The Official Newspaper of The Rochester Diocese

Catholic Courier

VOLUME XXIV JANUARY 4, 1945 NUMBER 1

MOST REV. RAND JAMES EDWARD KEARNEY, D.D. President

Member Audit Bureau of Circulations
Catholic Press Association Member
N. C. W. C. Weekly News Service

Published by CATHOLIC COURIER and JOURNAL, Inc.
Main Business Office: 50 Chestnut St.—Stone 1126—Rochester 4, N. Y.
Other Editorial and Business Offices:
ELMIRA, N. Y.—321 Realty Bldg.—Phone 2-5484
AUBURN, N. Y.—15 Clark St.—Phone 696

Entered as second class matter in the Postoffice at Rochester, N. Y. as required under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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FATHER BRESNIHAN

One of the older priests of the diocese was taken by death during the closing hours of the old year. Father Bresnihan was within two years of his golden jubilee in the Priesthood when he was stricken. His years of service had been spent in Churchville and at St. Bridget's in Rochester.

The genial manner and affable disposition of Father Bresnihan won him a host of friends. He had served as Assistant Pastor of St. Bridget's in the pastorate of Father Thomas A. Hendrick, who in 1903 was made Bishop of Cebu in the Philippine Islands. He became Pastor of St. Bridget's on the death of Father Kavanaugh. In his twenty-five years in this position, he saw a change come over his parish from the growth of industry and the accompanying industrialization of the area, and from the influx of many families of Italian immigrants.

Older parishioners will remember Father Bresnihan as the founder in this section of the devotion to St. Rita. For many years crowds thronged St. Bridget's Church at the weekly devotions before her beautiful shrine. After World War I, Father Bresnihan erected a shrine to Mary, Queen of Peace, and conducted a popular weekly service that attracted the faithful from far and near.

As the years passed on Father Bresnihan found many of his former parishioners returning for a visit to the home church and the home Pastor. There was something about him and about his parish that made the old friends long to come back and renew the old friendship.

Auburn has given many vocations to the Priesthood in the diocese, and Father Bresnihan was but one of a noble line of priests and pastors that came from that city. Having fulfilled his days of priestly labor in the Rochester district, he expressed the wish that he might be buried in the old home city of Auburn. His wish has been fulfilled. His mortal remains are laid to rest beside those of his good father and mother. He goes back in death to the scenes of his boyhood years, to the hallowed places where first he heard the call of priestly vocation. May his soul rest in peace!

WHAT DOES 1945 HOLD FOR US?

The world enters into the year 1945 with prospects that differ according to the various nations. The Axis countries have every reason to see in it only the prospect of defeat. Whether that defeat shall be fully accomplished in 1945 is still in some doubt. But that 1945 shall surely bring defeat much closer is a prospect that can not be hidden. Yet defeat of the Axis powers, defeat of the dictators who rule and ruin their peoples, will be a blessing in disguise for the oppressed populations. There could be no liberty, no peace and contentment, no normal enjoyment of God-given rights, for those afflicted people were their rulers to make permanent their sway at home and beyond. Defeat may well be a real victory for the ordinary man and woman in those countries. Suppression of the military craze will make it possible to develope once again the arts and the industries of peace.

The Allied countries enter on 1945 with a determination to win the peace in Europe and to progress mightily toward victory over Japan. There have been setbacks recently in Europe, but none that mean anything more than a postponement of the day of victory. Brave men and true, skilled in the ways of war, and backed up by the men in American industry, are today fighting one of the greatest battles of all time. They are up against a foe that is expert in warlike prowess. The battle will cost us dearly in men and materiel, but will surely lead to complete victory for the Allies. Japan will take longer to conquer. But 1945 will see our forces well on their way to victory in all sectors.

1945 should see more planning for a just and lasting peace. The world should insist that the Holy Father's pronouncements in his recent Christmas Message, be given careful consideration in planning the peace. To leave God out of the peace planning means failure for the peace. God's world can have no lasting peace save through the recognition of God's law in the preparation of conditions for the peace. May we look to a new meeting of the big three of the Allies to come to an agreement that will put an end to the fears aroused by current reports from Britain and Russia. May 1945 bring reassurance to all that a victory of decent principles may be the sure accompaniment of our victory in arms.

EPIPHANY

To all nations Christ has been made known. Wise men from the East have followed His star, have sought Him out that they might adore Him and bring Him gifts. Wise men today still look for the manifestation of Christ in the world.

The star of faith still gleams brightly for all that will look for it. Two thousand years of Christianity have brought manifold blessings to mankind. All about us we see the results of faith in Christ, in the Church Universal, in the individual diocese, in the parish church. Only the divine power of Christ could have accomplished what we see before us. The world is not wholly converted to Him. But what has been accomplished is great and it is wonderful in our eyes. Let our thoughts of Christ be constantly with us, to make every day for us a new Epiphany.

Everything we do for the Souls in Purgatory will be paid back to us in this and the next life by the richest blessings from the generous hand of God Himself.

Sermon Cords — By Rev. James M. Gillis, C.S.P.

LEADERS STICK TO THE POINT!

Time and again we Catholics call the attention of all thinking people to the superior merits of scholastic philosophy. When we say philosophy we include logic, the science and art of thinking correctly. The world at large doesn't like logic. Most people prefer to think loosely if at all. If you check them up with a demand that they follow the rules of thinking, they reply — that is to say they would reply if they were quite honest—"Don't cramp my style; I follow no rules; as a matter of fact there are no rules; one man thinks and another man thinks; if they don't think alike it's just too bad; but you mustn' interfere with our freedom to think as we please."

But none the less there are rules, strict rules as every student knows who has gone through the mill in logic at a Catholic college. And one of the rules is "Stick to the point!" Those of us who remember our student days know how disconcerting it was to have the professor cut short what we thought a good argument by saying simply — or it may be forcefully—non ad rem! which means "you're off the track."

Now some of the leaders of the world, who by right should be also leaders of thought, should have at their elbows a professor of correct thinking to exclaim Non ad rem! when they get off on a tangent.

For example: after the Prime Minister of Britain had informed Poland that it would have to accept Russia's decision in regard to the boundary between them, there arose much discussion as to whether President Roosevelt had been in touch with Mr. Churchill on the matter and had given his consent to the proceedings. But as any one with a good sense of logic could see, that was non ad rem. In accordance with the Atlantic Charter territorial changes are not to be made except "in accord with the freely expressed will of the peoples concerned." One of those peoples in this instance is the Polish people. So it doesn't matter if the Big Three or the Big Four are satisfied with Russia's plan. Poland must also be satisfied or the Atlantic Charter will be violated.

Also in the papers in the first days after the Churchill speech, correspondents, congressmen, editorial writers called for a "clarifying of the position" of our government. But even that was non ad rem. The essential matter was not the clarifying of our position, but the recognition of Poland's position.

Some newspaper writers recalled the fact that the United States had "repeatedly declared for a free and independent Poland." They might have added that so too had Stalin. But the question is not what we declare for or what Stalin declares for. The question is what does Poland declare for. We and Stalin and Churchill and everyone else should stick to the point.

The Holy Family

All the spirit of a true family is expressed in the Gospel for this Sunday. The solicitude of Mary and Joseph for their twelve year old Child. His submission to them, their growth in holiness. His growth in wisdom and age and grace, should have their counterparts in every Christian family.

Parents may well plan their program in the home according to the example of Joseph and Mary. No light burden has been placed on them by God: they have been entrusted with the care of an immortal soul. With God's grace, with God's teachings prompting them, they should proceed to go along with the training and guidance of their offspring in the proper religious way of life. Along with their teaching should go a constant watchfulness over their charges. Above all, they should look to the results their training is getting: are their children growing in wisdom and grace and truth? If not, some change is due, some turn to other means is indicated.

Let the grace and example of the Holy Family be with our people to keep them truly Christlike, truly Christian, true followers of the Holy Family of Nazareth!

One writer said, "The United States has official precedents in favor of the Curzon line." That also is not to the point. The question is not what the United States thinks about the Curzon line but what does Poland think about the Curzon line.

Hundreds of commentators also took occasion to rehearse what happened in 1919. Non ad rem! The question is not what happened in Paris in 1919, but what happened on that British ship off the coast of Labrador in 1941. Did they or did they not agree that henceforth boundary problems should be settled in accord with the freely expressed will of the people whose boundaries are being settled. Let's stick to the point.

Alexander Kerensky who was leader of Russia until the Bolsheviks took over, speaking to the Foreign Policy Association at the Waldorf-Astoria a few days after Churchill's Poland speech said that he "supported Russia's war aims and her claims to the Baltic States and Eastern Poland." Whereupon the Foreign Policy group 'applauded." It's all non ad rem. The question is not what Kerensky supports but what do the Baltic States and Poland approve. Stick to the point, Alexander. Likewise the question is not what a group of men at a luncheon sees fit to applaud, but do the "peoples concerned" applaud. Stick to the point, members of the F. P. A.

Mr. Kerensky went on to say that the Baltic States and eastern Poland were incorporated into Russia in 1939 and that the Atlantic Charter was not signed until 1941. "Incorporated" is a sweet word. But the fact — not so sweet — is that when Hitler in August of 1939 said to Stalin, "You may grab while the grabbing is good," Stalin grabbed those States. But even that is not to the point. The point is whether the letter and the spirit of the Atlantic Charer permit the big nations to change the boundaries of a little nation. Stick to the point.

There can be no harm in repeating yet once again what often has been said in this column that we cannot solve world problems and avert future wars unless we stick to the truth. But we cannot stick to the truth unless we stick to the point.

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Along The Way By Rev. Daniel A. Lord, S.J.

HE DIDN'T EVEN WANT ONE

My colored friend is really a gracious gentleman. He has the natural social graces that have been polished by the years during which he's been working in the house of a very wealthy pair of spinsters. Beyond all else he has developed a charming tolerance toward the human race that is conducive to quiet restfulness.

Recently we were talking, and I got him on the subject of himself. He has been married once, but not too happily. Now he lives in two rooms in a pleasant house and eats his meals out.

"I'm surprised that you are let alone by plotting women," I said, half in jest.

He smiled. "Right now," he said, "there are two widows. But they don't interest me. The other afternoon one of them said to me: 'I'm lonesome without a man in the house, the evenings are long since my husband died.' I answered, 'I'll call on you some evening.' She shook her head. 'That's not what I mean. I want a husband.' I looked at her, and it was my turn to shake my head. 'Well, to be perfectly honest, I don't want a wife.'"

I bow to the perfect handling of a social situation.

Taxis

Like all the rest of the motor world, taxi companies have known the meaning of rationing of tires and gas. So many a taxi driver set himself down to figure how he could get the most money out of the limited supplies. He figured, rightly or wrongly, that there was most money on short hauls. On every short haul he got the initial flagpull plus probably a tip. He could on a short trip stay within range of the downtown district and thus pick up passengers without the necessity for a return to the tune of "dead" miles. So in some big towns the taxis began what practically amounted to a shuttle service between the railroad stations and the downtown hotels. If any passenger wanted to go to a somewhat remote point, he found himself either refused or subjected to such unpleasantness of treatment that he preferred not to bother the driver. It was a case of the "public be damned," even the public that was badly caught in the rain, was burdened with packages, or had to make a trip to a hospital.

I note with approval that Cleveland has handled that situation. On the window of every taxi is posted an official notice announcing that the taxi driver is required by law to drive the passenger to any point in Greater Cleveland that he happens to want to reach. In case the driver makes any difficulty, the passenger is instructed to take his name and the number of his cab and report him to the police authorities.

I mentioned this in New York — to find that there the police go further. They have had detectives stationed around public places so that they can hear whether or not the taxi drivers refuse the longer hauls. Offenders are promptly arrested and penalized with a fifty-dollar fine.

As one who has never had the use of his own car and who as a consequence has had in emergencies to depend upon taxi service, I cannot but hope that more cities will follow a similar policy. I'm all for the drivers' earning whatever money they can get, but not to the extent of their turning a public service into a private beat of a mile or two along a few lucrative routes.

That Medal

In Hospital Hi-Lites, United States Naval Hospital, Hawaii, is a little article about a marine whose life was saved by a St. Christopher medal. The bullet was deflected by the medal, and the lucky marine lived to tell the tale.

Read the article: "He is grateful to God for saving his life and believes that it was saved through the intercession of St. Christopher. Someone suggested that a quarter might have done the same job, but he says, 'No one ever prays to an eagle or to George Washington for protection.' So he still stands for St. Christopher."

Man?

The capacity that supposedly brilliant thinkers have for inconsistency is amazing. Time reports Sir Arthur Eddington as a "devout Quaker" who goes on to define man as "one of the gruesome results of a cosmic accident by which some lumps of matter of the wrong size have occasionally been formed."

Why a man should go to a Quaker meetinghouse to pray for the soul of a cosmic accident must puzzle even the creator of man.