

Catholic Courier

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With the Approbation of the
MOST REVEREND JAMES EDWARD KEARNEY, D.D.
Bishop of Rochester

The EDITORIAL COUNCIL 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

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

It was a long time that Patrick first knew Ireland. Stripped away from the home of his father, he became a swineherd in the land of his captivity. The years that elapsed until his escape taught him the beauties of the country, taught him to love the good qualities of the Irish, imbued him with an admiration for both law and people, that were the foundation in a material way for the longing to return to that beautiful isle that saw its fulfillment in his return as Bishop and Apostle.

Patrick was God's blessing to Ireland and to the world. God raised him up for the work of converting Ireland, God raised him up to spread the Catholic faith through his converts and their descendants over all of Europe, and eventually to the Americas and Australia.

Patrick's life stands through all the years as a powerful sermon on the sublimity of faith in Jesus Christ. Up and down could have little effect on one whose life was buried with Christ in God. Years of struggle, of sacrifice, of suffering, bore fruit in the complete conversion of pagan tribes to the teachings of the Saviour. Patrick loved his converts, rejoiced to see their natural traits blossom forth into supernatural virtue under the fostering influence of divine grace. Patrick longed for the salvation of all the Irish, contemporaries and the children of the years to come. He prayed that they might never fall away from the faith. He still utters the same prayer in Heaven.

All the world celebrates St. Patrick's Day. True followers of Patrick will observe the day with rejoicing at the glory of the Saint of Erin, and with humble self-examination to see if their faith and their devotion to its claims are in line with what St. Patrick would ask of them. May St. Patrick continue to pray for that dear country, may Patrick continue to help all its children wherever they be, may St. Patrick by his intercession, with Jesus and Mary, help to bring peace to the sons and daughters of Erin and to their fellows in the faith throughout the world!

HELP YOUR COURIER

The work of securing more and more subscribers to the COURIER must go on till there is a "Courier in every home." We urge our present subscribers to give in their name on renewal at once to their Pastor.

Help the number of subscribers, new and old, grow by your own striving; send in your name to the Pastor, prompt your neighbor to send in his. Do it now! Follow Bishop Kearney's exhortation, help make actual his slogan—"A Courier in every home!"

NOT FOUNDED ON LAW

A juridical order is one that is founded on law, natural and divine. Any positive law, man-made law, must correspond with natural and divine law to make a true juridical order. No government can have any claim on the heart of man that is not based on a juridical order. But there have been, there are so-called governments, that violate the very principle of law in their assumptions and claims. Some say that might makes right; that any law made by the state must be right if the state can make people obey. This would make the law its own norm of judgment, would free it of any need of conforming to an external standard of right or wrong. To accept this form of judicial positivism would be to abandon all claim to a basic morality for legislation, for government.

A second error would claim special powers in the juridical order for one nation as against another. It would mark some as set to rule, some as set to obey; it would separate nations into master-nations and slave-nations. Master races, master nations, master classes, can have no place in any order that is based on law. The Holy Father insists that God has not given to one nation the right and duty to lord it over another nation; nor to one race, one class, the right and duty to dominate another race, another class. Our Constitution insists on the same truth, that all men are born free and equal, endowed with rights that no man can take from them, rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Under God nations should be just as free and just as equal one to another as any individuals. Might may subdue, may deprive nations, races, classes, of their rights; such domination can never become a matter of right.

The third error spoken of by the Holy Father is the notion of the absolute state, the state that is an end in itself, subject neither to criticism nor control, governed by no law that is not its own. It is the negation of the juridical order, the order based on natural and divine law. The world sees today the absolute state based on Communism, sees also the absolute state based on Fascism, sees the absolute state based on Nazism. The sources are different, the absolutism is the same. The state is here a supreme entity, above all, standing alone and absolute. It can do no wrong. All men must bow to it. No man dare criticize it. All is fair in its dealings with its subjects and with other states; the means that will work is always good, morality never entering into the consideration. Men have no rights, merely the duty of unquestioning service to the absolute state. All lovers of freedom will rejoice at the stern condemnation the Holy Father speaks against this abomination of errors against the juridical order.

(Continued on Page 18)

QUERIES and REPLIES

Will The World War Destroy Religion?

The World War will affect the Catholic Church indeed, but it will not destroy it for the reason that the Catholic Church has within it the indestructible Spirit of God. That Spirit of God has enabled it to survive other and even worse storms in its long history of nearly two thousand years.

In this restless world of revolutionary changes the Church stands stable and unshaken. In the midst of persecution it alone is permanent. In an age of doubt it alone is sure. The mists of ages hang over it and yet it alone faces the future with all the energy and vitality of youth. It labors in every land; it is the self-same everywhere.

The Church speaks to all peoples in their own tongues. It moves as easily in the forests of Central Africa as it does in the cultured centers of civilization. In the throes of war it speaks only peace but it confronts war and peace with equal energy and resolution. It has no guns or airplanes, no tanks or armored cars, and yet it will live long after the nations great in battle are gone. For its life is the life of the Spirit of God which cannot die nor suffer destruction. (From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defender of the Faith, Conception, Wisconsin.)

Startling Book Review

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

Barry is one of the country's most able writers. Sometimes he hits the jackpot with a wonderful short story. Sometimes he is a little short of wit. In fact, he seems to like himself best and think he is good copy when he is a little on the nutty side.

In a reputable metropolitan newspaper, I just found a review of his latest book—a novel borrowing from half a dozen authors the title *The Mamma Comedy*. The review is signed, and the reviewer among other things has this to say: "Dante wrote *The Divine Comedy*; Barry has written *The Mamma Comedy*. Of the two I find the latter more readable and rewarding. There is something of the *Heimlich* on the Mount, something of Dickens' *Christmas Carol* in it. It is an April morning after a long winter of fear and hate. It is Christian in a sense that organized religion never will be Christian. It is our prediction that more than half a million (copies) will be sold during 1943. It deserves to become a perennial best seller since its message is as timeless as *The New Testament*."

Even Barry could hardly ask for more. Pat doesn't that please make you despair of honest, objective, intelligent book criticism. The *New Yorker* might well head that blurb, *Omgodsh!*

Mountain Out-land

Sometimes you realize that *Mountain Out-land* just isn't a caricature but something in the way of understatement.

The picture for whom I was saying the morning Mass realized that I was a stranger in their city as they volunteered to send for me and leave me brought to their rather remote chapel. I was waiting at the rectory where I had spent the night when I heard the car drive up to the door. Footsteps came up the stairs, passed, and then refused. That was odd, I thought, for I had imposed on the parish light and the house itself was warmly lighted as I pulled the door open as the last driver was stepping back into his cab.

"Just a minute," I called, "haven't you come for me?" He looked out the window of his cab. "I dunno," he said. By this time I was down to the cab. "I'm Father Lord," I said, "is that the name you're looking for?" "They didn't give me no name," he answered. "Well, where were you sent to the corner?" "I dunno, just to the corner of these here streets, and there are four corners." I decided that I must be the corner he wanted and got in. "Take me to the corner," I said and named the city's best known and largest academy.

"Where's that?" he asked. "I'm the stranger here," I answered. "Don't you know where your own big school are?" I should have known that his acquaintance with schools was sketchy, but as he sat there inert, I went back into the Rectory, looked up the address in the phone book and came back with "2039 Oregon Street."

"2039?" he asked. "2030," I corrected. He slipped into gear and killed his engine. We stopped at the first cross street and he killed his engine. Just to avoid too much repetition, every time he paused for any reason, he killed his engine. But we drove on through the early morning's dew until suddenly he pulled up before an all-night restaurant.

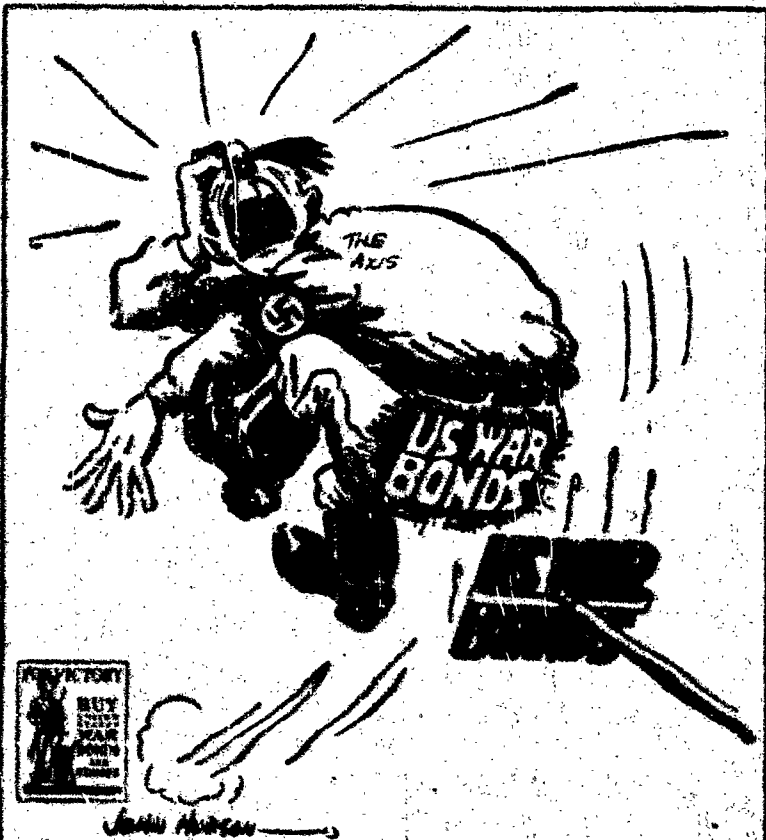
"I'll be back in a minute," he said, and dived inside. After a long lapse during which the motor continued to click, he reappeared. "I just wanted to find out where Oregon Street is," he said. "Well, do you know now?" I demanded, and he said, "Yup," and turned around in the middle of the street and headed back. We swung to the right at a big thoroughfare and drove on for a mile or so. A small gas station beamed to our port. He wheeled into it. "I gotta ask these guys where I'm going," he said.

Through the glass of the filling station I saw their consult maps, so the accompaniment of my clicking motor. He reappeared. "I get it this time," he said, and we wheeled off again into space. We rode and rode; the hour for my Mass came and was passed; we were clearly coming into the country and the houses grew fewer and fewer.

"Hey, wait!" I cried. "Have you any idea in the world where Oregon Street is?" "Oregon?" he demanded. In amazement. "I thought you said Orange."

We found another open filling station and located Oregon about two miles from our original starting place. Now if you'll read that in your best Briard accent, you'll get just how it all sounded to me. Or maybe it's an *Aller* in *Wonderland* character come to life.

ONE WAY TO BRAND HIM



U. S. Treasury Dept. The Columbus, Ohio, Office.

Diocesan Recordings

That financial examination of conscience, the income tax report, comes almost at the same time with the examination of conscience for the Easter duty. Neither should be put off too long.

Parents or friends seeking a pamphlet to send to boys in service are recommended to the Catholic Central Verein of America, 3335 Westminister Place, St. Louis, Mo., where copies of "Guide Right" may be procured.

Reflections on a First Friday Luncheon Club. It is an organization open to Catholic men who assemble at luncheon provided they have received Holy Communion on the First Friday. It draws men close to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. They are given an opportunity to make reparation for offenses against the Sacred Heart. In Rochester the men hear an inspiring address on doctrine from the learned professors of St. Bernard's Seminary. The men go back to their business pursuits and cannot help but diffuse the spirit of the meetings to others. Their example is salutary in the community. Men who find it impossible to join with the others at the luncheon can receive Holy Communion in the First Friday. The time is opportune with so many

men having sons or daughters in the service for the development of First Friday Luncheon Clubs which are conducive to extra devotion apart from Sunday church going.

A non-Catholic inquired last week of the Procedure on obtaining Mass Cards and this was outlined on Page 17 of the Mar. 4, 1943 issue of the CATHOLIC COURIER. To point to be made here is that the inquirer wrote us that his Catholic acquaintances did not seem to be enough informed to give him the answer. It points out once again that some Catholics are in need of learning more about their religion. Another instance of the value of a publication devoted to Catholic interests. The *Inquirer* knew where to turn when the lay persons he expected information from were unable to give it.

It is no happiness to live long nor unhappiness to die soon; happy is he that lived long enough to die well.

Rejoice with those that rejoice, weep with them that weep. Be of one mind, use toward another. Rom. XII, 15, 16.

Clips

New shirts, through rationing, may be fastened by only one pin; (only) then we can get into one (without feeling as though we've landed a porcupine. — Niagara Falls Gazette.

Fast Days

- Sunday, Mar. 14—FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT.
- Monday, Mar. 15—ST. ZACHARY.
- Tuesday, Mar. 16—ST. PHILIP.
- Wednesday, Mar. 17—ST. PATRICK, BISHOP AND APOSTLE OF IRELAND.
- Thursday, Mar. 18—ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM.
- Friday, Mar. 19—ST. JOSEPH.
- Saturday, Mar. 20—ST. CUTHBERT.