

THAT'S MY BOY!



U. S. Bishops The Christian Family

Washington, Nov. 21 — The following is the full text of the statement on 'The Christian Family' issued by the Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops of the United States at the close of their annual meeting here.

The world's horizon are those of the family. The family is the basic unit of society. It is the place where the individual is first formed and where he finds his true home. It is the place where the child is first taught the values of love, respect, and responsibility. It is the place where the individual finds his true identity and his true purpose in life.

THE IMPORTANCE of family life for individuals is stressed in the service to the family and the nation. The family is the basic unit of society. It is the place where the individual is first formed and where he finds his true home.

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Editorials Our Birthright of Religious Freedom St. John's in Greece Marks 75 Years How Assure More Permanent Marriages? By Miss William M. Hart

We Give Thanks To God

There is in America a fundamental religious spirit. Our government was conceived in religious principles, was formulated on principles based on belief in God as Creator and Ruler of all men. Men equal in rights and in dignity before God were to make up the citizens of the new commonwealth.

God's blessing was asked upon our nation and its people in its first days of existence. An indication of renewed interest in religious principles and awakened realization of our dependence on God is the large number of those who are buying the religious books of Thomas Merton and Monaghan Fulton Sheen.

Our early settlers were religious men, believers in God. They knew all they had came from God, they welcomed the fruits of the flock and of the field as gifts of the Almighty. They were among the first to mark as a Day of Thanksgiving one civic holiday, when men should rejoice in God's goodness and partake in festive mood of the fruits of His bounty.

Thank God for a government in nation and state and city that annually proclaims as a public holiday the last Thursday in November, as a day of Thanksgiving, a day dedicated to giving thanks to God for the material gifts He has showered upon us, and for the spiritual gifts that have blessed us as a free nation.

All who know God by faith, who love God for His great glory, who love their neighbor because we all come from God; all who honor the traditional spirit of thanksgiving that has marked our country in all her years will be eager and zealous to follow the proclamations of President Truman, of Governor Dewey, of Mayor Dicker, and in their homes and churches give due praise to God in prayers of thanksgiving for the blessings He has granted to us in our free land of America.

75 Years At St. John's Parish

The memory of a holy patron, who has watched over the fruitful events of seventy-five years at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Greece, was honored on last Sunday by Bishop and Priest and people. Solemn and prayerful ceremonies centered around the offering of Holy Mass at the parish altar and the Jubilee Sermon preached by Bishop Kearney. A fitting climax to the Jubilee Program was the laying of the cornerstone of the new school addition, and the blessing of the building in all its rooms.

Bishop Kearney's sermon surely brought nearer to us the beloved disciple, St. John the Evangelist. His nearness to Christ, pictured so well in the scene at the Last Supper where John nearest to Christ rests his head on Christ's bosom, has meant much to the people of the Jubilee Parish. St. John has brought near to each of his children the Eucharistic Christ dwelling in the tabernacle of the church bearing his title. His intercession has been constantly sought by young and old within the hallowed walls of this holy shrine.

St. John has brought to all of them the second great love of his Apostolic heart, love for the teachings of Christ. Christ's eternal birth from the Father, Christ's birth in time, Christ's dignity as the Son of God bringing salvation to all the world—all the teaching of Christ as it fell from His lips, unchanged and unchanging, has been St. John's gift to the people of the parish dedicated to God under the patronage of the Beloved Disciple.

Our congratulations to Father Baker, to all the priests and sisters who have helped him at St. John's, our testimonial of reverence and respect to a line of worthy predecessors in the Jubilee Parish. May St. John's of Greece continue to bring to its people and clergy the blessings of nearness to Christ, of familiar acquaintance and love for Christ's word, particularly as recorded in the inspired writings of their heavenly patron.

American Bishops Speak

United in national conference, one hundred thirty members of the American Bishops last week gave to our country and its people a stirring message of exhortation to more permanent family life based on greater respect for the married state. The Bishops decried the increase of divorce, the evil effect of multiple unions unblessed by God and un sanctified by sacramental guarantees.

They pointed out that there can be no promise of permanency in our domestic units without more conscientious devotion to the unity and holiness and permanence of marriage. They call on employers to see to it that employees may marry early on the basis of a modern-day living wage; that generous and just dealing with labor may keep far from our homes the fatal taint of sinful misuse of sex, by removing the temptation poverty might bring to our men and women.

The world looks to Catholics for proper living, for good example. Let us heed the advice of our leaders in the Hierarchy. Let us keep God close to us in all the obligations of our life, keeping ourselves worthy of the God Who made us, worthy of the country He has blessed for our earthly dwelling place.

Your Redemption Is At Hand

Christ came to give men redemption. Years of preparation for His coming were intended to make men conscious of their need for His salvation. With His coming into the world, man's redemption was at hand. That redemption would begin with man's Baptism, would go with him through infancy and childhood, through youth and mature manhood, through old age, would finally bring him to eternal reward in heaven. Through sorrow and sickness and death, man would finally enter into his glory. Through the portents of the destruction of the world at the last day, every man should go on to the General Judgment.

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS Just How Far Would They Go? We Demand a 'Yes' or 'No' By Rev. James M. Gillis, C.S.P.

I see by the papers that the defeat of Dulles as senator from New York is a setback to Gov. Dewey as a candidate for the presidency and that in consequence Harry Stassen may make a bid to exchange the presidency of the University of Pennsylvania for the presidency of the United States. With Mr. Stassen's political ambitions I am not concerned. His political principles however, are a matter of great importance to every American voter. Not more than Mr. Truman's or Mr. Dewey's, but not less.

ONLY PLATFORMS are important, and even more than platforms the candidates' personal political principles. Mr. Truman's we think we know. Mr. Dewey's we think we know. Mr. Stassen's? Of course he did state his views when he was runner up in the race as candidate on the "Republican" ticket. But now that he becomes a prospective candidate again, let's reconsider.

What I have in mind particularly is Mr. Stassen, or any other potential candidate's convictions on how far we should go to help the rest of the world. Like every other humane person I am in favor of helping Europe, Asia, Africa with so resurrect a phrase that had a short and

tragic history — with "all measures short of war." "What I demand as a Christian and a Catholic is an answer to the question, "Does the president or the would-be president believe that we should not stop with measures short of war, but should go to war to help the afflicted countries of the world?"

well but leaves the beaver in doubt as to what it means. Are we to exercise political leadership around the world whether or not the rest of the world assumes its leadership? Would the nation be as a leader without exercising leadership? Would the nation be as a leader without exercising leadership? Would the nation be as a leader without exercising leadership?

WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT Praising the Lord Is Not 14-Day Palmolive Plan By Marie Weidman

Contrary to current thought trends Prayer is not like the fourteen day Palmolive plan. It bears no resemblance whatsoever to that well known soap opera which one may, with close following and ritual performance, find in the pages of the magazine. However, as the faithful kneel to murmur their novenas and their prescribed Ave's and an only hope their prayer is not founded in any foreign, foreign appeal for quick temporal favors only.

our litanies that perhaps some of the wonderful meaning of Prayer is sometimes lost in the urgency of the matter at hand with which we wish to impress our Creator.

Then, lost and befuddled he keeps asking God for help along the puzzling odyssey, when all along the Lord has given directions and help for the main highway.

THE LORD MUST of course have known about all the perplexities and fears from which we would require deliverance all the bothersome little worries the insecurities, the temptations the vexing problems each of us carries with him, the annoyances which are so much with us that they become part of our person.

How ever, as the faithful kneel to murmur their novenas and their prescribed Ave's and an only hope their prayer is not founded in any foreign, foreign appeal for quick temporal favors only.

With human nature the way it is and the way it has to be, to be very long time indeed on the other side of prayer is that of God which can be a blessing with a little bit of help from the Lord.

THE TOP OF MY MIND The Blessed Mother's Prescription for Our Time By Gretta Palmer

The Blessed Mother is the single figure of the Gospel story on whom today, Catholics have a light. Even those Protestant sects which are orthodox enough to admit the Virgin Birth usually stop short at the Immaculate Conception. They do not adorn their churches with Mary's statues, they do not view her as the mediatrix of grace they do not address their prayers to God through her.

too irrelevant to mention, all the things which are most congenial to our age. The Blessed Mother, in her appearances, has never hinted that she wished us to attack the ills of the world by doing a single one of the things which dominate the headlines of our newspapers.

PRAYER AND penance require faith, but faith too supports the belief that these methods and only these will save the world. For every person has its antidote and it is obvious enough that the corrective to hate can be nothing except love.

And so when the Blessed Mother comes close to the earth... as she has done many times in the past 50 years... it is to be assumed that her message is addressed to us alone.

And when she assigns a task to be done, as she did at Fatima, it is a clearly Catholic task: it is something which she expects us to do alone, unaided by the good people who belong to other faiths. For we, and only we, have ears tuned to hear the message that she brings.

No apparitions are required to nudge us into joining committees or writing to the newspapers or helping start a direct mail campaign to push our views. These things are easy on the ego; it is always enjoyable to try to direct some other person's views in the direction we approve. But prayer and penance are not easy on the ego. They do not get our names printed

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