

Editorials

Victor For All Human Race
Third Day As A Reminder
Should Do Things Of God
By Miss William M. Hard

I Am The Resurrection

Here we have the words of the Risen Saviour. Spoken, indeed, before the resurrection of Christ Himself, but given full meaning in the early moments of the bright Easter morn'g when glorious and immortal He arose from the dead by His own divine power. "I am the Resurrection!"

Over sin and death Christ stands victor through His resurrection. He is Victor not only for Himself, but for all the human race. Satan brought man into sin. Christ purchased for man pardon for sin. Satan brought death into the world through man's fall; Christ brought man to life through His Resurrection.

"I am the Resurrection!" Christ spoke these words to Martha a short time before His death. Martha was mourning over the tomb of her buried brother, Lazarus. She was bewailing the fact that Christ was absent when Lazarus was mortally ill; she spoke her faith in Christ's power when she said Lazarus would not have died had Christ been present. She also expressed her firm faith in Christ's power: "Whatever thou shalt ask of God, God will give Thee."

"I am the Resurrection!" By the power of His own Resurrection Christ will bring about the resurrection of all men. For Lazarus He anticipated the day of the general resurrection. He called him back from death, summoned his body to come forth from the tomb newly reunited to his soul.

So shall the Risen Christ on the last day call forth from their graves the bodies of all men. For the just it shall be a resurrection unto life; for the wicked a resurrection unto justice.

"I am the Resurrection!" We stand at the tomb with the Holy women, with Peter and John, we note it is empty. We see the Angels of the Resurrection at the empty tomb, we hear their joyful announcement — "He is risen, He is not here!"

Later we salute the chosen witnesses of the Resurrection, men and women worthy of this special blessing of God, men and women pure and good and honest, respected by their fellows for their common sense, for their absolute trustworthiness; the type of witnesses God's own wisdom would choose for this most compelling event in all the history of the world. Mary Magdalen, Peter and John, the ten, and after eight days the eleven, the Holy women, the Mother of Christ, the eleven in Galilee, the more than five hundred at once — all stand for us and for all the generations as God's chosen witnesses of His Resurrection. They testify to the truth of Christ's words: "I am the Resurrection!"

The Third Day

The third day after the death of a loved one is the day of burial. We have three days of grace in which to grow accustomed to the bitter separation, in which to become more fully reconciled to the fact that our loved one can no longer dwell with us.

Those three days of preparation, of loving visits of friends and relatives, of dignified preliminaries to the final disposition of the body in consecrated ground, are much the same among the faithful in every place and in every age. The third day is the close of the earthly career of the deceased. Prayers at home precede the closing of the casket, the Requiem Mass and final absolution find their completion in the committal service at the grave.

The Third Day! Usually a sad day, a day of sorrow and loss. Not so with Christ. With Him the Third Day is the Day of Resurrection. To Him alone of all men in history did it belong to overcome death's power by His divine omnipotence, to substitute departure from the tomb for the usual final entrance into its dark chamber.

The Third Day! May it be with us constantly as a reminder that Christ has risen from the dead. May it be a constant reminder to us that a glorious day of resurrection awaits each one of us, when the glories of the Third Day of 1900 years ago shall be made manifest in us as the power of the Risen Christ summons us back to life.

Now To Live With Christ

Paul spoke many centuries ago of the duty of every Christian to walk with Christ in newness of life. We have been purchased with a great price. We are of God! We should do the things of God.

Our Easter joy will be more lasting if we spread it out through all the moments and days of our life on earth. Ours now to live with Christ! To be conscious of His living presence with us, of His deep interest in all our concerns especially in our spiritual activities.

To live with Christ! May every day find us following the lead of our Risen Saviour, looking forward eagerly to the blessed hope and redemption of our souls to be made manifest at His second coming the day of the final resurrection.

As He Told You

One might wonder why the holy women sought out the tomb of Jesus so early on Sunday morning to anoint His holy Body. Christ had clearly foretold His Resurrection. He had told His followers that on the third day after His death, He would rise again. Mary Magdalen, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, were close to our Lord, to His Apostles; surely they had heard His words that He would rise again on the third day. But have we not found them buying spices to anoint His Body, here we find them seeking out His tomb to give the Body its final preparation for permanent entombment.

There was no journey of joy, rather of sorrow. The sun had just risen, but not for them; darkness clouded their inner souls. Prepared for new problems, they come as mourners to Gethsemane. Before they can begin their dolorous labor, they must find someone to move the large stone that sealed the tomb.

Only when this was done could they wash and prepare Christ's dead Body, only then could they apply the wrappings and the sweet spices and complete the ceremonies for the Body of their dead Christ.

Now they see the stone rolled back! Now they see the Angel and hear His blessed message! No need now for anointing His Body, anointing is only for a body that is dead. Christ is living, Christ has risen from the dead, Christ is ready to walk once more among His Apostles and followers.

Go, tell His disciples and Peter, that He goes before you into Galilee, there you shall see Him as He told you. He told them that Memory arises to a promise that had been made out in the tragedy of Good Friday. Memory leads us vividly to words spoken long ago, now shining in divine fulfillment. "As He told you!"

Of the Easter Angel were to remain with us in life, were to be a lasting part of their lives, the Risen Saviour. There you shall see Him in the heavenly Galilee shall we also see the Risen Christ follow in the path of the three Holy women on Easter Day.

Envoy Criticism Hit as Sectarian

(A proposal that Canada send an envoy to the Vatican, with a similar mission to that of Myron C. Taylor of the United States, is discussed in the following editorial from the Toronto Globe and Mail, called Canada's National newspaper.)

The proposal that Canada send an envoy to the Vatican, recently voted in this and other newspapers, has run into some opposition, notably from the United Church Board of Evangelism and Social Service. According to this board, the appointment would be "a dangerous blow to the unity of the nation." There have been like objections from other groups and from individuals. Without questioning the sincerity of their views, we think they are mistaken.



It is impossible to see how "the unity of the nation" would be imperiled, unless by the objection themselves if they choose to argue the question on sectarian grounds. Some have done exactly that. They have said the appointment would give the Roman Catholic Church a special status in Canada and enable a Catholic envoy at Ottawa to exercise undue influence on the Canadian Government. One Protestant clergyman used the word "sinister" to describe the proposal.

THERE IS already, as it happens, an apostolic delegate in Ottawa. The Vatican has been represented in Canada by an officer with this title since early in the century. If he were to be called a nuncio, the name given to the Pope's ambassadors, his influence would be neither greater nor less than it is today.

In this free country, policy is made by public opinion. All churches being congregations of citizens, have a clear right to try to affect opinion and bring about the decisions they favor. The Protestant denominations are in no way behind their Catholic brothers in using these liberties.

THIS WHOLE argument, however, entirely misses the point. Sending an envoy to the Vatican is not advocated for the sake of giving particular recognition to one branch of the Christian world. The argument in favor of this step has nothing to do with the status of the Pope or his church.

The argument is that Vatican City is one of the nerve-centers of the world, a unique sounding board and source of information, and the fount of political guidance for millions of people in Europe. With an envoy there, Canada would be better informed than at present about what is happening in that Continent and better able to do its part as a member of the grand democratic alliance.

The highly doctrinaire politics of Europe, with their rigid division of "left" and "right" and their clerical and anti-clerical parties, are strange to North Americans. Here as in Britain, there is agreement by all parties except the Communists (or at least a tolerant agreement to disagree) about fundamentals. This is not so in Continental Europe. There the deepest issues in human life are matters of party dispute and as a result the Catholics, as such, are definitely in politics.

Though the idea is alien and perhaps even repugnant to us, political parties labelled "Christian" or "Catholic" are in some countries the major opposition to communism. Such parties draw inspiration from Vatican City. "Neutral" though it may be between governments, the Vatican is in the forefront of the battle against the Marxist doctrine. That is what makes it a diplomatic center of the highest importance and interest.

THE WRITER of one recent letter on this page said that envoys to the Vatican were there mainly to do ecclesiastical business. He was certainly wrong about Mr. Myron C. Taylor, the American diplomat at the Holy See. Mr. Taylor is a Protestant and his work has no connection with church appointments. Objectors to a Canadian envoy have pointed out that Mr. Taylor is only the "personal representative" of Mr. Truman. But all ambassadors represent the President and as Mr. Taylor has the rank of ambassador the practical difference between him and other heads of American diplomatic missions is precisely zero.

In Rome he speaks for a country where as in Canada, the Catholics are a minority. He is not there to give status to a church but, as Mr. Truman said in reappointing him in 1946, "to render helpful service to the cause of Christian civilization."

For a concrete example of his work in that direction, one need look back only to April of last year when the Communists were beaten in a crucial Italian election. The Catholic Church played an essential part. So did American economic aid. The two were coordinated with great skill and no one can doubt that Mr. Taylor's consultations with the Vatican were vital. If Mr. Taylor can represent the United States in Rome without danger to American religious liberties, a Canadian envoy could be sent there with no risk to his fellow citizens.

THE VIRGIN'S EASTER CAROL

MY SON is risen from the dead
As He Himself foretold
With radiance about His Head
And garments bright as gold.
In Hands and Feet where nails pierced through
Are jewels now of ruby hue.

HE CAME to me at break of day;
His Voice was like a bell
And all my sorrow dropped away
As from my spirit fell
A weight of sadness and of gloom
Like that great stone which sealed His tomb.

THE VERY stars of heaven sang
In harmony sublime
And from the angel choirs rang
A swift, triumphant chime.
A swift, triumphant chime,
But sweeter far than either one
I heard the Heartbeats of my Son!

The Resurrection



This masterpiece portraying "The Resurrection" by Giovanni Bellini, is from the Kaiser Friedrich Museum in Berlin. One of the German art treasures temporarily exhibited in the National Gallery of Art, Washington, it was viewed by thousands during Holy Week last year.

SEASON OF PEACE

By SISTER MARYANNA, O.P.

THIS IS the season of peace and of calm exultation: Now are the antiphons jeweled with alleluias And on our altars the tapers are tipped with a starglow Gentle as that which once silvered a tomb in a garden. Hyacinth blossom like incense upcurling to heaven; Fields full of lily-folk trumpet that Christ is risen.

YET IN our souls there is brooding an uneasy sadness. Deep in the mind of mankind there are questions unanswered Where is the peace that was promised, the peace that was paid for? Deeply, so deeply in sudden-spilled lifeblood of loved ones? Winning the war, have we forfeited peace in our triumph? Is it the Passion still? When comes the world's Resurrection?

ONLY WHEN each in his heart will make peace with his neighbor, Only when all men are viewed in the Mystical Body, Brothers in Christ and as members one of another, Then shall the stone roll back from the tomb of sorrow, Then shall we rise with Our Saviour in triumph and glory: This is the season of peace and of calm exultation.

Family Rules . . .

Dad Still Head of Home Marriage Forum Decides

Jersey City, N. C. — Sixty at hundred Catholic couples put their minds together after a nine-week C.Y.O. Marriage Forum here and brought forth the following code of ethics for parents and prospective parents.

"We condemn . . . the current immodesty of fashion as harmful to the true dignity of womanhood.

"(2) Artificial birth control under any and all circumstances as an offense against the law of the Church and against the natural law.

"We recommend . . . That engaged couples adopt every means to safeguard purity since pre-natal sexual liberties are a dangerous threat to happy and holy unions, and that Catholic couples, where possible, make it a practice to receive Communion together once a week.

"(1) That in the interest of strengthening the family as well as to promote good marriage the home should be a place again become the center of family recreation.

"(3) That married couples, following Scripture and tradition make serious efforts to respect and restore the husband as the head of the home.

"(4) That a Catholic couple, the Family Rosary, Mass and Communion, where possible be practiced since these are the chief bonds of family unity.

"(5) That parents exercise a rigid control over the reading material and recreation of their children.

"(6) That the parents themselves discharge their responsibility with regard to the sex education of their children.

"(7) That married couples buy on credit only when necessary.

"(8) That every Catholic couple be a part as sponsor and friend.

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Virgin's Statue Is Beacon For Camden Flyers

South Camden, N. J. — (RNS) — A statue of Our Lady of Lourdes — largest in this country — has been placed atop the new Lourdes Catholic hospital here where it will serve as a beacon for airplanes using the nearby Camden Airport.

The statue, made of limestone, is 21-feet tall and weighs 15 tons. About the head is a three-ft. halo lighted by amber neon lights that flash on and off from dusk to dawn — thus guiding airplane pilots. The halo alone weighs 1,000 pounds.

STRANGE BUT TRUE Little-Known Facts for Catholics

Advertisement for 'STRANGE BUT TRUE' featuring various illustrations and text about Catholic facts, including the Jewish calendar and Easter day variations.

Fr. Gillis Says:

Those "Phony" Confessions In the midst of all the discussion about the "confessions" alleged to have been made by Cardinal Mindszenty and his colleagues in Hungary, and later by the 15 Protestant ministers in Bulgaria, I had expected to see some reference to Arthur Koestler's "Darkness at Noon."



It contains perhaps the best explanation of the otherwise incomprehensible anxiety of the Communists to compel the victims of their cruelty to incriminate themselves before being "liquidated." One might ask why they bother. Why don't they, without more ado, kill those who criticize them? Why go through the face of a trial? Some years ago when Stalin purged the generals, why was the courtroom wired for radio and what was the purpose of broadcasting the entire brutal farce to the outside world? Did the Politburo in some cases so shrewdly really think they could fool the English, Americans, French and all the western world?

So also in the case of the (cardinal and the ministers; did the Kremlin think that anyone in America, even the editors of the Daily Worker, could be so glib as to believe that the Cardinal—and let us add the ministers—could have said what Moscow reputed them to have said?

IT MAKES me think of the Frenchman who confessed that he had lost the Catholic faith. Someone asked him what other church he had joined. He replied "I have lost the faith but I have not lost my reason." Did the persecutors of Mindszenty expect us to believe that he had lost his faith but his reason, his common sense and all the habits of a lifetime? What then was the purpose of the "confessions"?

Arthur Koestler gives the most plausible answer. Also he presents the most vivid description of the technique of the torturers. His story in "Darkness at Noon" though in fiction form is authentic historically as well as psychologically. Another of his books, "The Yogi and the Commissar" is wholly non-fiction, based upon official Communist documents. The two books taken together form the best study thus far published of the curiously twisted mentality of the Communist officials whom he calls "delinquents in tyranny."

IT WAS Thomas De Quincey who spoke of "murder as a fine art" referring to the sadists of the Renaissance. But the Russians and their satellites have developed and perfected something more difficult: torture as a fine art.

Having a victim in jail at their disposal they compel him to face blinding lights day and night. They open the door of his cell at any and every unexpected moment drag him out to be questioned, tortured and questioned again interminably. They throw him back into his cell more dead than alive. When the victim, thinking his ordeal is over for the time being, attempts to collect his scattered wits and nurse his wounds, the fiendish torturers having just turned the key in the lock to keep him in, turn it again to let him out for another series of questions and beatings.

They alternate the psychological with the physical brute force with mental torture. It would be understatement to say that they, with the Inquisitors who chewed off Father Jogues' fingers and beat a fire upon the chest of Father Brodeur after crucifying him to the ground. These abnormal systems had no knowledge of modern science and of how it can be applied to the inflicting of pain.

Who was it (Goethe?), who said, "The Prussians are beasts; education will make them devils." He must have had some kind of premonition of Dachau and Buchenwald. Likewise someone could have said "the Russians are only half civilized; give them access to modern inventions and they will become demons."

WHAT HAS been done and what is being done in the prisons and the slave camps of Russia and the other Soviet dominated countries is beyond the maddest dreams of the Persians, the Phoenicians, the Aztecs, and other ancient peoples famed for their use of other ingenious devices on exhibition in the Tower of London, the rack, the stocks, the iron virgin used in the Elizabethan question in England, and the various other opinion that the only question was in Spain: deceive you none of those hideous engines of inflicting pain could compare with what has been achieved in the Soviet States by the combination of sheer animal cruelty with modern science.

Perhaps we have a solution of the puzzle of Soviet mentality in our text books of psychology and even better in our moral theology. We are taught that when one alienates him self from God he cannot stop halfway to hell. He goes all the way; he becomes a devil. The devils indeed are loose everywhere, but in no parts of the world are there so many as in the lands over which Communism holds sway.

THE CATHOLIC Courier Journal

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE VOL. 21—No. 13 Thursday April 14, 1949

MOST REV. JAMES E. KEARNEY, D.D., Pres. Published every Thursday by the Catholic Courier and Journal, Inc.

514 N. STATE ST. ROCHESTER, N. Y. 14609 TEL. 4-1111

Entered as second class matter in the Post Office at Rochester, N. Y. as required under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Single copy, 10c; 1 year subscription in U. S. \$3.00; Canada, \$3.50; Foreign Countries, \$4.50.