

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 this 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 dozen "The CATHOLIC COURIER in every Catholic home."
+ JAMES E. KEARNEY, Bishop of Rochester.

POPE NEEDED AT PEACE CONFERENCE

No one can blame all the defects of the Versailles Peace Conference on the fact that the Pope was not present. That his absence was no accident is clear from the subsequent report of the London Treaty that specifically excluded him. There must have been some reason for this treaty, some reason for excluding the Holy Father. It surely was not any desire on the part of the high contracting parties, or some of them, to be so just and reasonable that the Pope's influence would not be needed. The war to end all wars closed under the provisions of that Treaty; the war that is greatest among all wars opened within 25 years of that Treaty.

Men must learn that God's world can be a happy home for men only when God's law is observed. Violations of right are justly punished when sponsored by great nations as when committed by individuals. The peace that follows this war shall surely bring further conflicts unless it is founded on God's law, on the law of morality.

Neutral among all temporal rulers, recognized universally as the Pope of Peace, seeking no personal or national advantage, looking only to the restoration to all men of God-given rights, what a blessing the Holy Father would be to the coming peace conference! Present in person or through his representatives, he could bring to his conferees at that conference a wisdom based on knowledge of the world and its ways, a wisdom developed by study and travel and diplomatic training and experience, a wisdom that embraces all that faith teaches us, that looks to God as Ruler of the Universe.

Men may well pray that the post-war world may have the advantages that can come only from a peace-conference blessed by the counsel and advice, the cooperation and help, the protective influence and moral power, of the great Spiritual Leader of all the world, Pope Pius XII.

YOUTH CRIME MOUNTING

An increase of 17.7% in arrests of boys and girls in the 17 year old class, and an 87% increase within six months in arrests of young girls for crimes against moral decency, is reported by J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Hoover rightly declares that this condition can not be changed by the police alone, but must find its remedy in the influence of the home, the school, the church.

Parents must recognize the serious obligation that rests on them to guide and direct the morals of their children by proper training at home, by sending their children to a religious school, by seeing to it that the children attend Mass and receive the sacraments regularly. This is the positive part; there is an important negative part, definite care and supervision to protect children from harm by keeping them away from dangerous occasions, that should not be neglected.

No extraneous activity should be permitted to take mothers away from the all-important task of supervising their children. To neglect it, to leave the children to fend for themselves during long hours of work, to expect children to develop without that care that God made mothers to give, is a serious offense against God and against our country.

We are waging a world-war to abolish crimes against man's liberty. We fight that America and all the world may once more become a safe citadel of man's rights. But how futile our victory in arms will be, if we suffer defeat in our homes and families! Let every father and mother take the warning to heart! Let every parent apply the lesson where it should be applied, to the boys and girls of the household! Home discipline will have its proper effect on children that have been raised in the fear and love of God. Youthful obedience to parents on the job will prevent the growth of youthful crime.

YOUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The Catholic school is yours on many counts: you and your parents built it and paid for it; it is for your children; it lives by your support and patronage. You built it and paid for it, why? Because you are Catholics. You pay for it, you patronize it, why? Because you are Catholic.

It all begins there, and ends there. No further reason is needed than the fact that you are a Catholic. Your whole training, your understanding of your duty to your children, your appreciation of the fact that God must be with your child all through the day in school in the honored place that He should have in mind and heart and memory, naturally results from the fact that you are a Catholic. You believe in God, you believe in your child! Because you are a Catholic.

Your decision must be made now. Just a few more days of vacation, and schools will be reopening. Parents who are real Catholics, will be sending their children to Catholic schools. Where something is wrong with their Catholicity, parents will be denying their children the necessary training that only a Catholic school can give.

Your Catholic school! Support it, patronize it, cooperate with it! Blessed, indeed, are the children whose scholastic life is surrounded with the religious influence, training, atmosphere, that will send them forth into the world permeated with the sense of God's presence, with a practical knowledge of God's goodness and power, with a sustaining love for God! Blessed are the parents who make good use of our Catholic schools in performing the difficult task of training their children for life here and hereafter.

How About Devil Possession?

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

Scarcely anyone talks today about devil possession. In ancient days no less an Authority than Christ Himself admitted it as a matter of course. What He did about it, every reader of the Gospels will remember. From His time to our own, and indeed until very recently in our own, all Christians accepted the existence of the devil and the possibility of his taking "possession" of a human soul as Gospel truth. The ultra-moderns have rejected both devil and devil possession as superstition.

But now, "to and fro" the phenomenon crops up again in 1943. It is not exactly the phenomenon, at least the discussion of it as a possibility, and even at the most probable explanation of some of the things we are reading day after day in the newspapers.

The New York Herald Tribune on Sunday, Aug. 1, had an editorial on "The Possessed." The writer quoted Wallace Deuel, former Martin correspondent of the Chicago Daily News who in an "interesting unorthodox book" which appeared about a year ago,

"People Under Hitler" used the words "demonic" and "possessed" as a likely explanation of the spell cast upon the Nazis by Hitler. "Our modern world," says the Herald Tribune, by way of rehearsing Mr. Deuel's theory, "had up to 1930, ceased to believe in the existence of evil in the way it had been viewed by theologians of earlier generations. Evil had become outmoded. We no longer knew what our forefathers felt of a monstrous power against which they raised fortifications of faith and arms of the spirit."

But now, say the newspaper writer and the author whom he quotes, "the world has fatally discovered that evil which was nationally looked to still an utterly real and utterly terrible thing."

The Herald Tribune has in mind as its "horrible example" Adolf Hitler. In him, it says, we have discovered what the powers of destruction can be when "incarnated in what seemed at first to be only an oratorical comedian with a thick mustache."

The Germans seem still to be under the spell of the man who is in the power of the devil. And so we must bring into Europe "a new world's faith that demons can be cast out of dictators."

RARE FOR DAILIES

Obviously this is unusual stuff to be found on the editorial page of a great metropolitan daily. To Catholics, this apparent conversion of at least two journalists to a belief in demon-possession is particularly interesting. On our part we have never seen any good reason to abandon a belief that was held by the Son of God. Psychologists come and psychologists go—the Gospels remain. Science has one explanation today and another explanation tomorrow of abnormal facts in the mental life. If we were to revise our theology every time a new psychology comes along, we should be forever revising, and we should find out in the end that we were right in the first place. "My words shall not pass away" said Jesus, and among His words—and His deeds—were not a few that had to do with devils incarnate in men.

If we wait long enough (the Catholic Church has plenty of time; she has all the time that there is and that there will be, and in consequence... she can wait) we shall see the great up-to-the-moment moderns coming around to the belief of nineteen hundred years ago.

Men are compelled to return to the ancient view because no recent theory suffices to explain the facts. You cannot explain Hitler with a sweetness-and-light psychology. You have to turn to Freudianism, and even that ugly theory fails to explain how one man can hoodwink a nation, hold millions of intelligent men and women enthralled and acquiescent while he dictates to them what they shall think and say and do. You may call him "madness," but that will not explain him. You will have to go deeper down even than Freud, not into his rather regions of the Unconscious, but below that into the infernal pit where you find things more hideous than any that are dreamed of even by Freud. In a word you arrive at the devil and devil-possession.

BIBLICAL FACT

So it comes to pass the squeamish people who just simply couldn't believe in sin; who called it misfortune, or imperfection, and who of course couldn't accept anything so "mediæval" as devil possession, have come by a circuitous route to what the Bible takes as a matter of observable fact.

Oddest of all is the fact that people who couldn't believe in God come to believe in the devil, and that those who couldn't accept the fact that God became incarnate in Christ have come to think that Satan is incarnate in Adolf Hitler.

I do not myself accept the theory of Mr. Deuel or of the Herald Tribune writer just as it stands. I am rather of the impression that if we start explaining the horrible things that are happening by alleging devil-possession, we shall have to go pretty far with it and impute it to more people than Adolf Hitler. But as a possibility the idea is interesting. Of one thing however I feel certain; we cannot cast out Beelzebub by Beelzebub. If there are devils to cast out, there is only One who can do it. Unfortunately the modern world, which let the devil in, has excluded the One who can cast them out.

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To Tell No One

External wonders make more of an appeal to men than spiritual instructions. There is more excitement in seeing the cure of a deaf and dumb man, than in hearing the exhortations of Christ. Yet Christ came not merely to cure the ill of this body, but to cure men's souls. His great purpose was by His teachings and grace to minister to the needs of men's souls; here was a good that would never pass away, while even the miraculous cure of speech and hearing could last only the few years until death should again destroy them.

Again, Christ's goodness to the deaf and dumb man, was a kindness to one individual. His Sacred Heart was placed at the loving interest of those friends who begged Him to lay His hands upon him. His goodness prompted Him to grant this blessing, to give new life to the ear and the vocal organs of the unfortunate one. But His coming was not for one, but for all.

Hence, Christ charged His hearers to tell no one. He would have them tell of His sermons, of His promises, of His warnings, of His revelation of all that God would have them know that they might be saved. He would have them tell of His saving words on the commandments of God, on the beatitudes, on the saving virtues of faith, hope, and charity. He would have them tell of His parables that contained so much of divine teaching in so memorable a form. But He would not have them center their attention on His miracles, which were not an end in themselves, but only a means to an end; He would not have them tell these wonders as examples of what the ordinary man should look for in Christ.

Human frailty led these men to neglect Christ's order. They could not hold themselves; they continued even under His further charging to publish the miraculous cure of the deaf and dumb man. They continued to declare that He had done all things well, making the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak. What mightier wonders Christ has wrought in during men's souls, in restoring spiritual faculties that shall never see death, in recalling men to the life of grace that shall remain forever!

QUERIES and REPLIES

Why Are Catholics So Extravagant in Decorating Their Churches and Altars?

It is surely not extravagance to adorn the temple in which the King of Kings resides. As Americans we contribute through taxation to maintain the President of the United States in comparative luxury and yet no one considers us extravagant in so doing. Why should such an accusation be made against us when we follow an inclination of human nature to pay honors to God through adornment of His churches?

For centuries the Church has been the focal point around which the talents of great artists and the donations of generous patrons have converged to make of the House of God a thing of beauty and a fitting place for the Presence of Divinity. All this is but in keeping with the command of God Himself saying: "Beautify the place of My sanctuary" (Isaiah 60, 13).—(From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Miss.)

Feast Days

- Sunday, Aug. 23.—EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST.
- Monday, Aug. 24.—ST. ROSE OF LIMA.
- Tuesday, Aug. 25.—ST. RAYMUND NONNATUS.
- Wednesday, Sept. 1.—ST. AUGUSTINE.
- Thursday, Sept. 2.—ST. STEPHEN.
- Friday, Sept. 3.—ST. SERAPHIM.
- Saturday, Sept. 4.—ST. ROSALIE.

'Quiz' Corner

In the "Kingdom of Heaven" in this world or in the next?

The "Kingdom of Heaven," as it is used in the Scriptures, sometimes refers to the Church on earth, while at other times it refers to the abode of God and the elect.

You would have to judge from the context in each particular instance as to the sense in which the phrase is used.

If a penitent forgets to say the act of contrition in the confessional does it make his confession bad?

The contrition needed for valid absolution is a disposition of heart and soul and need not be expressed in words. When people prepare themselves for confession, that necessary disposition is usually present in their heart; the very preparation generally consists of formal acts of contrition, and the thanksgiving after confession often supplies the same. Hence, if one forgets to repeat the words of the act of contrition, there should be no reason for worry about the forgiveness of sins. The heartfelt contrition is infinitely more important than any formal expression of words.

What is the Salve Regina?

The Salve Regina is a beautiful prayer said by the Church in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is called the Salve Regina from the opening Latin words, which mean: Hail Queen. It was composed by Blessed Herman in 1099. The last line was added to the prayer by Saint Bernard in 1144. This hymn of praise in honor of Our Lady is said or sung after the canonical hours in all Benedictine houses. Pope LEO XIII prescribed its recitation after every low Mass.