

# Catholic Courier

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With the Approval 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 the 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.

## SOLDIERS OF CHRIST

All men are called to be soldiers of Jesus Christ. All must be ready to join battle with the powers and principalities and the spirits of evil in high places. This is, indeed, a spiritual battle; a battle with evil spirits who seek the destruction of souls dedicated to Christ. Baptism has made men children of God, has equipped them for their careers as God's children. Confirmation is God's Sacrament to give men power to be His soldiers, equipping them with the mark of God's militia and the graces and powers proper to their rank. Through Confirmation they receive the Holy Ghost with His seven gifts: the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity comes to dwell within them, to be a never-failing source of spiritual strength and knowledge and courage and wisdom, of love and prudence and solitary fear of the Lord. God's wisdom is revealed in this great Sacrament, which fits man unflinchingly for all the difficulties and dangers of the contest that lies ahead. It is the perfection of the gifts that came in Baptism; it makes one a strong and perfect Christian, a soldier of Jesus Christ.

This Sunday is noteworthy among the Sundays of the year because it marks the enrollment of hundreds of new soldiers in the army of Christ, through the Sacrament of Confirmation. Two classes present themselves to Bishop Kearney on this day, classes made up of grown men and women, for the most part converts to the Church. At Corpus Christi Church in the afternoon, at the Pro-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, in the evening these adult classes will hear the words of the Bishop: "May the Holy Ghost come upon thee, and power of the Most High keep thee from sin, Amen." Then the class coming to the altar will receive the anointing with Christ on their foreheads, the tap on the cheek, with the words, "I sign thee with the sign of the cross, and I confirm thee with the Christ of salvation in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. Peace be with thee."

This event means much to the two classes of adults: it means much to all of us. It is a matter of rejoicing for those confirmed because it tempers and enhances the joy that was theirs in Baptism; it gives them courage that God has surrounded His own with the protection of the Holy Spirit, has given them the lasting gifts of the Holy Spirit to be their enduring strength against all assaults of the evil one. It means much to all of us because it reminds us of our Confirmation, of our abiding obligation to remain true to the dignity of soldiers of Christ that we assumed in our Confirmation. It tells us of our duty of praying and working that others not of the fold may receive the blessing of conversion to Church of Jesus Christ.

## CHARITY WINS A NEW VICTORY

The COURIER congratulates the Rochester Community and War Chest on the success of its campaign. We congratulate all that had a part in this success as workers, officials, contributors. There is a thrill in seeing the people of a community answering so unanimously the call for charity, for help to those in need, for special service to soldiers and sailors and marines in their billets, for aid to so many relief organizations in the Allied countries! There is a thrill in beholding thousands of willing workers leaving their work or using their leisure time to promote the cause of community giving!

There is an added thrill in seeing such general cooperation with these workers on the part of the public. It was no perfunctory response, it was a response that meant sacrifice, that meant the giving of large amounts. It was a response that spoke volumes of the intelligent understanding of the Community and War Chest and its work on the part of our citizens. To Mr. Finucane and his splendid organization, to Harry Worcham and his skilled corps, Rochester and its citizens are deeply indebted for this Campaign that has translated into action the spirit of charity that dwells in the heart of this army of contributors.

## A RIGHTEOUS PROTEST

The German people will ever have reason to be grateful to the Bishops of Germany for the dignified and brave protest they have made to a pagan government against the public attacks on religion at home and abroad, against the persecutions and abuses that are making the name of Germany hated.

Unconditional surrender of the forces that have brought ruin to Germany and to subject countries, that have sought in vain to conquer all the world, will follow on victory for the Allied Arms.

That surrender will be the beginning of better things for Germany and for the world. Murder and rapine and persecution will be off the program from that moment. Peace and order and freedom shall return to their place in the lives of men.

God bless the German Bishops for their loyal and courageous pronouncement! Heroes are not confined to one country or one people or one age. A high place among the heroes of this day must be reserved for men who have spoken the truth in the face of danger as these German Bishops have spoken it.

## QUERIES and REPLIES

Does The Protestant New Testament Have The Same Number Of Books As The Catholic Bible?

All Christian bodies today hold the same number of books as far as the Canon of the New Testament is concerned. The Anglicans and Calvinists, together with the Orthodox Russian and the Greek Schismatic Churches, have always kept the whole New Testament identical with the Catholic Church. The Old Testament Bible formerly left out some of the books of the New Testament. Luther himself rejected Hebrews, James, Jude and the Apocalypse; to these four the followers of Luther in the first generation added Second Peter and Second and Third John.

By the year 1700 Lutheran scholars, recognizing the mistake made by their master and his immediate followers, restored seven of these books to the Bible and printed them as integral parts of the sacred volume. The only trace of this opposition found today in German Protestant Bibles is the order in which some of these books are now given. The Letter to the Hebrews is not included with the Pauline epistles while James and Jude are not ranked with the Catholic epistles. — From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Missouri.

Now a meat shortage. Meats over, sugar and flour, and make room for hams. — Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

It isn't going to be so bad. Americans still will have enough shoes to make footprints on the sands of time. — The Toledo Blade.

## The Principal Freedom

BY JAMES M. GILLIS, C.S.P.

One thing Nazis and Communists have done for which we owe them thanks: they have made us conscious of our birthright of Freedom. We are so accustomed to freedom that ordinarily we don't appreciate it, and probably shall not until we lose it. However, the fact that others have lost freedom wherever the Nazis or the Communists have penetrated has focused our attention strongly upon the fact that we are still free.

President Roosevelt enumerates four freedoms but he has not failed to note that one freedom is the source of the other three. Freedom of worship comes first in importance. There is significance in that fact; a significance entirely missed by totalitarian States. Under the pretext of making their peoples free, tyrants and tyrannical cliques have taken away freedom of worship. Their idea seems to be that if a nation is given political freedom and economic freedom, it will gladly surrender religious freedom. They forget the profound truth spoken by One Who knew more about human nature than any Deceit or Fuehrer or Chief Commissar: "Man doth not live by bread alone." That ancient axiom means that if you provide a people with material substance; and even if you guarantee freedom from fear and from want, that people will remain restless and rebellious unless it have also freedom to worship God as it will.

The supreme mistake, therefore, and at the same time the supreme cruelty of the dictators' programs was that they deprived the peoples of religious freedom while making some pretense of striking off their economic shackles. It has been

said that whatever else a conquering nation takes away from its victim, it must not take away his land. True. But equally true is the fact that whatever else you take from a people you must not take away their religious freedom. "Who steals my purse steals trash," who whips my body will tire of whipping and the wounds will heal. But who takes from me my right to worship my God, steals away my soul. When all goes smoothly men are inclined to forget or neglect religion. But in a crisis or under persecution, especially under religious persecution, men revolt with terrible violence. They suddenly awake to a realization of what they are living; a powerful light is thrown into their souls; the spirit within them awakes and woe betide the persecutor in that day.

Certain students of history or of psychology pretend to be surprised and scandalized by the savagery of religious wars. Nothing, they say, is so violent or so terrifying as a war between two religions. There is no reason for surprise. When you touch the deepest spot in man's nature; when you violate that which he holds more precious than life, that for which he will sacrifice your life or his own and think nothing of it, you must expect a terrible upheaval. If you throw a litmus torch into a tank containing a highly explosive liquid, are you surprised at what happens? If some foolish tourist in the Yellowstone pokes his head into the aperture of a geyser, and if it erupts and blows his head off, do his fellow travellers express surprise? Why then pretend to be surprised when a man or a people is deprived of religion, the deepest, most powerful and most explosive element in our human make-up, and the results are disastrous?

The first and chief crime of Nazis and Communists is not their attack upon the capitalistic system nor upon the institution of popular government or democracy, but upon religion. If ever the apothegm of Talleyrand, "Worse than a crime, a plunder," were applicable it is in the case of a self-declared "deliverer" who promises freedom to eat and drink or even freedom to vote, but robs his people of freedom to worship. No tyrant, no matter how powerful, can tamper with man's religion and succeed. No matter what success a tyrant may have he is foredoomed to failure if he undertakes religious persecution. Because of his own selfish interests and his hope of survival he should not tamper with the soul of man.

Even in democratic States among some who consider themselves champions of religious freedom, there is often no sufficient understanding of the depths from which that freedom springs. Many of our own fellow citizens here in America have no knowledge of the philosophical and theological roots of freedom. They seem to imagine that freedom has its ultimate origin in emotion. You just feel that man should be free and that's all there is to it. Oddly enough some of these people either disbelieve in God or ignore Him and they deny the existence of a human soul.

If, therefore, you ask them whence came freedom, any kind of freedom, they have no adequate answer. But the Declaration of Independence contains the philosophy, yes the theology of Freedom. Man is endowed with Freedom by his Creator. If man bestows freedom upon himself, another man may take away his freedom. If man receives his freedom from the State, the State may take away that freedom when it pleases. What man can do, man can undo; what the State bestows, the State can refuse to bestow. But if freedom—any kind of freedom, and especially religious freedom—is from God it is, as the Declaration of Independence says, "inalienable." The strangest anomaly in human affairs is a man who denies or ignores God and yet declares boldly that man has a right to freedom no other man has a right to take from him. The greatest menace to the world is not Hitler or Stalin but the individual citizen in a democracy who thinks that freedom springs up out of the earth, that it just happens. Such a man can defend freedom only on the ground of emotion. The only sound doctrine is that freedom comes from a source beyond the reach of tyrants. That source is God. As the patriotic song "America" has it, God is "Author of Liberty." (Copyright, 1943, N.C.W.C.)

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY.

**THE MAIN WARD OF THE SANTO SPIRITO HOSPITAL, ROME, WHICH RESULT BY POPE SIXTUS III IN 1471 WAS 400 FEET LONG BY 40 FEET WIDE, WITH AN ALTAR IN THE CENTER.**

**ST. BIRGETTA OF SWEDEN WENT TO CONFESSION 3 TIMES A DAY.**

**FOR MORE THAN 10 CENTURIES THE CHURCH OF THE SACRAMENT OF FRANCE HAS BEEN A NOBLE PILGRIMAGE CENTER, NUMEROUS CHURCHES & SHRINES CLING TO ITS STEEP SIDES OR CLUSTER ON ITS SUMMIT.**

**THE ARA COELI CHURCH HAS A CURIOUS HISTORY. EX VOTO PICTURES OF THE VIRGIN MARY AND THE INFANT JESUS ARE HUNG IN THE CHURCH.**

## Quiz Corner

Is it sinful to read other people's letters?

Apart from the rights of certain people in authority, it is sinful to open and read another person's letter, for it is a violation of a secret unless the consent of the writer or the recipient can reasonably be presumed. Religious superiors are sometimes permitted by rule to open letters, except when these refer to matters of conscience. The State may likewise open and censor letters in time of war or where danger to the community is suspected.

I would like to know if it is legal to use a middle name acquired by confirmation. Must this name be added to the birth certificate to be legal or is it for church purposes only? The legal name of a person is

that one registered in the Bureau of Vital Statistics in city or county. However, the name conferred in confirmation may always be used by the person confirmed. On civil legal documents it does not have to be used.

When the expression "Mind of the Church" is used what does it signify?

The expression "Mind of the Church" means the attitude and teaching of the Church with regard to matters no solemnly defined as dogmas of Faith but declared by her serious pronouncements and by the teaching of her approved theologians. To think and act with the Church in matters not solemnly defined as characteristic of a loyal member of the mind of the Church incurs the danger of complete loss of Faith.