

Catholic Courier

VOLUME XV JULY 22, 1943 NUMBER 29

Official Newspaper of The Rochester Diocese
With the Approval of the
MOST REVEREND JAMES EDWARD KEARNEY, D.D.
Bishop of Rochester

BISHOPS' WAR RELIEF COLLECTION

Sunday, July 25, will give the people of the diocese their annual opportunity to contribute to the funds on which the Bishops' War Emergency and Relief Committee depends to do its work. Bishop Kearney has assigned to this Sunday the collection for 1943 for this purpose.

Just to know the important needs this collection will help meet, will lead every Catholic American to want to give to it. Last year \$1,322,493.33 was raised and applied to relief and emergency work by this Committee. \$1,602,233 was sent to the Pope, and used by him for relief among the Greeks and Slavens, for relief work in Greece, for Polish refugees in Russia, for help to French peasants, and for refugees in Europe in general.

Relief to air-raid victims in Malta, help for prisoners of war, for children in England, relief work in China and other countries, were made possible by this fund. Support of the Montezuma Seminary for Mexican students also comes from this Bishops' Emergency Fund.

Your response to the appeal of the suffering and needy will mean much to war-victims in all parts of the world, will speak your desire to cooperate with your Bishops and with the Holy Father in their efforts to alleviate distress, will show your appreciation of the ardent wish of the Holy Father "to offer to the unfortunate and innocent victims of the war every possible spiritual and material succor."

CHAPLAIN WHEATON SAFE

Clergy and laity of the diocese rejoice at the good news that Chaplain John K. Wheaton is safe. He is among the survivors of the Cruiser Helena which went down in the Battle of Kula Gulf.

While we thank God for protecting Father Wheaton in his hour of danger, we gratefully acknowledge the bravery and devotion of our zealous chaplain in offering himself for the spiritual needs of his men.

Perhaps this incident will help us to appreciate more deeply the fine priestly spirit of all our chaplains, who in full knowledge of the hazards of life in camp and on board ship so freely offer all that they have to minister to our soldiers and sailors.

God's blessing on Chaplain Wheaton! May he have many more years on earth in which to give glory to God and bring peace to men's souls, before he is called to the Throne of the Great High Priest in Heaven!

JUBILEE PREPARATIONS

All the diocesan units in planning for its approaching Diamond Jubilee and accompanying Golden Jubilee of St. Bernard's Seminary. The Bishop is assisted by a committee of priests and laymen from all sections of the diocese in preparing for observance of these two Jubilees. This committee is representative, plans and labors for all and in the name of all members of the diocese.

Every diocesan should make this a time of great rejoicing, a time to thank God for the blessings of seventy-five years of Catholic life and growth and development. Every diocesan should make this a time of prayer and consideration, of prayer for God's continued blessing on us, of consideration of God's goodness in permitting each one of us to have a part in the grand things accomplished through His grace working in the hearts of Bishop, priests, people.

Be prepared to have an active part in the approaching Jubilees as you have had a cooperative part in the religious program of the past seventy-five years in the seminary and in the diocese.

CATHOLIC LIBERALS

There are no Catholic Liberals in real life. The type exists only in the mind of our separated brethren, who have no real understanding of the Church and its members.

Our duty and our privilege is to believe whatever the Son of God has taught, to accept in all its fulness the Deposit of Faith left with the Church by Jesus Christ. Our belief is catholic or universal in scope; it includes all Christ has taught, excludes any addition to, or subtraction from, that body of truths. Our obedience to the Church is the same obedience we have to Christ. In faith and in discipline and in loyalty we freely follow the Church in that fulness of freedom that prevents us from becoming liberals. It is a freedom no liberal can have: the truth that is over the selfsame, that truth sets us free and keeps us free.

Yes, we are free men, but not liberals. We have definite dogmas, definite standards, we have the Church as the pillar and ground of truth. Freely we profess our faith in God, freely we accept His teachings. We are not liberals because we are free from those defects in mind and heart that would separate us from firm faith and unwavering hope in God and His Church. We are not liberals in the present-day leftist meaning of that word: we are liberals in the true Catholic sense of that word. We are the true liberals in whom the freedom of God's own truth abides to liberate us from the slavery of error and half-truths.

AFTER 400 YEARS

The unending life of the Church is reflected in the consecration of the new Bishop Johannes Gunnarsson as Vicar Apostolic of Iceland. Four hundred years ago Iceland was under the episcopate of Bishop John Arason. In 1550 or just under four hundred years ago, Bishop Arason suffered martyrdom for his faith. Now his work and his authority are resumed by his successor, who at the hands of the highest representative of the Pope in America received episcopal consecration July 7 in the New York Cathedral.

Four hundred years is a long time. It is more than the lifetime of most religious bodies. It is not so long in the life of the Church, founded 2000 years ago and set to continue in active service to the end of time.

Christ's Church is found in all countries, because it is Catholic, because it fulfills Christ's mandate to teach all nations. All the world rejoices with Iceland on the consecration of its new Vicar Apostolic, Bishop Gunnarsson.

On Principle or on Emotion?

By REV. JAMES M. GILLIS, C.S.P.

More and more often in the years pass I find myself quoting a sentence or a phrase of St. K. Chesterton which sums up a situation. And that, I suppose, is another way of saying that I miss him. Some persons dismissed him out of hand as a mere paradox-monger. They made the mistake of thinking that because he stood on his head (some trick by the way for a man of G. K. C.'s build), because—I say—he stood on his head to look at the world, he saw it upside down. The truth is, as the ophthalmologists tell us, that it is while standing upright that we see all things upside down. By some miraculous means which we cannot understand the upside down picture on the retina is turned right side up by the brain. The scientist therefore supports the paradox maker, and Chesterton was right.

However I am not just now concerned with one of his paradoxes, but with a straightforward homely utterance into which he compresses a world of truth. He said, "People tell us that such and such things cannot be believed nowadays. Nonsense! anything can be believed in any day." Carrying the idea a bit further, "People say that such and such things cannot happen in these days of high civilization and general enlightenment. Nonsense! anything no matter how brutal or savage or cruel can happen any day, anywhere."

I find in The American Mercury for July a prose poem by David Pinski, part of which reads thus: "We lament the two million Jews who have perished at the hands of the murderer; two million men and women, old and young, children, infants at their mother's breast and babes yet unborn. The thousands upon thousands who perished by water and fire, by whip and bayonet, by hunger and thirst and the living grave, by slow torture and sudden death. We lament the thousands who gasped their last agonized breath in close-packed trains filled with fumes of chloride of lime, the thousands who were suffocated by the deadly gases of the sulphur mines into which they were forced and the lethal death chambers into which they were herded. The thousands who were burned to death in crematoriums reserved for the dead, the thousands who died a slow agonizing death from air bubbles injected into their veins. We lament the hundreds of sick children who were slain in their hospital beds, together with their nurses and teachers. We lament the two million Jews who perished amid all the agonies of our martyrs of ages past and amid new ones invented by Hitler's hands."

The form is poetry (of a sort) but the material is taken from the daily newspapers. It seemed to me as I read it that I had seen every item of it in the news from Central Europe. Yes, I know, some of these news items may be "propaganda." A certain per cent of the "facts" may have been imagined or deliberately manufactured. But when all allowances are made, there remains a modicum large enough to horrify a civilized person. Indeed I dare to state that any person who is not horrified by the facts—leaving out the fiction—is not wholly civilized. One may live in a "civilized" community and not be civilized, just as one may go to church regularly and not be a Christian. I have remembered for a great many years one of the first letters I ever read from a missionary among people whom we call "savages." It was from a Franciscan Sister in Uganda. She wrote: "Don't imagine that these poor blacks are really savage. You have more savages in one little section of New York City than we have here in Uganda."

The truth is that hideous cruelties are being done now, in these days, these days of progress and enlightenment. It would be a mistake to think that the cruelties of the Roman Emperors in ancient

days, or of Persian satraps in medieval times, or even the cruelties of Genghis Khan and Timur-lane are gone and gone forever. As G. K. C. would say, anything can be believed and anything can be done in any age of the world's history.

Add one more word: anything anytime and anywhere. It cannot happen here? Nonsense. It can happen anywhere. Witness the recent outrageous doings in Detroit. Human nature is not a variable, but a constant. Beneath the skin

of "civilized" persons there is a fund of brute passion, just as there is at Yellowstone under a thin crust of earth fire enough and force enough to blow the continent to pieces and burn us all up. Wise persons, religious persons, will never either by speech or by silence encourage the savagery that may destroy the precarious civilization we have been building since the days of Jesus Christ. Illice hatred can have no place in the soul of a Christian. (Copyright, 1943, N.C.W.C.)

They Have Been With Me Three Days!

The immense drawin power of Christ's grace on the hearts of man is nowhere better pictured than in the narrative of this Sunday's Gospel. Out into the desert, into the wilderness, many after a journey of several days, went four thousand to be near Christ, to hear His word. They had taken food with them, perhaps for a day or two; but now three days had passed, and their eagerness to hear Jesus and to be with Him made them forget that supplies had now long been exhausted. They had a happiness in hearing the Word of God that made them forget bodily hunger.

But Christ could not forget their hunger, could not be blind to their plight. Zealous for their souls, eager for their eternal salvation, He also had time to worry over their bodily needs. He had compassion on the Crowd; he suffered with them the pangs of hunger. He made their need His need, their difficulty His difficulty. Hunger now pressing on them would become a real danger to life were Christ to dismiss them: come had come from afar, would surely faint in the way were their hunger not satisfied.

Then seven loaves and a few fishes became under Christ's power food for the crowd of four thousand! Enough for all to be filled, and seven baskets of fragments left over!

And He dismissed them. But not until spiritual hunger had been cated by His teaching, bodily hunger by His bounty. The hand of the Lord is filled with blessing for them that love Him. "Come to Me, and I will refresh you." Christ's spiritual blessing awaits us daily, invites us to that interest in His word that of old kept them listening three days: Christ's bounty feeds men far more numerous than four thousand in the daily ministrations of the fruits of the earth. Let us partake of His goodness, of His bounty, that He may dismiss us to return to our homes better in body for His food, better in soul for His blessings of the spirit.

Diocesan Recordings

More concern is being manifested by some over the proximity of aerial bombardment to the Vatican than they have been to the constant bombardment of the Vatican's position as center of the Universal Church down through the years.

QUERIES and REPLIES

The Holy Trinity—Can We Have No Understanding Of This Mystery At All?

The fact that we cannot grasp this mystery of mysteries fully and perfectly does not mean that we can have no knowledge of the Holy Trinity. St. Thomas, the greatest theologian in the Church, developing a thought of St. Augustine, has this to say: God is a Spirit. The first act of a spirit is to know, to understand. God, knowing Himself from all eternity, had full knowledge of Himself. This knowledge of Himself was not a mere passing idea such as we have of ourselves, but His own image, His own Substance, a Living Reflection of His own Person, a second Person, knowing Himself, is God the Father; God, as known, is God the Son.

God the Father and God the Son loved one another from all eternity, each beholding in the other the supreme goodness and beauty of the Deity. Their mutual love is their own very Substance, a Living Reflection and co-existent with Father and Son. Ruling out all idea of time and temporal succession, we conceive the Holy Trinity then to be the eternal Life of the Divine Understanding and the Divine Will. This is about as far as the mind of man can go. (From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Missouri.)

A distinct loss to Catholic lay activity in this Rochester diocese has been suffered in the death of Thomas C. McCarthy, Rochester Council's assistant financial secretary of the Knights of Columbus. Aside from K. of C. affairs, Tom McCarthy had a keen interest in those activities which promote devotion and spread Catholic doctrine. He was a fervent promoter of the week-end retreats at the diocesan Our Lady of the Lake Retreat House at Geneva. Through his efforts principally, Rochester Council members made a retreat there last year. Tom was planning only last Monday to attend one of the parish retreats, this year. He threw himself wholeheartedly into the stimulation of the First Friday Luncheon Club from its beginning last December, and was instrumental in getting many a Catholic layman to the Sacraments on the First Friday. Tom was the powerhouse of the Diocesan Speakers' Bureau and arranged for speakers in many parts of the diocese. He was well-balanced in his activities and bowling and golf took his recreational hours. On several occasions he journeyed to Elmira with the bowling team and was widely known in other sections of this diocese. His zeal for sound Catholic activity furnishes an inspiration for men of the diocese. His example is a shining one in a world grown indifferent to the value of his kind of effort. May his soul rest in peace!

God the Father and God the Son loved one another from all eternity, each beholding in the other the supreme goodness and beauty of the Deity. Their mutual love is their own very Substance, a Living Reflection and co-existent with Father and Son. Ruling out all idea of time and temporal succession, we conceive the Holy Trinity then to be the eternal Life of the Divine Understanding and the Divine Will. This is about as far as the mind of man can go. (From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Missouri.)

Clips
It's easy to face the music if you promote harmony. — Birmingham Age-Herald.
As the number of ration books increases, the nation might well adopt the slogan: "Every man his own librarian." — Tacoma Times.

Feast Days
Sunday, July 25—ST. JAMES.
Monday, July 26—ST. ANNE.
Tuesday, July 27—ST. PANTALEON.
Wednesday, July 28—SS. NAZARIUS AND CELSUS MARTYRS.
Thursday, July 29—ST. MARTHA.
Friday, July 30—SS. ABDON & SENNON.
Saturday, July 31—ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA.