

Catholic Courier

VOLUME XV

JULY 23, 1943

NUMBER 20

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

MUSSOLINI AND PIUS IX

Why mention these two names together? One the name of a saintly Pope, the other the name of a sinful oppressor. The Eternal City has witnessed the careers of each of these men. Pius IX saw the seizure of the Papal States by Garibaldi, became the Prisoner of the Vatican, lived as a true friend of the poor, chose to be buried in the Basilica of San Lorenzo. Mussolini had a leading part in restoring temporal holdings to the Papacy, in overcoming the conditions that made the Pope the Prisoner of the Vatican, forced Italy into the war, used Rome and its shrines as a shield for his military stores and factories and transportation facilities; thereby brought about the recent bombing of Rome with the partial destruction of the Basilica of San Lorenzo with damage to the Tomb of Pius IX.

Mussolini is now through. His career is at an end. Only the retribution that even of penes shall visit on his unfortunate person now remains. Crimes by men in high places shall not escape lawful punishment. Pius IX living set the mode of lasting papal protest against the usurpation of a revolutionary Italian Government. Pius IX dead registers from his violated tomb the protest of the Italian King and the Italian people that removes the usurpation of a conscienceless dictator.

Rome is, indeed, the Eternal City! Twenty-one years of Mussolini is as nothing to her. She has seen other tyrants, other dictators. She has seen them come, she has seen them go.

Rome is the Eternal City! Not for her past alone, but for her present life, her future destiny, Rome remains through the years because she is the See of Peter, the home and diocese of the Popes, the center of the Catholic world.

With the passing of the enemy of Rome, the man who would shield his war efforts by sacred shrines, precious relics of the past and houses of prayer of the present, may we not pray that Italy may soon find peace among those nations that wish her well! May we not pray that the Allied Nations may soon find in the Eternal City a condition that will enable them to refrain in all safety and respectful esteem from further bombing of Rome!

Mussolini passes and Rome rejoices! Pius IX lives in renewed memory, and Rome rejoices!

GENEVA AND DE SALES INSTITUTE

All the diocese is interested in the drive for funds currently in progress in the two parishes in Geneva for a permanent addition to DeSales Institute. The drive will close on Sunday and is expected to furnish the money needed to pay for the new addition to the school, which will replace the wing destroyed by fire.

Geneva has been fortunate in the advantages offered her children over many years by her Catholic High School for girls and boys. Support of the school has meant constant work on the part of the Pastors, understanding generosity on the part of a truly Catholic people. But priests and people have had always before them the compelling need for Catholic training for these pupils in their high school years, and have made every sacrifice readily and eagerly. Their devotion and that of the priests and Sisters on the faculty beholds its results in the generation of graduates who have taken their place in business and society as worthy exponents of the best in Catholic training.

No wonder the people of Geneva are ready to make a forceful response to the present drive for funds to complete their High School! Admiring friends of other faiths rejoice to have a part in their laudable undertaking. The prayers and good wishes of clergy and laity from all parishes go with them as their drive draws to a close. May the success of the drive be in keeping with the glorious history of years gone by, with the blessed future that surely lies ahead of DeSales Institute!

NOT TOO BAD!

To damn a man with faint praise is an old and not entirely unapproved practice. "Too bad he drinks," often closes a sentence allegedly praising some poor victim. "He's a Catholic, but not a bad fellow, considering." Last week's COURIER carried the words of a Protestant confessor who said some nice things about Catholic doctrine and practice with some admixture of things not so nice.

He liked the way in which we hold the cross of Christ on high, but adds we use it as a fetish, we overdo the symbolic in kneeling before it. He speaks with apparent admiration of the fact that we place the cross high over our churches, that we wear it around our necks, hold it before the eyes of the dying, carve it on our tombstones; but brushes much of this away as idle superstition.

He likes our emphasis on the miraculous, in the past and in the present. Heading Shrines at Lourdes and Beausre give us no shock. He feels we are wrong but admires our faith in God's power. He likes our practical attachment to the good works which Catholic charity preaches, although he admits some of them were prompted by something more sinister than mere goodwill.

Our Methodist friend is getting away gradually from much of the old Protestantism that hated everything Catholic and assailed the religion and common sense together in condemning Catholic practices. The Catholic Church invites honest interest in her life, her history, her current program of religious and charitable practice. She encourages this examination into her claims. She knows that the honest heart earnestly searching for the right, will inevitably find in her the marks of her divine institution, of her living character as the Church of God, of the indwelling within her of the Holy Spirit. The Church not only looks good, she is good! She not only looks reasonable, she is reasonable! She can always give a reason to the honest inquirer for the faith that is in her.

BISHOP MacENTEGART CONSECRATED

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has been blessed by Pope Pius XII with the appointment of Most Rev. Bryan MacEntegart as its new Bishop. The consecration will take place Tuesday in St. Patrick's

QUERIES and REPLIES

What is Meant By The "Holy See"?

The "Holy See" is the Bishopric of Rome. The word "See" taken from the Latin "sedes" means a seat of chair of authority. For this reason the chair of authority of every Bishop is called a "See." The chair of authority of the Bishop of Rome is par excellence the "Holy See" because it stands for the authority of the Pope who is the Bishop of Bishops as well as the Bishop of Rome. The term "Holy" or "Apostolic See" is often used to designate the Pope in the exercise of his jurisdiction as chief Bishop of the Catholic Church.

The various titles given to the Pope emphasize different aspects of his sacred office.

Thus he is called: Vicar of Christ, from the Latin word vicarius, meaning a deputy or substitute because he is the visible deputy or substitute of Christ in the government of the Church; Successor of St. Peter, because that is historically what he is; Bishop of Rome, which office he holds as successor of St. Peter and because of that office is actually the head of the whole Church; Holy Father, because he is the spiritual father of all Christians (the word Pope is taken from the Greek Pappas and means Father); His Holiness, not because he is necessarily a saint but because his office is supremely holy; Chief Shepherd, because our Lord gave to St. Peter and his successors the duty of feeding His lambs and His sheep (cf. John 21, 15); and Servant of the servants of God, because in the words of our Lord,

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY

UNITED STATES HOLY SEE
ESTABLISHED IN AN INN, 150 YEARS AGO
Solely by the purchase of the ONE MILE TOWN. And the original site.

Fructful!

RESCRIPTIONS ON CONFESSIONALS IN ST. PETERS RECORD THAT CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD IN EVERY LANGUAGE.

VATICAN USHERS ARE COLLOQUIALLY KNOWN AS 'APOSTOLIC RUNNERS'

ST. THOMAS' WORDS: 'Whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave' (Matt. 20, 27).

From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Missouri.

Sursam Corda

What's Right With The World

Dubiously Moral Technique

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

Sitting recently with a group of clergy and laity interested in the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, I heard a university president quoting a famous woman columnist on the subject of the moral character of missionaries to the heathen. "I have traveled widely in the Orient," she said, "and have met many missionaries, but never in all my experience have I come upon one like the Reverend Mr. Davidson in Somerset Maugham's 'Rain'."

Unfortunately the remark was made "off the record." It is a pity that the lady who is well known in America, Europe and Asia couldn't have seen her way to say in the public speech which she had just finished the statement she made in private conversation shortly after she had returned from the platform. Her testimony—negative though it was—would have been extremely valuable, for her name is one of the best known in journalism and on the radio. Also the interest in this little piece of mine would be greater if I could give her name, but since she spoke confidentially, my notion of journalistic ethics demands that she remain anonymous.

REVEALS METHODS

Oddly enough when I heard of that bit of conversation I had just been rereading—for perhaps the tenth time—Maugham's striking story "Rain," and the preface to "East and West" a collection of his short stories, in which "Rain" enjoys the place of honor. That preface is of value not to me (for I never attempt fiction) but to any one, student or proficient, who likes to know the methods employed by famous writers in the construction of a story.

Mr. Maugham explains that in common with Sir Walter Scott, Turgenev, Flaubert, Dickens, Chekhov and, he thinks, virtually all other masters, he using living models upon which to base his stories. "The imagination," he says, "can construct nothing but out of a void." But of course one who

writes what is professedly fiction need not reproduce his model in all respects accurately. He takes liberties. He changes a portrait or a character at will. Mr. Maugham says, more explicitly, "The model a writer chooses is seen through his own temperament, and if he is a writer of an originality what he sees need have little relation with the facts."

Mr. Maugham, sailing from Honolulu to Pago Pago, saw a missionary and his wife Mr. and Mrs. W. and a prostitute to whom he gave the name Sadie Thompson. He observed "Sadie" at a distance, never speaking to her, and confesses with slightly veiled pride that the world has not found his description of her "wanting in vividness." With Mr. W. and his wife he talked only once. In his note book the missionary is described as "a tall thin man, with long limbs loosely jointed, hollow cheeks and high cheek bones, fine large dark eyes deep in their sockets," and so on. The missionary's wife was "a little woman with her hair elaborately done, New England, with prominent blue eyes behind gold rimmed pince-nez" and so on.

MOSTLY FICTION

That was all the novelist had by way of fact. The rest is fiction. "The missionary finding out the profession of 'Sadie Thompson' persecutes her; reduces her to misery, shame, and repentance; has no mercy on her. He induces the Governor to order her return to Honolulu. One morning he is found with his throat cut by his own hand and she is once more radiant. She looks at men scornfully and exclaims 'dirty pigs'."

Millions of persons read the story and hundreds of thousands saw the play on the stage. It ran on Broadway—thanks partly if not chiefly to the skill of Jeanne Eagels—for several years. In consequence a whole world of readers and play-goers conceived the idea that Mr. W. (in the story and the play called Reverend Mr. Davidson) was typical of those who go

off to the South Seas to preach the Gospel. The fictional missionary is remembered, the factual missionary forgotten or never known. The story and the play are read and seen by great multitudes; the testimony of one who knows the Orient, "I never met a missionary like Somerset Maugham's Mr. Davidson" is spoken to half a dozen people in private and is "off the record."

Those who know the ways and methods of the writers of fiction and drama are few compared with the great numbers of the unsuspecting and unsophisticated who suppose that since such things are printed and played they must be typical. It is a pity that the truth must be spoken behind closed doors in intimate conversation while fiction is enormously publicized. It is a pity too that we have not writers who can make the truth about missionaries vivid and dramatic. And let no one write in and tell me that Dr. Cronin's "Father Chisholm" is "The Keys of the Kingdom" meets the requirements. "Father Chisholm" is a freak. I have asked a hundred missionaries if they ever met such a one, and all have replied "No," just as the anonymous columnist said she had never met a "Mr. Davidson."

(Copyright, 1943, N.C.W.C.)

Feast Days

- Sunday, August 1—ST. PETER'S CHAINS.
- Monday, August 2—ST. ALPHONSUS.
- Tuesday, August 3—FINDING OF ST. STEPHEN'S RELICS.
- Wednesday, August 4—ST. DOMINIC.
- Thursday, August 5—OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS.
- Friday, August 6—TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD.
- Saturday, August 7—ST. CAJETAN.

Sunday Gas Rationing

"Bus to Catholic church will not run tomorrow. See Issues XI, 31," ran a notice in a newspaper at Burton-on-Trent, in England. Those who looked up the chapter and verse found this: "But they that hope in the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall take wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

An Eton College (England) statute of 1440 ordered scholars to say the matins of Our Lady as they made their bed!

Cathedral, New York City. The new Bishop has been in official life in the Curia of New York Archdiocese over many years, and is well known throughout the country. He has visited often in Rochester, and numbers many of our priests among his friends.

He will be installed at Ogdensburg by Bishop Foery on August 10. Bishop Foery has been associated in charity work with the new Bishop. The close friendship of Bishop Conroy and earlier Bishops with the Bishops of Rochester is a tradition that shall be continued under the episcopate of Bishop MacEntegart. The COURIER expresses the feeling of Bishop Kearney and of all of our Rochester clergy in wishing him every blessing as he undertakes the responsibilities of the Bishopric of Ogdensburg.