

As We See It

By DAN PATRICK

It is, perhaps, quite coincidental that the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary would take place during the period which Americans observe each year as Brotherhood Week. The purpose of Brotherhood Week which covers the interim between the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington is to demonstrate to the world—Protestant, Catholic, Jew, despite the differences of their religious faiths, are united in a common brotherhood with God.

It doesn't mean, of course, that we concede our Protestant and Jewish friends that their faiths are as good as ours, a false principle which a Catholic writer who should know better, expounded in his secular newspaper column the other day.


Brotherhood Week is simply a period in which tolerance is emphasized and bigotry de-emphasized. Perhaps such an observance shouldn't be necessary in a country whose constitution guarantees religious freedom to everyone and affirms it in a document which has come to be known as the Atlantic Charter.

But the very fact that Inter-Faith Committees exist all over the country and such observances as Brotherhood Week desirable were necessary is the best evidence that petty prejudices, hatreds and bigoted thinking abound in this land of ours.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY



This silver chalice found at Antioch in 1910 dates from the first century and bears the claimed authentic contemporary portraits of Christ and his disciples.

BOLOGNA'S ENIGMA PRIDE ONCE CAUSED THE CREATION OF A CARDINAL! TRADITIONALLY HER ARCHBISHOP WAS A CARDINAL SO SIX YEARS PASSING WITHOUT THE HONOR COMING TO MAD DELLA CHIESA (APPOINTED 1907) THE CITIZENS VOICED THEIR INDIGNATION.

NINE POPES REIGNED LESS THAN ONE MONTH.

CATHOLICISM BECAME THE STATE RELIGION IN ROME BY DECREE OF THEODORE I DURING THE PAPACY OF ST. DAMASUS I (366-384).

WASHINGTON Converts Making News; Foreign Agents Land

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Washington — Sixteen weeks ago this corner heard the story that Clare Boothe Luce was taking instructions preparatory to entering the Catholic Church. Held to confidence, we kept our peace. Sunday morning newspapers last week confirmed it, although a few readers managed to get our hint three or four weeks ago when we stated that one (possibly two) converts would make the left-wing scream.

Last Sunday night one of the more raucous and careless of the commentators stated that James Roosevelt and Walker Lippmann were also thought to be "going our way." Lippmann has been rumored thus for a long time; as for Jimmie Roosevelt — that is news. However, the editors and the readers of the report may now chew on this hint: one of the most honored and esteemed oldsmen in American political and economic life is currently examining the claims of the Church and would surprise few intimates if he eventually decided to enter the Church. So much for news "beats."

The puzzling fact behind all this is: who is the "anonymous tipster" who brings such people to Monsignor Sheen?

Exclusion: In a few weeks you may see the Democratic machine suffer one of its hardest blows. Master of machine politics and long controller of his state, Mayor Frank Hague of Jersey City may resign office after over thirty years as mayor. Hague's plans are not clear. Renowned for liking to win and renowned for his ability to sense a trend, Hague may be stepping out before his house comes crashing down on his head. Make no mistake about it, Postmaster Hannagan, aware of the electoral votes of New Jersey, will have to work hard. Only the recentness of a Hague kept the state in the Democratic column in many elections.

Living Wage Defined by Priest

Decatur, Ill. — (NC) — Decent wages for employees should be the first responsibility of all employers, the Rev. John F. Brockmeier, editor of the Western Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, told an American Federation of Labor rally here.

Father Brockmeier said that an employer who cannot pay living wages shouldn't be in business. He defined a "living wage" as enough to "pay the grocer, buy clothing, send his children to school, buy and furnish a home properly, afford a radio, car and refrigerator, pay the doctor and dentist, and have something left over for a rainy day."

Why Priesthood Chooses Celibacy!

A friend told me that some Catholic priests can be married. I said I was sure this was not true and that the law of God forbade it. Was I right?

You were not right. The law of God of itself does not forbid the Catholic clergy to marry. All the Scriptures do is to recommend that Christians (and this would apply especially to the clergy) be celibates in order to be free of earthly things and able to fulfill their duties towards God.

Christ's own life was the model in this matter, and He recommended the life of voluntary celibacy as the higher life (Matt. XIX: 12).

St. Paul is even more to the point: "But I say to the unmarried and widows, it is good for them if they so remain, even as I. . . . He who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please God. Whereas he who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife; and he is divided." (1 Cor. VII: 8, 32-33).

Yet, although celibacy is not commanded by God but merely commended, the Church has found it practical to require it as a matter of church law. Such laws were not enacted, however, on a general scale, until about the middle of the fifth century.

Even so, the laws of celibacy were not uniform

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throughout the Church. In the Latin or western part of the Church (our part) the law was even then practically as it is today.

In the Eastern sections of the Church, which used some other language than Latin, the laws in this respect were from the start not so absolute. No priest could marry, but one married before he came a deacon (which is one grade below the priesthood) could continue to live with his wife. However, if she died he could never remarry. Bishops, on the other hand, could not be married men.

The Church has generally allowed this ancient Eastern interpretation of celibacy to continue among the Eastern and non-Latin branches of the Catholic Church. The priests of these Eastern rites though married are truly Catholic priests, truly subject to the Pope, but differing in this respect from the priests of our Latin rite in that they are bound by a law of celibacy different from that which has so long held in the west.

So your friend was right in saying: "Some Catholic priests can be married." But they are not Catholic priests of our Western rite, who say Mass in Latin, but of the various Eastern rites, who say Mass in another tongue.

Why should Catholic groups have raffles and games of chance when gambling is a mortal sin?

Raffles and games of chance are not mortal sins. Gambling is neither sinful nor immoral in itself. It can be made the occasion for sin when such passion for gambling leads a man to spend money which is not his own, or which is necessary for the upkeep of his wife and children, or to pay his lawful debts. But if one can honestly afford it, he is free to invest in raffles, or to indulge in the amusement of a wager.

Nowhere does the law of God forbid gambling, provided no fraud, deceit or injustice enters into it. If all is conducted fairly, and the investor keeps within his means, a man is free to purchase a proportionate chance of winning a bet or raffle without offending God's laws in any way.

There is nothing wrong of itself with seeking personal gain. We are free to use our faculties and possessions in order to secure personal gain, unless justice or charity is violated. We are not free to do so by dishonest means; but gambling is not in itself dishonest. There is nothing wrong in gaining through another's loss, when that other is quite willing to endure the loss, and is in a position to meet the loss without violating his obligations to himself or to others. The actual winner offers his partner or partners in the transaction an equal chance of winning the contribution he himself invested. The losers have their proportionate opportunity and are satisfied with the pleasurable risk afforded them.

This is by no means intended to be a blanket recommendation to gambling or gaming, however. In practice it all too frequently becomes a passion, leading to waste of time, money, and the other abuses mentioned above, because it is difficult to keep under control. The milder forms of games of chance, however, are easier to handle, and when they are operated under church or charitable auspices, there is usually little trouble in preventing possible abuses which might turn a harmless recreation into a bad one.

Is Pearl a Saint's name?

There is no Saint who bears that name as such. I suppose, however, that since the Latin word for pearl is "Margarita" you could consider the name Pearl as a translation of the name Margarita or Margaret. There are two notable Saints of this name, St. Margerit of Carthage and St. Margaret of Scotland.

You don't have to look far or hard to spot these judges. They are in evidence everywhere. They didn't die when some of our enlightened men went scurrying under the skirts which hooded cowardly hordes of the Ku Klux Klan.

The Klan may be dead officially but the twisted principles which it espoused are still with us in a marked degree.

Several weeks ago LIFE magazine had the bad taste and news judgment to run a series of articles on Cardinal Spellman. The articles were authored by a non-Catholic, Roger Butterfield, who happens to be a Rochester boy and who did very capable job.

As expected the articles brought their reaction. On the one side we submit this tract of bigotry which one Elliott Fawcett of Baltimore, Maryland, has in the current issue of LIFE:

"Sirs: Spellman may be priest, statesman, poet and orator — perhaps, but a great American — NEVER! Call him a great Roman Catholic and done with it — in one issue!"

We would like to argue the issue with Mr. Fawcett but why pour oil on flames of bigotry?

In connection with the elevation of Archbishop Spellman to the Sacred College, we pass on another incident of Brotherhood Week.

A newspaper we know saw a photo taken last Sunday before the takeover for Vatican City. It showed Cardinals Spellman, Glennon and Tamm and towering in the background was the great Farley, former Postmaster General of the United States. Whether Mr. Fawcett is right or not. With one look at the man, the reporter exclaimed:

"Well, that finishes Farley politically. He'll not get a chance to run for public office again." And so you could go on out perhaps Brotherhood Week left the time to do so.

Millions of Americans are going to bury religious bigotry once and for all and once, partially because the 1946 census which bites our political life, it is not enough that we set aside ten years each year and still Brotherhood Week. We must live Brotherhood 365 days a year. We must bury the anti-Catholic, anti-Semitic, anti-Negro and anti-Chinese prejudice at the very bottom of the wretched abyss which still remains.

There are many more than religion is no more a stumbling block for the kid who wishes to be educated than it is to the millions of kids who are inducted into the armed forces during the next few years with no questions asked.

The thousands of the world are armed with rifles and shotguns. Some of it is Catholic, some is Jewish, some is Negro. It is a sad commentary on human society, which must find its way out only in death on the battlefield.

Millions of American boys as Catholics of the Church should be a source of pride for every American. Brotherhood Week of 1946.

There is no more a time of vilification of the various religions, who from the various religions, turn to mock.

The newspaper world on the other hand, it is a sad commentary on human society, which must find its way out only in death on the battlefield.

The stories will concern acti-