

Courier Journal

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

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The Life of Faith

The life of faith is proper to all members of the Church of Christ. They must be conscious of the meaning of human life, they must live in the spirit as becometh children of God.

November brings all of us closer to the reality of the life of the spirit. We are of God, we belong to His inner circle of beloved souls.

November brings the life of the spirit nearer to us in the remembrance of the souls who have gone from the world, who await the day of their deliverance from Purgatory.

The thoughtful Christian lives the life of the spirit. Christ and His faith are ever to the forefront. As followers of Christ, as firm believers in all His teachings, we meet bravely and sensibly the unceasing attacks of those who know not God.

Laymen's Retreat League

What a help toward living the life of faith is the annual closed retreat at Our Lady of the Lake Retreat House at Geneva! From every part of the diocese close to a thousand men spend a blessed period of retirement from the world and its cares, giving themselves entirely to God.

The life of faith is made easier for those who make their own the advantages of the retreat house. Deeper appreciation of all that the faith means, greater earnestness in serving God, are its certain results.

The Congress of Mary

A powerful help toward living the life of faith is to be found in membership in the Sodality of the Blessed Mother. Young men and women in school and out of school, belong to the Sodality, follow its rules, benefit by its devotional practices.

Local and visiting clergy direct the Congress, ably helped by those leaders of sodality work from near and far. Miss Dorothy Willmann comes from St. Louis to further the work. Three well known Jesuit Fathers are conducting many of the meetings: Father LeBalle, Father Rooney, Father Lyons. Father Morphy directs the work of organization, plans and helps to carry out the interesting and helpful program that fills the two days of the Congress.

The life of faith becomes easier for all who share in the proceedings of the Congress. They carry home with them new inspiration to make their faith the guiding and controlling influence of their life. They bring blessings for themselves, for their fellow Catholics, for their friends not of the fold. They live the life of faith in a way to make its power felt in their community, to help overcome the pagan influence that strives so constantly and so boldly to lower the American way of life.

Not enough for us to believe, to profess our belief: we must live our faith. Children of Christ, blessed by a competent knowledge of His teachings and longing to be with Him and near Him, we should find it easy to live the life of faith. We have not here a lasting city, we seek one that is above. Let our life here be a foretaste of the life hereafter, founded on God's law, blessed by God's grace, perfected by our correspondence with God's plans.

Christ's Vision of the Church

Beautiful and significant is the name by which Christ calls His Church, the Kingdom of Heaven! All its members are to be children of the Kingdom, to share in the bounty of Christ the King. Its power is to be manifest in its growth to be the largest society of men on earth. Its influence is to be paramount, in that it is to affect the lives and destinies of all men.

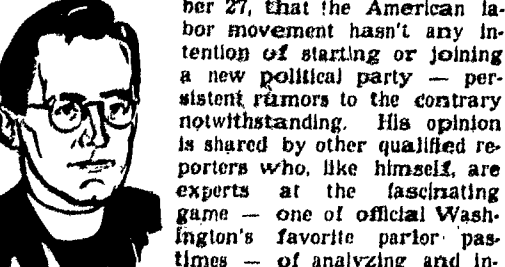
Christ's vision of His Church was given to the people who listened to His message two thousand years ago. It was a bold declaration made with all the assurance that divine wisdom and divine power could give to it: that this little body of men should one day grow into the Church Universal, for all men of all ages, the teacher of all truth. Like to the mustard seed, it was to grow beyond all limitations of the littleness in which it was founded.

Christ's vision of His Church referred not merely to its growth in numbers, but also to its compelling influence on all men. It was to be no mere external entity, remarkable only for its material growth. It was to be a spiritual power, penetrating into the very souls of men, changing the earth from its pagan allegiance to the devil to a divine allegiance to Christ. Like to heaven which was placed in a measure of meat and soon began to leaven the whole mass, the Church was to affect every man in the world. Today, the world knows that the Church shows her influence not only in the ranks of the faithful, but also in the circles of those who know not God.

Like to the mustard seeds, like to leaven, the Church has been since its founding. The succeeding years have brought out more and more clearly the truth of the comparisons spoken by Jesus Christ. Never can we thank Christ sufficiently for the great gift of His Church as the means of salvation for all mankind.

Fr. Higgins Says: Is a Labor Party Desirable?

Louis Stark, the exceedingly able and very highly respected senior labor reporter for the New York Times, is of the opinion, as of October 27, that the American labor movement hasn't any intention of starting or joining a new political party.



So much for the facts as presented to the nation's newspaper readers on October 27 by some of our very best reporters.

THESE AND related questions are treated extensively in one of the most provocative books of the year in the general field of social science: "The New Men of Power," by C. Wright Mills of Columbia University.

Subjective in the extreme is the author's answer to the question: Is a labor party desirable and necessary? Writing without reference to the elections of November 2 -- and of course long before he had any reliable way of predicting their outcome -- the Professor answers the question as follows:

In terms of our information on the labor leaders, we can set up these minimum criteria for the leader "adequate" to the situation: He must have a realistic image of business, which means that he will see the immense power and influence of business and its associations on national affairs, and that he will recognize the intent of business to break or shackle labor unions.

Aid to New Mothers

Milwaukee Shortly after the birth of their children Milwaukee mothers receive through the mail the pamphlet "Women Warn Women Against Birth Control."

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

It is believed the original writings of the NEW TESTAMENT were made on Papyrus rolls - ST. LUKE'S GOSPEL would occupy a roll 30 FT. LONG.

THE FIRST MENTAL HOSPITAL IN EUROPE WAS BUILT IN LONDON IN 1274 IN A PRIORY DEDICATED TO OUR LADY OF BETHLEHEM - A CORRUPTION OF BETHLEHEM (BEDLAM) NOW SIGNIFIES A NOISY PLACE.

200 TONS OF CEMENT AND A TON OF BRONZE WERE USED IN REPAIRING ST. PETER'S DOME IN 1928.

Do You Remember?

25 Years Ago - Nov. 9, 1923 "Catholic Education, a Valuable Contribution to Right Citizenship" was the topic of address by Martin Conboy, prominent New York attorney, in opening Aquinas Institute campaign for \$650,000.

10 Years Ago - Nov. 10, 1938 Approval of Amendments Nos. 1, 6 and 8 to the New York State Constitution which among other measures provided for free bus transportation for all children where needed, by votes of 1,364,239 persons was hailed in Catholic circles here.

The True Church Its Marks and Attributes by the Rev. Edward M. Betowski, professor at St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers, was topic chosen for discussion clubs in Rochester Diocese.

Fr. Higgins Says: Haunted Eyes of DPs Stare in Hope As They Dream of Release

The author of this article has just returned from a five-week tour of Displaced Persons' camps in Germany and Austria.

Washington, Nov. 4 - I have just come out of a land of weird, heart-breaking nightmares. It is a nightmare of eyes. They are young and old eyes; blue, brown and dark eyes; the eyes of men, women and children but they are all haunting, pleading, hoping eyes.

They ARE folk who were uprooted from their homes in Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, the Ukraine and Russia by the tyrannical Hitler, forced into slave labor in Germany and Austria, then left stranded at war's end.

Thousands of these folk now courageously refuse to return to their homelands because they are certain they will be put to death by the tyrannical Stalin because of religious or political convictions. And they have been joined by thousands of others who daily are sweeping from Redruled lands for the same reasons.

Yes, it's the eyes - the "mirrors of the soul" - of these people that burn into your memory. As they peer cautiously from windows or stand about and talk to the displaced persons camps their eyes haunt you for a sign of hope that all is not lost.

I CAME BACK to this country with 813 of these people lived with them for nine days aboard the U. S. Army Transport General Black. The 813 constituted the first of 203,000 displaced persons eligible to enter the United States under the law passed last June by Congress.

The 550,000 under IRO care are quartered in camps which only one week ago were the homes of Hitler. These barracks are permanent brick and stone structures, augmented by wooden shacks where the slave laborers were quartered. Generally they are located on the outskirts of a city or town.

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THE MOST astounding thing about the average displaced person is that, despite the misery, suffering, and almost hopeless outlook for the future, he has held onto his self-respect and ambition, and strives to keep himself occupied.

MILWAUKEE HERALD-CITIZEN

to the law of God, that it is harmful to the future of our nation and to marriage itself. Distribution of the pamphlet which is sent to the mother of every family whose birth record appears in the paper--40,000 have been sent in the last three years--is but one of the many activities of the Guild.

Another project is the giving of layettes to needy mothers who are recommended to the Guild by a social agency such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Diapers, shirts, nightgowns, blankets, stockings, cap booties and sweater are included. The requests for layettes is greater than the supply.

Still another Guild aim is greater distribution and use of liturgical greeting cards. The Guild checked the stores found no cards with a Catholic or even Christian aspect, and had a card designed. On the cover is the liturgical symbol of marriage, and inside an appropriate verse. On the back is a place to record the baptism.

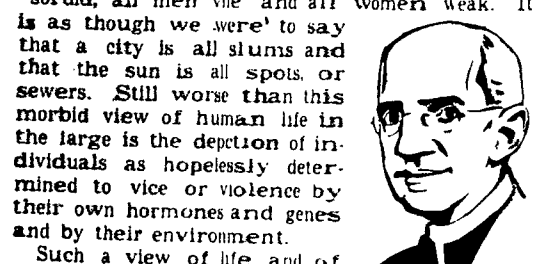
When the Guild was organized in 1941, it combined with the St. Vincent de Paul Society to help defray the hospital expenses of needy mothers.

The Rev. Joseph S. Hagan, C. S. S. R., is founder of the National Guild Movement, which this year is celebrating its 15th anniversary. The Milwaukee Guild is under the auspices of the National Catholic Women's Union, but anyone whether a member of a Union affiliate or not may join the Guild.

Membership dues are \$1 yearly; a \$5 donor is classified as a patron and a \$25 contributor as a founder.

Fr. Gillis Says: Better American Fiction

For some years there has been a tendency in American fiction to write as if all life were sordid, all men vile and all women weak.



Such a view of life and of men is objectionable not only from the point of psychology, and ethics, but from the viewpoint of art. In drama -- and hence also in fiction -- there must be opposition amounting to conflict. The good must fight the bad. A play in which all the dramatic personae were villains would be poor entertainment.

YEARS AGO when the Moscow players put on "The Lower Depths" it seemed to me utterly drab and dreary because everyone in it was degraded even to the degree of degeneracy. Life is not like that even in Russia, and what is not true life is not good art. Perhaps it was the "Russian stuff" as one of my artist friends called it, that influenced our American writers. Even before Yalta and Teheran we made some deplorable concessions to the semi-savage Muscovites.

An American novelist need not have studied Sophocles, Shakespeare, Corneille or any other classic to learn that without actual conflict with the outcome in doubt there can be no good drama. Any author of the movies or of the comics knows that there must always be a hero as well as a villain. The "rough hombre" always falls foul of the sheriff or of some volunteer representative of law and order. The gangster must shoot it out with the local police or the FBI. Otherwise the picture is rated a "duff" even by those pretentiously patient patrons who can sit through a Class D or for that matter Class Z double feature.

BETTER, OF COURSE, than the conflict between cops and robbers is the conflict in one man's soul. In that case even more than in the crude kind of conflict there must be suspense. It must not be known in advance that the poor devil who fights on the field of his own soul is always to be saved. The creator of the character must not stack the cards against his creature.

This rudimentary principle of art, be it drama or fiction which are substantially the same has been forgotten by many American novelists. J. Donald Adams on his page in the New York Times Book Review section, August 29, 1947, quoted W. H. Auden who wrote in Harper's:

"The denial of free will and moral responsibility is not conspicuous in the classical American writers, but has become so in the work of the past thirty years. It is only lately that in novel after novel one encounters heroes without honor or history; heroes who succumb so monotonously to temptation that they can't truly be said to be tempted at all; heroes who, if they are successful in a worldly sense, remain nevertheless but the passive recipients of good fortune; heroes whose sole moral virtue is a stoic endurance of pain and disaster."

THE USUAL complaint about that sort of fatalism or determinism is that it is bad ethics. But it is also bad psychology and bad art.

Mr. Adams speaks of the "heroic" degree of the qualities which have distinguished serious American fiction since the end of the first World War. It is written first of all out of a negative attitude it chooses, with a patient stoicism of the cards, to play the worst in human nature, to explain the individual completely by his background and to ignore his moral responsibility. Out of the sharply contrasting facets of American life it picks those which reflect the most discreditable. Actually it shuts out whole areas of American life -- all those in which a people may take pride.

WELL, THAT'S the sort of criticism that has been found chiefly in religious papers or at least in journals published under religious auspices. It is good to have the support of the secular press.

It is better still to read Mr. Adams' implicit promise that a change is in view. He says that British and French novels "supply the vital lack in our own, the realization that the individual has a part in his own destiny." That of course is what the Church has been saying for nineteen centuries. It is heartening -- as well as amusing -- to know that by-and-by the most modern of artists and writers will probably catch up with the Church.

Calendar of Saints

SUNDAY, November 14--St. Josaphat, Bishop-Martyr. He was a native of Poland and a priest of the Order of St. Basil. He performed rigorous penances for the extinction of the Eastern schism. He was put to death by enemies of the Church on November 12, 1623.

MONDAY, November 15--St. Albert, the Great, Bishop-Confessor-Docor. This famous Dominican philosopher and theologian, who was the teacher of St. Thomas Aquinas, was a German and one of the greatest of the Medieval schoolmen.

TUESDAY, November 16--St. Gertrude, Virgin. She lived in the 13th century, according to tradition was a native of Saxony. She was a nun of the Order of St. Benedict and was blessed with high gifts of mystic prayer.

WEDNESDAY, November 17--St. Gregory the Wonderworker, Bishop-Confessor. He was born at Neo-Caesarea and about the year 240 became Bishop of his native city. At his accession there were but 17 Christians in the town and on his deathbed he thanked God that there remained only the same number of idolaters.

THURSDAY, November 18--Dedication of the Basilicas of St. Peter and Paul. The Basilica of St. Peter was consecrated on this day by Pope Urban VIII. The Basilica of St. Paul was rebuilt more beautifully after its total destruction by fire and dedicated solemnly on December 10 by Pope Pius IX, but the feast was transferred to this day.

FRIDAY, November 19--St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Widow. The daughter of King Alexander II of Hungary, she was born in 1207. She was reduced to poverty and forced from her home with her children by her brother-in-law. She joined the Third Order of St. Francis, of which she is the Patron Saint. She died in 1231 and was canonized four years later by Pope Gregory IX.