

WHERE DO WE STAND?

By REV. EDWARD GIBSON

We're not having political sessions, nor do we intend to talk about the state of the nation. We only want to take a look at things around us and find out where we stand in the order of creation—get our bearings, so to speak.

It won't be hard, either, because we can see that the Lord, like the good workman He is, has neatly parcelled His creation and ordered it on a series of shelves.

On the bottom shelf, we see things like soft-treys and slugs and can-openers; they have no life at all. They don't grow, they don't die. We pick them up, move them, and they stay.

On the next shelf, we find plants—lettuce, and spinach, and cherry-trees. These things have life. They grow, mature, and die. One can back at a tree, and kill it. Such things are way above the class of stones and ash-trays.

MOVE AROUND

Next above them, we have bugs, birds, and animals—caterpillars and horseflies and dogs and monkeys. They have bodies. They can move around. The higher forms can express themselves, in a way. Dogs bark when they want to go out. Cats stand at the door and meow when they want to come in.

Skipping the fourth shelf, we find angels on the fifth shelf. They are all mind—one might say—all soul. They have no bodies.

But between the angels and animals, we find man, a strange sort of creature, part animal and part angel. We are half-brute, half-spirit, body and soul. We must do many things like the animals, except that we see these things as part of our lower nature and we don't like to talk about them. So, for instance, when a man insists on forever thinking and talking about eating and drinking, we sometimes (and very uncharitably) call him a "hog," because he makes himself so much like that particular kind of animal.

Thus far, you see, we have five shelves in the world: dead things, as one might call them, such as stones and can-openers; living things, like dandelions and rose-bushes; animals, like cats and monkeys; mankind, such as you, dear reader, and angels, whom we can't see. Then, presiding over and ordering the whole assemblage is God Himself, Who made us all, to Whose limitless majesty all creation gives homage.

Diocesan Recordings

In the movie theater's own ad—"Last time today, 'Mission to Moscow'—'Get Going.'"

A disastrous fire, aside from the perpetual insurance jokes, can be beneficial. Confronted with the necessity of rebuilding a wing of DeSales High School in Geneva, following the fire in March, Catholic people of that city have rallied under their pastors to provide funds for the new structure. The campaign workers are this very week calling upon their fellow-Catholics to help in the financial problem presented by a fire which threatened continuation of Catholic education. With their record of supporting Catholic education, the campaign is an assured success. It is always heartening to see our people respond when necessity calls for maintaining the work of Holy Mother the Church.

Who is better informed—a layman who has his radio and current publications to bring him the news or His Holiness, Pope Pius XII who probably has more sources of getting the facts on any world event than any world leader today? The Vatican has its representatives in all corners of the globe, it has access to the facts through sources never thought of by us over here. However, there are still a few men about who would place their convictions as superior to the Head of Christendom. This is confusing, never amusing.

Block Plan for raising funds is used in the Archdiocese of Detroit. A visitor told us Sunday that she had charge of her block in which she took care of all Catholic homes in the block without having to cross the street. Each block chairman operates in the same manner.

A Good Tree Can Not Bear Bad Fruit

If the tree is good, the fruit will be good. Christ makes us to apply the proverb to ourselves, not to those about us. A soul that is good, that is founded on faith in Christ, that is nourished by the grace of the Holy Spirit, will show itself in works that are good, in good fruit. Where we find evil works, habits of sin, we have every reason to suspect there is something wrong with the soul. A good tree can not bring forth bad fruit.

"He that doeth the will of My Father, He shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven." To do the will of the Father is to keep the commandments, to love God and to love our neighbor, to do all that is needed to express our love for God in adoring Him, respecting His name, according His day; all that is needful to **ENTER OUR LOVE** for our neighbor in respecting his state, his property, his life and welfare, his reputation, his wife, and in **RESPECTING** respect for our own purity of mind and heart and body.

Christ tells us the tree will be known by its fruit. This is true of our judgment of ourselves and of others. A single fall into serious sin does not show the tree is all bad, it does show lamentable weakness that calls for correction. Constant falls into serious sin, habits of sin show the tree is bad. One who claims to be close to Christ, to be a minister of Christ, must be ready to demonstrate by evident good deeds that he is a follower of Christ. One who teaches a new religion, claiming to be a prophet, must be ready to show by his works and the works of his cult that he is of Christ. The history of the Church in the world is a clear exposition of the ordinary holiness of the thousands who are Catholics, and of the extraordinary holiness of the saints. By its works the Catholic Church stands as the Church of Jesus Christ.

Any Thoughts Today Mr?

By Rev. Frederick Chastant, of St. Bernard's Rectory

I hope I am never seen without a notepad and pen, for I am a reporter. I am a reporter in the sense that I am a reporter of my own thoughts. I am a reporter of my own thoughts in the sense that I am a reporter of my own thoughts. I am a reporter of my own thoughts in the sense that I am a reporter of my own thoughts.

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I don't know what it was that first said, "Head on and over, or what it was he was talking about." But it is a perfect thing to say about most of those "half-minute" interviews. "Head on and over" is a perfect thing to say about most of those "half-minute" interviews. "Head on and over" is a perfect thing to say about most of those "half-minute" interviews.

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Along The Way

It Stayed Exclusive

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

Sometimes American advertising puzzles me. But for that matter, whom doesn't it puzzle. It must be about three or four years ago that one of the after-shaving lotions ran an advertisement inviting men to join the most Exclusive After-Shaving Club in the World. And it listed the names of six more or less minor celebrities. The bellwether character of the advertisement was obvious. But many a man must have said to himself, "I'd like to join a club with them." But the months ran along and the ad appeared again and again; always the same invitation; always the same original celebrities. And recently I ran across it once more, with the same founding fathers still remaining in their exclusive glory.

What happened? Didn't any more famous or near-famous men join the most Exclusive After-Shaving Club in the World? Or were the first members so darn exclusive that they couldn't find anyone else worth letting in?

"Tany rate, I haven't tried to join. Have you?"

Natural Mistake

The youngster, says my friend, Sister M. Borja of Webster College, was visiting the convent. When the Superior entered the room, everyone stood. The Superior, being a busy lady, was called out, and when she returned, they stood once more. Again the phone called her, and again on her return, everyone stood.

The youngster regarded the whole performance with amazement. The third time she whispered audibly:

"Mommy, what is she, the national anthem?"

Not Too Gentle Hint

"I was one of a series of priests giving the talks at the nine o'clock Mass," said Father William Ryan of St. Louis, "and I had prepared myself carefully for my day. I stood in the sacristy waiting, while the old priest who said the nine o'clock Mass."

"When he had put on his alb and cincture, he spotted me, cocked a speculative eye and approached me quietly.

"Do you know the priest that gave the talk last week?" he asked. I nodded. "He's a little man, isn't he?" I nodded again. "Well," he said dryly, "our little Zaccchaeus went up into his tree and got stuck. He forgot to come down."

"I took the hint and cut my sermon in half."

How Compliments Get Twisted

Mrs. Prendergast tells of a very young male relative who was very fond of his mother. Boylike, he took to her one day a picture of a very lovely lady. He wanted to pay his mother a real compliment. So he held out the picture.

"I think she looks like you," he said.

His mother beamed.

The youngster decided to make his compliment even better.

"Yes, she looks a lot like you—only uglier," he said.

Not Always the Same

We forget that local customs and national habits may change some of the surfaces of the Church. The young Catholic girl working for her Embassy in Bolivia made a pilgrimage to the shrine of the Virgin of Copacabana. Incidentally, she writes that the church is the most beautiful she has ever seen. "The Virgin is beautiful, although she is very dark and Indian-looking."

As the priest walked down the aisle for the Assages of High Mass, he stopped near her and said, "Will you please take off your hat, young lady? It is very disrespectful to wear a hat in church."

Despite the fact that she is crowned with a mass of bright red hair, she obeyed promptly, though completely mystified. Later she noticed a big sign that read "Women are forbidden to wear hats in church." Still later she found that throughout Bolivia veils are the correct headcovering for church.

Misplaced Gesture

I like the incident of the very dignified ecclesiastic who came to function at a very solemn service. He wore his straw hat which he carefully laid on the vesting table. Then when he was completely vested, he absentmindedly reached over and instead of picking up his biretta, he picked up his straw hat, put it on, and to the utterance of the acolytes and the amazement of the congregation, he walked out into the sanctuary, a straw hat topping his magnificent vestments.

Quiz Corner

If Christ was dead, why did he not make all people Catholics, or at one prayer, when he came upon earth? Nothing is impossible with God.

There may be such a thing as a natural morality, but this is little more than conventional. It would create outward respectability. It does not reflect a belief in God and punishment after death, and destroys the very basis for moral living. One is prompted to lead a moral life either because one loves God and therefore keeps His Ten Commandments, or because one fears punishment for violation of the Maker's laws. A non-Christian nations morality has always been at a low ebb, despite the fact that the bulk of the people of these nations believed in some form of supreme being, which shows that more than a crude conception of God is necessary for moral living.

Who is the patron saint of the Boy Scouts and what is known of his life?

The patron saint of the Boy Scouts is St. George. His feast is celebrated on April 23. Many legends have grown up in the course of centuries concerning St. George, but the only definite facts are that he was martyred probably at Lydda in Palestine, probably before the era of Constantine the Great.

Legendary accounts say that he was born of noble parents in Cappadocia and at an early age became a soldier. Here his heroism and bravery won the recognition of the Emperor Diocletian and he was appointed a member of staff. When Diocletian decided to persecute the Christians, St. George is said to have professed his faith and to have resigned his office. He is the patron saint of Crusades, soldiers, travellers, and Boy Scouts.

Movie Guide

NEW FILMS REVIEWED

Falcon in Danger, The, A-1
Trail of Terror, A-1
Victory Through Air Power, A-1
Hercules Can Wait, A-1
Solemnly Base, A-1
For Whom the Bell Tolls, B
St. Diddle Diddle, B

AT THE THEATRES

PALACE

Dixie, A-1
Fetters of Larceny, A-1

LOEW'S ROCHESTER

The Youngest Profession, A-1
Harrison's Kid, A-1

CENTURY

The Leopard Man, A-1
Swick Your Partner, A-1

REGENT

Background to Danger, A-1
Mexican Spitter's Blooded Feast, A-1

TEMPLE

Solemnly Base, A-1

ITIP

Fig of Old Deary, Not Available

Five and Ten Years Ago

(From the Files of the CATHOLIC COURIER)

From July 27, 1933 Edition

Unreserved satisfaction was expressed among German Catholics over the signature of the new Concordat between the Holy See and the German Federal Government, generally expected to open a new era of friendly relations between Church and State in Germany.

From July 28, 1933 Edition

Assembling from all missionary sections in Utah, priests of the Salt Lake City Diocese renewed fraternal ties and honored their former Bishop, the Most Rev. James E. Kearney, Bishop of Rochester, on his return trip.

The bus transportation proposal for parochial school children passed the Constitutional Convention in Albany with 124 affirmative and 3 negative votes recorded.