

# THE CATHOLIC Courier Journal

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MOST REVEREND JAMES EDWARD KEARNEY, D.D., President

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## Lent 1946

Gradually all things are coming back to a peace-time basis. Lent has been observed under war-time conditions for several years. The war is now over, and Lent returns to its ordinary life. All war-time dispensations have been abrogated in the diocese. The Lenten rules have been published from our pulpits with the Lenten Letter of Bishop Kearney.

Fasting and abstinence will now be the order of the day. They are the official forms of self-denial sanctioned by law and obligatory on all who are not excused by age or dispensation. For many Americans, surely for many of our young women, the diet of an ordinary day is practically a fasting diet. A small breakfast, a sandwich lunch, and the meal in the evening far under the maximum allowed for a full meal. The intention is all important—undertake Lenten living in accordance with Church law, and with the intention of doing penance for sin.

No Lent will be complete that confines itself just to fasting and abstaining. To be complete it must include a nearer approach to God and a drawing away from sin. Holy Communion frequently, daily Mass, regular attendance at Lenten Devotions, almsgiving through Lenten Banks and otherwise; these are some of the Lenten practices that will make the season truly helpful for us.

Let us become better in our service of God! That is the slogan for Lent 1946.

## Make the Mission

A mission in our parish should not be considered an extraordinary thing. Rather it should be considered an ordinary devotion intended for the ordinary people as an ordinary means of salvation. It may be called a special service, in that it brings in priests from outside the parish, in that it sets aside a week or two weeks for mission instructions, mission sermons, mission prayers, in that it brings into our souls the influence of religious orders.

Because the mission is an ordinary exercise of parish activity, it calls for the attention of the ordinary parishioner. You are missing a means of salvation intended for you when you do not make the mission.

Whether your parish mission comes in Lent or at some other time, make your intention of profiting by all its exercises. Renew your knowledge of the faith by the mission instructions, regale your soul with the mission sermons, fill your memory with the religious treat prepared for you by Holy Mother Church through her devoted missionary priests. Make the mission!

## Our Returned Servicemen

It is a joy to note the familiar faces we have missed during the war years again present in our churches. Devoted chaplains have cared for our men and women in service during the duration; they have sent a special letter for each one returning to civil life, a letter to the parish priest recommending the individual on his return to civil life. The pastor has been pleased to welcome back to normal parish life one who has been away for two, three, four years. The advice given such a one is always to be a better Catholic than was before entering the service.

Here's where the Lenten Devotions will help, here's where a mission will be of advantage. The priest returning from chaplain service, makes a week's retreat before resuming parochial work. The lay serviceman may well do the same according to his powers. We recommend to all servicemen that they make a mission at an early date. Where possible the layman's retreat house in Geneva is suggested as a salutary home for a three day closed retreat.

## The Cardinals Return Home

As they all go home, a parting blessing from Pope Pius XII, the Cardinals begin their journey home. The Holy Father has a deep satisfaction in the creation of these thirty-two Princes of the Church. They are, indeed, Princes of the Church not in the sense of an empty title, but in the glory of the office they are to hold before all the faithful as first among equals in the Church under the Pope. In power and dignity and responsibility, they are to be veritable lords of the domain of Holy Mother Church.

With each of our four American Cardinals returning to their homes in four different parts of the world, the leaders join with the millions of Catholics who return of these Cardinals so that it will go down in history as a great event.

## Not by Bread Alone

The temptation of Christ by the Devil comes before us in the two great powers that are in the world, the power for good and the power for evil. The power of evil attempts to overcome by cunning, by deceit, by temptation, the power of good. The Devil in all his malice and also in all his ignorance would win for himself this new prophet who had appeared among men. The Devil did not know "I was the Christ, was anxious to lead out"—hence his words—"If thou art the Christ."

Christ had fasted forty days and nights; Christ was hungry. The Devil appeared to His hunger, invited Him to turn stones into bread that He might eat. Christ's answer is a challenge to every pagan mind that would try to make man live by bread alone. Without God, without knowledge of His ever-abiding presence, without faith in His power to save, man would live by bread alone. But it could not be real living. It would not be the kind of intellectual and moral and spiritual life that man was created for.

By every word that comes forth from the mouth of God, Christ does not rule bread out of man's life; it has its place, but a subordinate place, a place far beneath the spiritual bread that is the Word of God. What an improvement we would have in the world today were all men to realize that their true nourishment must be spiritual, must be in keeping with their spiritual nature on whom God created the world and its gifts are dedicated to his use of man; but only in the gift of God himself can man find the full satisfaction of his spiritual hunger.

## Red Liberation In East Europe

(By CIP Press Service)

Pope Pius, in his address to the Cardinals, lamented the "migration, expatriation, or those deportations by which the Governments or the dire force of circumstances snatch populations from their lands and homes."

This knowledge of these events was undoubtedly based on a large number of eye-witness reports about the forced mass migrations in Central and Eastern Europe and the thousand-fold suffering they have brought to innocent and guilty alike.

The following letter, written by a German priest in Silesia, author of a famous book, reached one of his friends in the West. It shows what conditions are like:

"Dear K, I have survived the siege and total destruction of the city of G. I was at first in Russian captivity and am now a prisoner of the Poles. More than three million Germans have been expelled from Silesia; here there are only 700 left out of 25,000. We get potato soup three times a day from the community kitchen. About 40 per cent of us are continually ill with diarrhea and hunger typhus. In Breslau 300 persons die every day from typhus. I have lost 40 pounds and am now a skeleton of 120 pounds. After the conquest, all women, girls, and nuns were raped, some of them up to twenty-five times.

"I was stripped of almost everything and have only one suit, two pairs of underpants, one pair of socks, a breviary, my Rosary, and a few books. All watches, sewing-machines, and typewriters were shipped to Russia.

"Twice since the conquest I have been sentenced to be shot. When I tried to protect the nuns, I was knocked unconscious. As a result of the blow, I lost the sight of my left eye and am now a one-eyed man.

"I shall soon die, far from home, among strange people, with one suit, with no cash, poor as a beggar. Perhaps St. Francis is now half-way satisfied with me. I have prepared myself for death by a general confession and am trying to be ready any day. My favorite walk is to the cemetery. I remember you in my prayers every day, also Professor S. Please give him my farewell greeting.

"We have been suffering twelve years under the madness of the Nazis; now we have to atone for it. That is the wisdom of the world.

"The last seven months were fuller of the grace of God than any other time in my life. I am thanking God for this on my knees."

The wave of brutal expulsions, deportations, slave hunts, and mass migrations which Hitler started in Eastern Europe is now going in the other direction, and little seems to have been achieved by efforts to stop its blind fury and control or regulate it. According to eye-witness reports of a priest who travelled in Poland and Eastern Germany and is now in the Netherlands (he is neither a Polish nor a German citizen), there has been not only large-scale looting but also extravagant destruction of property and even of tools urgently needed for keeping agriculture going: "Furniture and tools have been cut and broken to pieces and are lying around in the courtyards. Mattresses have been sliced open and made unfit by water and sand which are poured in. The farmers are compelled to sleep on the floor or on straw. . . . Their work is extremely difficult because the Russians have shipped away the largest part of the machinery, farm tools and even the plow."

If others can't see where you stand, they'll

Surrem Corda By Rev. James M. Gillis, CSP.

## What's Cookin' Could be Browder

Of all organizations now existing the one with the most rigid rules for membership is the Communist Party. In ancient Babylon they had fairly strict requirements for citizenship and they had established an excessively high standard of loyalty. "The laws of the Medes and Persians" are a synonym for anything absolutely unalterable. Even the King absolute monarch though he



could not change a statute, once it was on the books. Nor could he issue an exemption or a dispensation. When King Darius tried to save Daniel from the fiery furnace, the "princes of the kingdom and the governors and magistrates and senators and judges," reminded him that he had signed a law in virtue of which any man who would not fall down and adore the golden statue, should "be cast into the furnace of burning fire."

Such was the law and it was not to be altered. No sentiment of pity or mercy or even of justice could be invoked against it. "You know" said the courtiers to the King, "that what is decreed by the Medes and Persians may not be altered, nor any man allowed to transgress it." The natural inference seems to be that if the King had not thrown Daniel into the pit of fire, the princes, magistrates and the rest of the regal entourage would have thrown the King, himself into the pit of fire. So into the fire went Daniel.

The Russian Soviet idea of rules and laws seems to have been modeled upon the ancient Persian. That seems odd because the ancient Persian was notoriously the most cruel regime known to history, and do not the Soviets tell us that theirs is a democratic—in fact the only truly democratic—government on earth? Shouldn't there be a little liberty, a moderate amount of give and take, some small measure of elasticity of thought and action in a democracy?

It seems not. At least not according to the Russian idea. The members of the party either conform or he is cast into the furnace of fire. And when they say conform! they mean conform. There is no 99.99/100% conformity. You think what you are commanded to think, you do what you are told to do, you go forward, fall back, side step, as Moscow barks the order like the toughest of top-sergeants. Russian discipline makes German discipline seem allspiced. The Germans goose-stepped with the legs; the Russians goose-step with the brain. The Kaiser and after him the Fuehrer commanded that the salute with the hand, the click of the lock on the rifle, the clump of every soldier's boot on the pavement should be as exactly synchronized with those of every other soldier. Or else!

But the Communists have taken the crook of the elbow, the click of the gun and the clump of the boot and made it mental. In the Communist Party in Moscow and in America, every mind must click in unison with the mind of the dictator and with every other mind in the party. There is no dissent. Difference of opinion is treason. The spectacle recently presented in the United States of an open breach between our President and a member of his cabinet, with accusations and arguments passing back and forth, would be called anarchy in Russia. Such charges and counter-charges as we hear during a political campaign, especially against the party in power, simply do not happen in Russia. Over there if a counterpart of Mr. Willkie, or of Governor Dewey feels the urge to criticize the head of the State, he first leaves the State (if he can) and speaks his piece abroad, hoping that some mention of it may get back to Russia. If doesn't get back, but the Party gets to him, even if he is hidden away in Mexico, like Trotsky, or for that matter in a hotel room in Washington like Krivitsky.

Such were some of the reflections that came to my mind when the excommunication of Earl Browder was announced the other day. He had worked for communism long and hard and loyally. But on one occasion he had made a wrong guess. He thought he was obeying but Moscow called it disobedience. So he was demoted, disgraced, humiliated, snubbed. Even that was not enough. The laws of the Medes and Persians being in force, he has now been thrown into the fiery furnace. If anyone smells something and asks "What's cookin'," it is Browder.

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## Feast Days

- Sunday, Mar. 10 — First Sunday of Lent
- Monday, Mar. 11 — St. Blasius
- Tuesday, Mar. 12 — St. Gregory
- Wednesday, Mar. 13 — St. Ephraim
- Thursday, Mar. 14 — St. Basil
- Friday, Mar. 15 — St. Zachary
- Saturday, Mar. 16 — St. Abraham

Warmth builds friendships. Heat and coldness both destroy them.

If you want to make peace last, stop putting yourself first.

There is an ill wind that blows nobody any good. It's the blowing you do about yourself.

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