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. 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 occurring 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.

EASTER BLESSINGS

May the fullness of Easter blessings be with you on the coming Sunday! Let your faith take you back over the years to the very day of the Resurrection. Feel with the followers of the Christ of Calvary the anguish of heart, the loss of hope, the utter desolation, that followed the last three hours of His life. Be present with them as that anguish gradually gives way to renewed joy in His presence, that loss of hope bows before evident fulfillment of the promised resurrection, that utter desolation makes way for the unending joy of the Easter Greeting, "Rabboni," "My Master!"

God's power is triumphant this Easter morning! On this day by His omnipotent might, the Father has through His only begotten Son, overcome death, has opened up to us the gate of everlasting life.

The historic record tells us clearly and candidly what the eyes of the witnesses of the resurrection actually beheld, what the senses of the followers of Christ truly perceived, what the people of Jerusalem knew as the great event of Easter day and of the forty days following. His friends knew it and rejoiced with new courage. His enemies knew it and strove to combat it with new wickedness. Christ died on Friday: Christ was alive again on Easter morning and on all the days following. 1900 years have witnessed the effect of the Resurrection on the world and on men in the spread of the religion of Christ, a faith based on the certainty of the Resurrection in the minds of the Apostles and of their disciples.

Our Easter prayer is to God the Father, that He Who by anticipating grace breathes good desires into our hearts, may by His continued help bring those desires into fruitful effect. Our good desires this year will have to do with an early end of the war through a just and lasting peace. These desires will take form in earnest prayer for all that suffer through the war, for God's blessing on all who fight so bravely for preservation of those freedoms He gave unto men, for a resurrection unto liberty of all those who have for a time fallen under the killing power of the despot, the dictator, the destroyer. The Risen Saviour is our guarantee that our prayer shall be heard, that Easter of 1943 shall surely find us nearer the happy day when all men can once more breathe in comfort and confidence God's own spirit of Christian liberty. May these be the Easter Blessings of 1943!

WORTHY OF A BETTER CAUSE

There is little in Communists for us to admire, and nothing in Communism for Americans to adhere to. Our laws recognize that a Communist can not be a true American, and our love for liberty instinctively makes us reject the pagan teachings of Communism. Russian courage and determination in this war have given us a picture of what a patriotic home-loving people can accomplish even in the face of all the difficulties and limitations a minority communistic government has placed upon them. What greater possibilities would present themselves were these brave Russian soldiers freed from pagan influence and given a government based on respect for the Four Freedoms!

But one must admire the persistence and the determination of the loyal Communist to make his system prevail. There may be half-hearted comrades here and there, there may be lukewarm fellow-travelers in this or that place: but they are marked by their scarcity. Usually a Communist is a zealot for his cause, still anxious to overcome past defeats, present difficulties, future dangers. He is working now to get the Allied Powers to injure their own cause by attacking Franco in Spain, forgetting that the forces of Communism went down to definite defeat in the recent Spanish War; he has books blatantly blistering the alleged poor record of Franco as ruler of Spain, which say nothing of the contrast that record presents with the tale of enslavement of the suppressed people of Russia under Communism: he has friendly reviewers who can see no good in things that are not red: he has his friends in the press, and in the magazines. Only the good sense, the seasoned judgment, of the average American, protects him against this one-sided campaign of propaganda.

Now the Reds are out after "The Fifth Seal," a book soon to be brought out by the Book-of-the-Month Club. The Daily Worker demands it be withdrawn "because it is subtly and viciously anti-Soviet." Many of them who have protested have not read the book, as shown in the case where Mr. Morley led one such person to state she was opposed to a chapter not in the book, and to a character not in it: "other passages equally objectionable as one you mention."

Catholics might well emulate their communistic neighbors in zeal for the defense of and the spread of the Christian Faith. If faith in things that are entirely temporal calls for such support from Communists, why should not the eternal faith of Jesus Christ lead Christians to at least like support of the Church that has given the world its basic culture?

ANOINT JESUS

The Easter Gospel starts out with preparations not for the resurrection, but rather for the permanent entombment of Jesus. Had the Apostles and disciples and the holy women maintained strong faith in Christ's promise that He would rise again, they would have prepared for this glorious event. They would have secured the assembly of all true friends of Christ to be ready at the tomb for this stupendous impending event. But it was no multitude, it was no cavalcade, it was no grand procession, that set forth very early on Sunday, the first day of the week, to visit the tomb. It was a tiny group, a group made up of the two Mary's, Magdalen and the mother of James, and

(Continued on Page 23)

STRANGE BUT TRUE
Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY

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Along The Way

Representative Luce

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

Collier's in a rather enlightening write up of the new "Glamour Girl in the House" admits that Clare Boothe Luce gets into most women's hair. Seems as if she might be getting into a lot of men's hair too. A friend in the Government reports to us that she really hurt Vice-President Wallace deeply when she coined the word "Globaloney" for his benefit. It was a wisecrack used to brush off a sincere man's sincere social aims. (The figure may be mixed; we hope the idea remains clear.)

"All of a sudden, writes our friend," a lot of men in Washington have decided that a woman's place is in the home."

It's going to take a lot of maneuvering to get Mrs. Luce into one and keep her there. Managing women are a problem even on a neighborhood scale. Imagine what a problem they can become when they grow to national proportions!

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Dad Had A Case

The woman with the two-year-old child, reports my pastor friend, poured out a sad tale of neglect on the part of her husband. He was uncommunicative, unkind, stayed away from home, and showed no love for her or the baby. So she wanted advice on getting a separation from the brute.

But as she talked, the two-year-old, undisturbed and uncorrected, performed. First she opened her mother's purse, took out the coins and poured them down the neck of her own dress and into a pile on the floor. Then she took her mother's lipstick and elaborately made up her baby mouth. Then she found mother's cigarettes and put one in her mouth. Her mother noticed this with amusement.

"She's so cute," she said. "The other day I found her trying to light one of them. And she's only two."

The priest decided he'd better not give any advice until he'd heard the husband's side of the story. It looked as if he probably had his reasons.

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Tall Tales

The artillery sergeant, says my friend the chaplain, found himself working with a particularly stupid outfit of recruits. To a sergeant all recruits are stupid, but these really rated the name—and his ironic wrath. They were supposed to be learning how to place their guns, and after elaborate explanation, he gave the right orders. The center guns swung into correct alignment. But to his fury he saw that the two guns, mortars, on the far ends of the line were pointed straight at each other.

He faced the recruits, hands on hips, wrath in his eye.

"Take a look at yourselves, will you, you palookas!" He glared, "Do you see anything wrong?"

The end gun crews looked puzzled, and then realized that their guns were pointed right into each other's barrels.

"Omigosh!" cried one of the recruits. "If we shot now, these two guns would be shooting right at ourselves. Or wouldn't they?"

"No," replied the sergeant with heavy irony, "not at all. You did exactly the right thing. Now, you see, when your shells leave your guns, they'd meet in mid-air, explode each other, and you'd be quite safe . . . quite safe."

"But suppose," stammered the recruit, "that the shells didn't hit each other?"

"Then that would be just too bad, a dead give away, in fact. We'd all be so ashamed. Because everybody would know that you were very, very inaccurate."

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Speaking of Prunes

As one who likes prunes, may I express sincere regret that the prune producers, and the prune market (according to what the Californians tell me) is getting a beating. Time was when the American prune was by way of being a national institution. But bad publicity did damage to its fair name. It became with hash the synonym for boarding house diet. (And there you have it again: Did you ever know a man who deep down in his heart didn't hanker for hash?) The jokesters played around with the questionably funny subject of the prune. "Rich men eat strawberries," said the communist; "poor men eat prunes. Comes the revolution, you'll all eat strawberries." "But I don't like strawberries," objects the reluctant convert; "I like prunes." "Comes the revolution," retorts the communist leader, "you'll eat strawberries and like 'em."

So the national zest for prunes has died down. The trees, which I am assured by Californians, are exquisitely beautiful in the spring flowering, bear the prunes to a reluctant market.

It looks as if a delicious fruit and a highly nutritious one needs a lot of good publicity, possibly a radio hour, that will restore the prune to the nation's palates and tables.

Feast Days

Sunday, Apr. 25—EASTER SUNDAY.

Monday, Apr. 26—OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL.

Tuesday, Apr. 27—ST. PETER CANISIUS.

Wednesday, Apr. 28—ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS.

Thursday, Apr. 29—ST. PETER OF VERONA.

Friday, Apr. 30—ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA.

Saturday, May 1—SS. PHILIP AND JAMES.

QUERIES and REPLIES

What Is The Meaning Of The Easter Rabbit As A Christian Symbol?

Eggs, lilies, and the rabbit have been associated with Easter since the earliest days of Christianity. One can readily understand the meaning of the Easter egg or the Easter lily as images of a resurrection from the shell or from the earth, but the meaning of the popular Easter rabbit is not so evident.

The outstanding qualities of the rabbit are its swiftness, its readiness to escape, and its ability to sleep with its eyes open. These characteristics are fittingly applied to the Resurrection of our Lord. Life is manifested by motion, death is likened to sleep. The swift rising from death is thus suggested by the figure in which the eye, the symbol of the soul, remains open even while the body sleeps. In the Catacombs and especially in the decorations of mediaeval architecture the symbol of the rabbit recurs frequently as a figure of Christ rising from the sleep of death.

—**Why Do Catholics Have Such A High Regard For The Pope?**

Apart from any question of religion, no one in this world is more deserving of respect than the Pope. The Popes have ever been the greatest benefactors of mankind. With few exceptions, they have ever been men of exalted virtue. Of the two hundred and sixty-two successors of St. Peter who have held supreme authority in the Church up to the present time, eighty-two have been canonized Saints, men preeminent for their sanctity of life. Of the first thirty Popes, twenty-nine died a martyr's death. Who in the past century, or at the present moment, holds a higher place in the estimate of all men for culture, character, honor, virtue and everything that goes with the Christlike life than the sovereign pontiffs of Rome?—**From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Missouri.**

Diocesan Recordings

Hope and peace are embodied in the Easter greetings this department extends on the sublime day the Prince of Peace rises triumphant over sin and death and the evils that produce wars.

By the Way—Buy Bonds

The campaign being carried on by the New York State Knights of Columbus for assistance to Chaplains in the armed forces has more significance than just a drive for money. "The Chaplain's aid is your serviceman's need" is no empty slogan thought up by Frank M. Beaucaire, chairman of the Rochester drive. Experiences of the Rev. John F. Murphy, C.SS.R., director of Our Lady of the Lake Diocesan Retreat House at Geneva would prove that. Father Murphy has been host to boys and girls from Sampson Naval Training Station coming on different weekends for spiritual solace at the retreat house. He has learned, as have all the Army and Navy Chaplains, that our fighting men who are many of them just beyond the boyhood stage got homesick and lonely. They want the comfort of their religion. The increase in Holy Communions in the camps reported by Bishop John F. O'Hara, Military Delegate to the United States is also evidence of that. It will make His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, most happy if this campaign for the Chaplains' Aid goes over in a big way. As State Chaplain of the K. of C. it will be his pleasure to turn the money over to Bishop O'Hara on May 2. The Knights are working to make this a fitting testimonial to their State Chaplain, but it will mean more than that to those who have sons and daughters in the service.

By the Way—Buy Bonds

Interesting isn't it that a Red Cross director could find the true Church in Middle East Africa and another soldier went all the way to India to be received into the Catholic Church. Both of these men sent word of their conversions to their wives as an Easter gift.

Omnipotence

God, and God alone, knows and wills and can give us more than we know how to desire.