world in the years ahead must be predicated on the existence of proper order in the individual nations. Right order provides for peace in the nation, which can then use its peaceful resources to promote peace in the world at large. Internal union among all the people and all the elements in a nation is the goal of order; no mere juxtaposition of parts can be a substitute for this, no mere linking together of people and groups. Order is present when all the people tend toward internal union in society, when their striving actually produces a nearer approach to this goal. "A more perfect union was one of the things desired by the founding fathers in creating our constitution.

Such union can be had only when God is recognized as the first cause of society, its ultimate foundation. The unalienable rights which fit the dignity of man come from Him. Society must strive for the consecration, development and perfection of the human person, of man. The economic wrongs of unbridled capitalism have ever tended to make man just a beast of burden; interest in man was measured by his productive capacity alone. Totalitarianism substituted state oppression of the many for that of capitalism. Ethics and religion became a fade-out. Man became a creature of the state, without rights, without claim on the state.

Natural and divine law must be the norms according to which the state must seek to fulfill its purpose. God's law must govern states and rulers even as it governs individuals. Blasphemy, oppression of the Church, regimentation of children along pagan lines, murder, the killing off of the aged and diseased, stealing of property, waging wars of conquest, are sins forbidden to the state even as to individuals. No possibility of change in these eternal laws can be admitted. More of the need of a legal basis for all government in later editorials.

THE COURIER LOOKS UP

Your COURIER has served the interests of the people of the diocese for over half a century. It has been a needed and a valued instrument for Catholic action in all our homes. It is the answer of the diocese under five Bishops to the demand for a Catholic newspaper as declared by Pope and Bishops, by priests and people.

God's Church means so much to all its members, has so many activities varied in time and place that affect its members, has a continuing and pressing duty to impart instruction in doctrine and discipline, that it must have a Catholic Press as its necessary instrument of expression. Catholic interests world-wide, national, local; Catholic events in the Church at large or in the diocese or parish; Catholic re-

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY

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Birds Of A Feather

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

According to the news items released by the United Press-Pratt, the Birth Control group of New York entertained the "Planned Parenthood Federation of America" in late January. The guest of honor at dinner was Professor Hooton who at Harvard studies human beings by concentrating on empty skulls of prehistoric men. (Like studying a Steinway by removing the strings and waiting until there is no musician in the house.)

If the news item is correct, the Birth Controllers have the right man to push their race elimination to its logical conclusion. Quite forthrightly, Professor Hooton is quoted as advocating "biological improvement of man through forced physical mating, compulsory divorce, compulsory sterilization, compulsory birth control, abortion, infanticide, and ruthless suppression or extermination of millions of the unfit" to counteract human degeneration.

Hitherto, I have felt that Herr Hitler owed the Birth Controllers much. They cut the population of France until conquest was easy. They are working hard to cut the population of America. But if the Harvard anthropologist is correctly quoted, even Herr Hitler probably will wash his hands of the outfit. He never had a program for the upbuilding of the Master Race that was comparable to that.

Can you imagine what the soul of a nation would be like after it had built magnificent bodies by the means suggested? Let's you and I pray that we are dead, and long the solidly dead, before our land and our race falls into hands like that. Wouldn't even Hitler really be a better bet?

Relative Values

I like the incident of the officer's wife who cried when her husband came back unexpectedly. He'd been gone for two years, and had seen dangerous, fearful service in Bataan and the South Seas. When he got the unexpected chance to fly home, he did, and with no opportunity to warn his wife, walked into her kitchen. She was baking a cake, with a dozen eggs poised on the sink. When she saw her husband, she fainted dead away, and in her fall knocked the eggs off the sink and broke them all.

She recovered and burst into tears over the smashed eggs.

No Planner?

Sometimes the most surprising things will give your faith an enormous lift. For instance, recently in the January 25th issue of Life I found in an article on Soldiers and Fear this passage: "Fear is the body's preparation for action. The heart pounds faster, pumping blood more rapidly to the arms and legs and brain, where its oxygen is needed. The lungs do their part by quickened

breathing. Blood pressure goes up. Adrenalin, which is nature's own 'shot in the arm' is poured liberally into the blood stream. Sugar is released into the blood to act as fuel for the human fighting machine. Subtle changes in body chemistry, automatically affected by powerful emotion, serve to protect the soldier in action in ways he would never think of. He loses temporarily the sense of fatigue even though he may be dog-tired."

And yet there are men who say that the world is an accident, that man simply evolved blindly from the lower animals, and that there is no God who planned and organized this amazing creature that is a human being. How utterly reasonable faith in God seems.

"Please Get Me"

The property men in Hollywood are, of course, magicians crossed with expert mechanics and a dash of artful on the side. They are likely to be asked for anything from a live shark to the head of an authentic mummy, from a flock of yellow jackets to a hook fully baited for tarpon fishing or a batch of fresh fudge.

But I find that the girls who do specialty work in the advertising agencies are almost as miraculous. One of them recently wrote me at the end of an exhausting day. They were photographing a model for a national advertiser, and during the course of the day she was asked to dig up: A large size pair of binoculars (the Army and Navy has 'em all); cuff links with a glitter to them; a pair of boxing gloves; a stop watch (no more of these are being made) and a red tractor (the gov. is using all the red paint.) Otherwise she had a peaceful afternoon.

Natural Enough Query

The BVM nun who taught first grade had a sweet way of calling all her youngsters doll. This morning she looked out the window and saw her charges playing in a very threatening and dark day. So she picked out a particularly alert little boy and beckoned to him.

"Look doll," she said, "run out and tell the other dolls to come into school. It's too damp out." "Yes'ter," he said, and obediently trooped down the stairs. But halfway down he stopped abruptly and turned slowly. On his face was a thoroughly puzzled expression. "Sister," he asked, "it's too damn what?"

Chosen Guardian

St. Joseph, the shadow of the Eternal Father upon earth, the protector of Jesus in His home at Nazareth, and the lover of all children for the sake of the Holy Child, should be the chosen guardian and pattern of every true Christian family.

Red Cross Nurses' Aides serve injured civilians.

Diocesan Recordings

"A man becomes what he reads," declared Frank J. Sheed in the Christian Culture Lecture, Sunday night, at Rochester Chamber of Commerce. We offer it as a Catholic Press Month thought. Can a man become a well-informed layman in his own diocese without reading his diocesan newspaper? Read Sheed's observation again.

Bill Buckley of our staff says the trouble with Russia is there is "a gremlin in the Kremlin." And again that the shoe rattling is to "save soles."

The First Friday Luncheon Club encouraged in Rochester by His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, state chaplain of the Knights of Columbus and sponsored by Rochester Council, has demonstrated that Catholic men like the idea.

Coming together after receiving Holy Communion in honor of the Sacred Heart and listening to inspiring and informal addresses by their priests, a new atmosphere for men in the work-a-day world is created.

The movement, like the laymen's retreat movement and nocturnal adoration, can well be advanced in the diocese. The spiritual benefits are obvious, but the advantages to Catholic men breaking bread together can also be considered. The example in the community will be an influence as the numbers attending First Friday Luncheon Clubs grow.

QUERIES and REPLIES

Why Should We Have To Suffer? I Hate The Very Idea.

Man naturally hates suffering but suffering is God's own way of making man Christlike. If we love God truly and unselfishly, we must be willing to prove the worth of our love by our readiness to suffer for Him. Christ has borne for us sufferings a million times greater than any we can endure. As truly as Christ died upon a Cross and saved the world by His suffering and death, so truly must our sufferings, if they are endured for the love of God, have a deep spiritual significance for us.

The significance of our Savior's suffering and death was the redemption of the world. The significance of our suffering and death, endured for God's sake, is that we thereby can make reparation for our sins and win divine grace for ourselves and others. In Heaven we shall clearly see that what made us especially dear to God were the sufferings which we endured out of love for Him. The love which can make the greatest sacrifices is the most unselfish and unselfish love conquers the heart of God.

He who does not learn to read the Cross of Christ as he would read an open book will never learn to suffer from a motive of love. He will think that readiness to suffer is more folly. But suffering is no folly.

Suffering is the training school of the soul. The Cross is the only "blind-flying instrument" that can guide us safely and joyously through the fog of sin and sorrow that so often encompasses the soul. The Cross is a program, a philosophy of life. All other philosophies lead to hatred and destruction. Only the Cross leads to love and life.

It is worth living only insofar as it brings us into contact with what is everlasting and divine. Christ with a Cross on His back is the one and only teacher of mankind. (From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Missouri.)

Feast Days

- Sunday, Feb. 14 - ST. VALENTINE
Monday, Feb. 15 - ST. FAUSTINUS AND JOYITA
Tuesday, Feb. 16 - ST. JULIANA
Wednesday, Feb. 17 - FLIGHT INTO EGYPT
Thursday, Feb. 18 - ST. SIMEON
Friday, Feb. 19 - ST. CONRAD
Saturday, Feb. 20 - ST. MELDRED