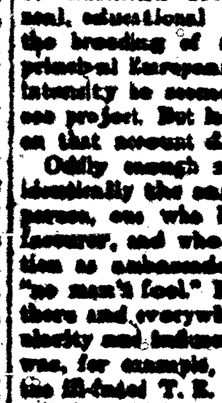

The Official Newspaper of The Rochester Diocese
Catholic Courier
VOLUME XVII MARCH 8, 1945 NUMBER 10
MOST REVEREND JAMES EDWARD KEARNEY, D.D., President
[illegible]
Catholic Press Association Member
N. C. W. C. World News Service
Published by CATHOLIC COURIER and JOURNAL, Inc.
Main Business Office: 50 Chestnut St.—Phone [illegible]—Rochester 4, N. Y.
Other Editorial and Business Offices:
ELMIRA, N. Y.—[illegible] Realty Bldg.—Phone [illegible]
AUBURN, N. Y.—[illegible] St.—Phone [illegible]
Entered as second class matter at the Postoffice at Rochester, N. Y.
As required under the Act of Congress of March 3, '79.
RT. REV. MSGR. [illegible] HART, V.G., Editor-in-Chief; REV. JOHN S. RANDALL, Managing Editor; REV. PATRICK J. FLYNN, Associate Editor; THOMAS H. O'CONNOR, News Editor; [illegible], Advertising Manager; ELMER C. [illegible], Circulation Manager.

SIX FATEFUL YEARS

No Pope in the history of the Church has had a more fateful career than Pius XII. Raised to the highest office in the Church six years ago, he found the world in uneasy anticipation of an imminent war. Germany had been getting ready for six years, bending every energy and utilizing every resource to the one end, to conquer the world in a Blitzkrieg that would be made possible by the all-out massing of arms and men. The Allied Nations seemed to think it was not necessary to arm, that a policy of appeasement might ward off the threat of war. Pius XII earnestly sought to turn the minds of the leaders to peace, but in vain. Germany and Italy and Japan know today to their sorrow how much better it had been for them and their people had they heeded the advice of the Holy Father.

This was not a war in which Pope Pius was a long-distance observer. Right into his own Italy, his Rome, his Vatican City, came the soldiers of the dictators. Soldiers of the Fuehrer were a standing threat to him and to the Vatican over many a weary month. So great was the danger that he was urged to leave the Vatican and seek a safe refuge elsewhere. Heroic in stature, ready to face death if necessary, Pius stood his ground. Within his domain he gave shelter to persecuted and harried Jew and Gentile. He lived to see the deliverance of Rome by the Allied armies and to become more than in months past the purveyor of needed supplies to the starving and homeless people of Italy. Every day of his reign has been filled with problems, fraught with danger, taken up with solicitude for all the world in its hour of trial. His pleas for peace, his prayers that the war might soon end, were broadcast to all nations.

Only from Russia and from "the 1600 Americans" came opposition to what the Pope was doing and what he hoped to do. We still [illegible] will see the light, will find some way [illegible] working for a better world. We have no such [illegible] hatred that underlies their actions [illegible] the Holy Father in all his good works [illegible] the Holy Father and they will have none [illegible].

Pius XII [illegible] in his career as the Wartime Pope, [illegible] in his efforts to bring a lasting peace [illegible] faith and race and nation are loyally [illegible] in the world, glad to share in the blessing [illegible]. May his six fateful years in the See of St. Peter [illegible] and happier years for himself and for his children throughout the world!

FRONTIERS AND FREEDOM

President Roosevelt in his report on the Yalta Conference said [illegible] with which he did not [illegible] the best settlement [illegible] they have [illegible]

[illegible] of land [illegible] of Poland [illegible] of the Curzon Line [illegible]

Sursum Corda By Rev. James M. Gillis, C.S.P.

MUST RELIGION ABDICATE?

All kinds of persons with all sorts of schemes burst into or try to burst into an editor's office. Some barrier must be placed in their way or they would

leave the poor man no time to attend to his job. But the barrier must not be impregnable, for in that case, some would-be intruders who seem to be crack-pots but are really sane and not only sane but wise might be excluded. The "barrier" therefore must not be a door or a wall or a gate or any other inanimate object, but a person, intelligent and judicious.

It has always been my good fortune to be protected by such a person. In consequence I have met some interesting and important people who might have been dismissed as visionaries, or (to use the current phrase) "starry-eyed idealists."

One of them was a Scandinavian tall, thin, even gaunt, highly nervous, painfully intense and with other earmarks of the "crank." He turned out to be one of the most vital, vibrant personalities I have ever met. He had an idea which he meant to make the spearpoint of a great moral crusade. He planned to visit the heads of all the great religious bodies in the world, the Pope, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the chairman of the board of the Federal Council of Churches, the Patriarchs of Moscow and Constantinople, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem (head of the Mohammedans) perhaps also (I don't remember) the Grand Lama of Tibet, and whatever chiefs there may be of the Shinto and Tao religions in Japan and China. His ultimate hope was to persuade them all to act in concert to prevent war and establish permanent peace.

This Scandinavian gentleman (I suppose he was of Lutheran descent) "had everything," brains, zeal, educational background, culture, time, means, the breeding of a gentleman, easy control of the principal European languages. Barring his excessive intensity he seemed an ideal promoter for a grandiose project. But his health failed and his hopes were on that account disappointed.

Oddly enough another man came in with almost identically the same plan. A very different sort of person, one who made a great fortune as a manufacturer, and who later accepted an important position as ambassador. He was shrewd, business like, "no man's fool." He had good connections, here and there and everywhere. He enjoyed unexampled popularity and influence in the East and Near East; he was, for example, as great a friend of the Arabs as the ill-fated T. E. Lawrence. He had no well defined religion of his own, but he had a fondness for our religion and he was on familiar if not intimate terms of friendship with the Holy Father.

Like his Scandinavian predecessor he had the idea of combining all the moral and religious powers of the world for the purpose of preventing war and ensuring peace. But by the time his great inspiration came to him he was too far along in years to see the work through. He scarcely got beyond its beginning.

Whatever may be thought of the possibility of a world wide coalition of moral and spiritual forces, I think it must be admitted that the intention of these two men was laudable and indeed noble. If their plan is unworkable it is difficult to see what may be recommended in its place. The economic and political forces which have tried to conduct the affairs of the world have gone bankrupt. Years ago an illustrious man of letters, an excellent philosophical thinker, Ferdinand Brunetiere, set the world agog with the flat declaration that Science was bankrupt. He meant of course bankrupt as a stabilizer of civilization. Now politics is bankrupt. And diplomacy. Military might also is bankrupt except for the purpose of winning a war. All earthly means of reconstructing civilization are futile. Politics, diplomacy, economics, need the support of religion.

We can see therefore the folly of those 1600 "church leaders" who declared the other day that neither the Pope nor any other representative of religion must have a place in deliberations looking to peace and reconstruction. "They know not what they do." As matters stand in the diplomatic world, the demand that the representatives of religion must be excluded is equivalent to saying that God must not be allowed his say. We cannot expect Him to speak as He did to Moses. He speaks normally through His ambassadors. To deny them a voice is to close the mouth of God.

(Copyright, 1945, N. C. W. C.)

That These May Eat

The care of Christ for His children is for their souls and for their bodies. He builds up their souls through penance and self-denial which they practice [illegible] which He taught them on the mountain of temptation through manifesting His divinity to them which He did so [illegible] of the Transfiguration.

Today we find Christ attending to the needs of their bodies. They are hungry, they need food, they are far from their homes, from the stores where they might buy food. They had been for days following Him, lured on by the hope of seeing new wonders wrought by Him. Now they are to see a new wonder in the multiplication of the five barley loaves and the two fishes into food enough to feed more than five thousand and leave twelve baskets of fragments of the loaves. They hailed Him as the promised Prophet, they strove to make Him their king.

Christ was to be their King, but not in any earthly kingdom. Christ was to rule them in the future ages of eternity, when the needs of the body were to be swallowed up in the superior longing of the soul for the good things of God. Today's miracle should teach us the care Christ always has for us, the desire of our King to visit us daily with blessings for our bodies and for our souls.

FORMER RABBI CONVERTED SELF

ROME — Prof. Pius Eugene Zolli, who as Dr. Israele Zolli was Chief Rabbi of the Jewish community here prior to his recent reception into the Catholic Church, plans to devote himself to teaching in the University of Rome.

Dr. Zolli

[illegible]

owing to the intervention of Jesuits. I want to say here, in the interests of truth, that my relationships with the Jesuits have been limited to the suffering of exegetical notes on the Old Testament, to my occasional instance of good reading, and to the exchange of New Year greetings. No one in the world has ever tried to convert me.

[illegible]

[illegible] all my love for the people of Israel and my sorrow for the lot which has befallen them," the distinguished convert stated in conclusion.

[illegible]