Least He Lose It

He who would keep the grace of God, let him be grateful for it when it is given, and patient when it is taken away. Let him pray that it may be given back to him, and be careful and humble lest he lose it.—Imitation.

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Pastor

Rev. John M. O'Beirne
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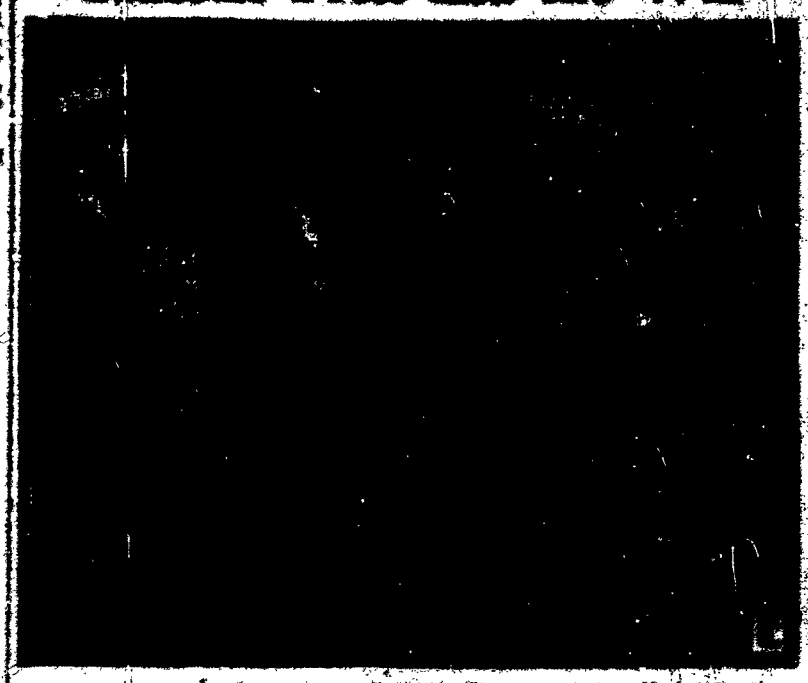
Catholic Press and the War



Three former members of the Catholic Press were reunited recently in Chicago when they met after Mass at Holy Name Cathedral. Pictured shaking with Monsignor Joseph P. Morrison, rector of the Cathedral and auxiliary chaplain of the armed forces in the Chicago area are these former members of the staff of The New World, Chicago Archdiocese weekly. Left to right, Lieut. Joseph Wehrman, U. S. N., former assistant news editor; Lieut. John DeChant, U. S. M. C., former news editor, and one-time editor of the N. C. C. W. Bulletin, and Cpl. Wm. Agar, U. S. A., former War World photographer. Bob Kerr photo. (NCWC.)

TIMELY ETERNALS

By Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter M. H. Wynhoven
Editor-in-Chief, Catholic Action of the South

IMMINENT NATIONAL DANGER

Years ago, President Theodore Roosevelt warned this nation against a disastrous, self-inflicted evil that might befall the country if we were not careful. He termed it race suicide, willful extermination of our own race. In order that a people may preserve itself, there must be

around three to four children to a family. Today, we are a little below that average. Yet, Margaret Sanger, though somewhat mellowed by time, still is embarrassing the stark by advocating spaced birth or family regulation. Too many of our citizens, especially among the rich and educated classes, are too godless and selfish to accept the obligations of raising the children whom the Creator is willing to send them. The one and two-child families still are too numerous to guarantee the healthy growth of the U. S. A.

In 1941, in the city of New York, 616 teachers and 78 principals lost their positions because of the decreasing numbers of children. A check-up of the married graduates of our leading universities revealed a distressful condition. The progeny of Yale graduates averaged 1¾, Harvard, ¾, and Princeton, ½, demonstrating an alarmingly sad and ruthless disregard for God's will and the country's welfare.

Dr. Paul Popenoe, director of the American Institute of Family Relations, in Los Angeles, observes: "The birth rate has fallen so low in the United States at present that the probability is less than one in eight that the male descendants of any newborn infant will continue to perpetuate his family name. Of all women who marry, in the white population of the United States, one-fourth will never produce a child apiece, another fifth, two children apiece. This leaves, roughly speaking, one-third of all white wives producing more-or-less normal families, since three or more children per married couple are necessary to keep the race from dying out. In simple calculation, at the present rate of birth, a city of 300,000 population today will have only 100,000 inhabitants in 100 years from now, unless its numbers are augmented by outside increases."

Artificial birth control is contrary to nature. It ignores the very end for which marriage is instituted, which purpose is recognized by all right-thinking people. To choose solely sterile pleasure in the intimate relationship of married life is worse than animalistic. God could easily have chosen another way to propagate the human race, had He not intended the relations of the sexes for that objective. A marital relation frustrating its primary purpose is an abomination in the eyes of the Creator and must call for the curse on the head whose deliberate acts are guilty of this awful, God-defying sin.

Artificial birth control is harmful to health. Again, Dr. Paul Popenoe says: "Within any ordinary group, it is the women with the largest family who live longest, not the childless or unmarried women." Artificial birth control, according to the most conservative medical authorities in the world, is unhealthy and harmful, both physically and psychologically. There is many a husband today who has more grief and worry with one wife than he possibly could have had with a houseful of children. And there are also not a few who spend more money keeping their wives in insane asylums or hospitals than it would have cost them to raise half a dozen children.

Birth control carries in its wake an avalanche of desperate results and maladjustments. Moral decay and artificial birth control go hand in hand. We find as the result abortion, the wanton, cruel killing of unborn children. Recently, an authority has figured that, in this country, an abortion is performed every minute. Think of this horrible crime being committed every 60 seconds! Immorality among the unmarried not only has increased, but has become more brazen. Divorce has grown rapidly, particularly among childless and near-childless couples.

In 1936, in "The Disowned Soldier," page 249, we wrote: "We fear Japan as a future antagonist. Maybe she is preparing for conquest. Whereas she formerly led in divorces granted, she now has laws that tend to hold marital misconduct within legitimate bounds. From 1894 to 1906, she had 364 divorces on a 100,000-population basis; today, only about 19. Japan is unmistakably returning to national health and strength through this wise policy. Your red-blooded American citizen, keep this in mind: Japan is yearly getting stronger, and the United States is annually getting weaker."

Birth control and divorce sap the vitality of our race and will eventually kill it.

Joins Navy Brothers

Chicago — Following the footsteps of his three brothers, the Rev. John Ireland Gallery, has joined the Navy. He will serve as a chaplain. Father Gallery formerly was assigned to a parish at Manhattan, near Joliet. His three brothers in the Navy are: Capt. Daniel Gallery, Comdr. William Gallery and Lt. Comdr. Philip Gallery.

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