

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. It does not merely 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."

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ST. JOSEPH

Yesterday is St. Joseph's Day. It is naturally one of the brightest Feasts in the Church's calendar, as Joseph is among the greatest saints honored by the Church. The great working order of the diocese, the Sisters of St. Joseph, takes the lead in the observance of the Feast. A Pontifical Mass begins for them at their Motherhouse the festivities of their patronal day. In all their convents throughout the diocese solemn ceremonies, special prayers and devotions, are in order on this day.

But St. Joseph is for all, not for a favored few. He is the Patron of the Universal Church. His fame and glory follow in the way blazed by his foster Son, Jesus Christ. It is not confined to one nation, one country, one continent. Christ came to save all men; Joseph in caring for Christ, has a corresponding love for all whom Christ came to save. With becoming propriety has the Holy Father named Joseph Patron of the Universal Church. Joseph is for all of us a Patron in life, he is for all of us likewise, a Patron in death.

The divine wisdom chose Joseph among all men as fitted for the office of Head of the Holy Family, Guardian of Christ. That choice speaks potently of the virtues, natural and supernatural, that dwell within his soul. That choice speaks volumes of the special graces that made the natural powers of Joseph equal to the great call made upon them. All our problems in life have their counterparts in the problems that faced Joseph. Therefore can he fill well the place of a living Model for us, then, for can we call on him to help us in every daily trial. "Go to Joseph," was the advice given to those of the Old Testament who were in need; "Go to Joseph," is the advice Holy Mother Church gives to us of the New Dispensation.

Joseph's life was blessed by the nearness of Jesus and Mary. Joseph's death was made joyful and happy by their presence at his passing. He is the Patron of a Happy Death for all of us, his children. Let no day pass that does not include a prayer to Joseph, our help in life, our refuge in death!

FOR AMERICA!

Loving service for our boys injured in battle, lonely in prison, homeless in camp or on-board ship, is the constant ministrations of the Red Cross. For America, the boys of America, we labor and we strive when we make the Red Cross the vehicle of our beneficence. The work of the grown-ups in our communities in supplying the quotas asked for this work of mercy is a matter of pride to all. The call is a mighty one, the amount asked matches the size of the call, the appeal must still knock at the hearts of all before the quota can be fully raised.

Our little ones in the parochial schools match the interest and the generosity of their elders in their devotion to the Red Cross Drive. Radio and newspapers and the talk of their elders keep them posted on war matters. They know the urgent need the Red Cross serves. And they are bringing forth their pennies and nickels and dimes to do their part in raising the amount needed that the Red Cross may continue to serve. Bishop Kearney shows his pride in all these pupils by his words of commendation, and by grant of them the unexpected holiday of Monday in appreciation of their work for the American Red Cross.

ARCHBISHOP SPELLMAN AND HIS CHAPLAINS

It is no empty calling to be leader of all the Catholic Chaplains in our Army and Navy. It is a very active office beginning with the selection of priests for chaplain duty from all the dioceses, from all the religious orders, submitting them to the training for their military and religious duties, following them in their assignments to camp and to ship, regulating their activities much as a Bishop cares for the priests of his diocese. Archbishop Spellman has been busy in the near and far parts of America visiting his men in service, encouraging them in the best possible ministry, pointing out the high ideals and unselfish purpose of our President and our country in fighting this war for the rights of free men.

Now North Africa finds him imitating his Commander in Chief in personal visitation of his Chaplains and the men under them. It is a long distance interest in them he demonstrates, but an interest that carries him to their stations and camps and battlefronts. The morale of our men must go up when they find so close at hand the inspiring presence of gifted leaders.

JESUS ON THE MOUNTAIN

Lent brings us first the picture of Jesus on the Mountain of Temptation. Mt. Quarantal in the desert region west of Jericho. Led there by the Holy Spirit, He fasted and then met the devil and his temptations. His fasting, His victory over temptation, make a fitting example for His followers as today they enter on the Season of Lent.

Lent in its 2nd Sunday also shows us Jesus on the Mountain, now on the Mountain of the Transfiguration. Idle curiosity of the devil, wicked curiosity, remained unsatisfied on Mt. Quarantal: the glory and the power and the majesty of the God-Man were not revealed to him. Faith had its day on the Mount of the Transfiguration, Mount Tabor; no idle curiosity in Peter and James and John, but unquestioning faith in Jesus as the Son of God, the Savior of Mankind; no wicked planning in their hearts to spoil Christ's work, but burning zeal to share in that work.

(Continued on Page 19)



The Venustian Fathers of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Novena Band have issued this poster to postures throughout the country to enlist volunteers for "Mary's Kneeling Army." Devoted by Arthur Joseph Maloney, it will be used in the crusade to win for our armed forces heavenly aid for a quick victory, a lasting peace and a safe return of our fighters. Illustration courtesy of Brooklyn Tablet, (N.C.W.C.)

The Catholic Church And Electric Toasters

Is it more important that a man have an electric toaster or that he keep the Ten Commandments? Which is the mark of greater culture? Not that people who have electric toasters don't keep the Ten Commandments, or that people who don't keep the Ten Commandments generally have electric toasters.

In fact, we're getting all fubbed up, and it's just because someone asked us last week, why Catholic countries are so backward. At first we denied that Catholic countries are backward, but then we couldn't agree on what being backward meant. He thought it meant not having gadgets like electric toasters; and we thought it meant being selfish and pleasure-crazy.

When he spoke of France as a Catholic country, we had to admit at once that there are about 30,000,000 of the French who don't even make their Easter duty. Then when we mentioned the United States as a Protestant country, he laughed and said that 30,000,000 of us Americans don't go to church at all, and of those who do, half are Catholics.

For the sake of argument, though, we allowed that having money might mean progress and that lack of it could mean being backward. Of course, he spoke of Jesus at once. Then we brought out some of Our Lord's words about the rich. "Woe to you that are rich," and so on. And we told him how it was Dives and not Lazarus who had been condemned.

He said he had been thinking of England, which is Protestant and prosperous. We reminded him that Spain had once been prosperous—and Catholic. Then we spoke of Egypt, Assyria, Rome and Greece, which had been pagan and prosperous. In fact, it seemed to us that "Every dog has his day." Catholic or Protestant, and if the countries of South America have been poor in the past, then they must be slated for great things in the future. Catholic or Protestant; otherwise our State Department wouldn't be going so far out of its way to court them.

You can see that our argument didn't get very far. We think we had the last word, though. We told him that it isn't the business of the Catholic Church to make people rich and give them electric toasters; that if he can blame our Church for not doing those things, then we have just as much right to blame Franklin D. Roosevelt for not being able to get us all into saints. Rev. Richard Gluder.

We know a sweet young thing who thinks that all red-aged wines are made of elder berries. St. Paul "Knewer Express and Dispatch."

San Diego In Wartime

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

I reached San Diego by the single track that still carries a lone spur of the Santa Fe into the city, expecting to find a small town. I found one of the boom cities of America, a town that in about three years has doubled its population from 200,000 to somewhere in advance of 400,000. . . . and that does not include the servicemen. Those servicemen represent a variety of uniforms you'll not see anywhere else, and the widest possible types of warfairs: Marines, sailors, soldiers, airmen—North Island with its planes, enormous training fields, the great new Marine base, submarines, destroyers, barrage balloons. . . .

But it's the Consolidated Aircraft factories that knock your eyes out. They seem to stretch mile after mile, all the buildings magnificently camouflaged. A change of shifts is like the Saw of gigantic armies, for upwards of 42,000 people work in the plants. Sooner odd, by the way, that when once on a time publicists announced that industries would be moved inland, this enormous bomber plant lies as close to the ocean as it can be put. . . . I doubt if it is starting rumors to repeat the legend in San Diego that at least two Jap submarines got tangled and caught in the harbor's protective nets.

San Diego is one city where nobody bothers to look up. When a giant bomber aims the tops of the houses. That goes on all the time, and if you happen to be passing at the moment, you wait until the bomber has passed.

It doesn't take much imagination to grasp what has happened to housing facilities as a consequence of the 100 per cent rise in population. Though the government has built fine quarters for many of the service units, most people on arrival wish they had bought a tent along. The rent ceiling proved flexible. . . . for people who had never rented before had no ceiling to restrain them and when an unfurnished room was furnished, the price could be changed as Mr. Beyond that, it was common enough for a desperate room seeker to advertise "I will pay \$100 to anyone telling me of a place where my family and I can live." Often the one who told him was the person who also rented the room. Almost every house takes boarders. And apparently every house has a large and permanent sign: No Vacancies.

The food situation, as a consequence is pretty difficult too. You never get with a group of people who do not immediately start talking about the shortage. They brag about the piece of beef they se-

QUERIES and REPLIES

Is It True That the Catholic Church Would Force People To Become Catholics If the Devil So Willed?

This certainly is not true. No one may be added to the Church by force. You would not be admitted to the Catholic Church no matter how eagerly you might long for it unless you could honestly affirm that you believe everything that the Catholic Church teaches.

Interior conviction is absolutely essential for admittance into the Catholic Church on the part of every one possessing the use of reason.

When we speak of making America Catholic we mean merely that every Catholic should spare no effort to present the truth of our Holy Faith to the non-Catholic mind and endeavor to convince that mind of the moral necessity of accepting it. In this sense, we certainly do wish to make America Catholic. The Methodists would certainly like to make America Methodist; the Baptists, Baptist; but this can never be done except by convincing people of the truth of their respective claims. We can't "make" America Catholic by using force, that would be absolutely counter to the laws of the Church and to the Will of God. From the pen of Father Richard Potts, O.S.B., Defender of the Faith, Conception, Missouri.

St. Paul speaks eloquently of the trials which harass the true Christian, yet he says: "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice."

Along The Way

San Diego In Wartime

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

cured as if prohibition days people braged of the Scotch that had just come off the ship. Butcher shops close early in the day. Candy shops offer a few pieces of one or two kinds of candy.

And transportation! I returned to Los Angeles perforce on Saturday afternoon. The edge of the platform was packed with a mass of people. We were running the entire length of the station; they waited patiently for almost two hours for the delayed train, and packed it in a way to make a New York subway guard during rush hours feel ashamed.

Bishop Buddy, the first bishop of the newly created diocese, is setting a standard his successors will find difficult to maintain. His cathedral, rebuilt from a parish church, is in exquisite taste. He has put into his own house one of the levellest small chapels in the country, rebuilding a garage for the purpose. (That's a variant on the classic stable of Bethlehem; Mass in a former garage.) He is the sort of bishop who loves to talk to his people; on Sunday after Mass he preaches in his cathedral, though, because of the pressure of the thousands of servicemen in the vicinity, he has to play a constant part in their religious care—it is a heavy task.

Incidentally, Father James Keane, that splendid Servite who gave to the nation the Novena of the Sorrowful Mother, is now editing the Southern Cross, the diocesan paper.

If you want to see California's climate exactly the way the press agents and chambers of commerce assure us it is, visit San Diego. But you'd better wait until there is standing room once more. Right now you'll find it difficult to get into a hotel, motion picture theater, church, or market. The pleasant, quiet people who retired to San Diego to live happy, sunny years, are a little startled that the crowd has rushed in and turned their lovely city into Boom Town.

Feast Days

- Sunday, Mar. 11.—ST. BENE-DICT, ABBOT.
- Monday, Mar. 12.—ST. CATHERINE OF SWEDEN.
- Tuesday, Mar. 13.—ST. VICTORIAN AND OTHER MARTYRS.
- Wednesday, Mar. 14.—ST. GABRIEL ARCHANGEL.
- Thursday, Mar. 15.—THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.
- Friday, Mar. 16.—ST. LUDGER.
- Saturday, Mar. 17.—ST. JOHN OF EGYPTE.