

The Good Neighbor



WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT

Parading Irishmen Stir Memories of A Bloody Past

By Marie Weidman

Certainly, by Conn of the Hundred Battles, you KNOW today's Paddy's Day. From Bally-macdonnell to...

Anywhere on the globe, you get to hear about Eire's castles, fields, politics, dreams and the blue eyes of the Connemara women...

crimson past without seeing her awe-inspiring devotion to the Catholic Church. This loyalty to the Church together with a love of freedom served to keep the battlements of Dublin Castle well supplied with turreted heads of Irish patriots in the Tudor days when England was attempting to bring Ireland to her knees.

But the Irish were on their knees, anyway, in supplication to a Lord who somehow always manages to visit most often those whom He loves best.

Now the Irish memory like the land itself, is green. The indignities and horrors of Stuart and Cromwellian days are still fresh indignities and horrors, to the Irish mind. That fine sense of the dramatic has made the history of Ireland intense and vivid even for those whose ancestor lines do not go back to Brian Boru. The Irish have not had a tragic history, but they have lived it to the hilt.

BUT NOW even the Irish must look forward. Despite the lovely aura around the 'old sod' young people are leaving it, believing there are no bog holes in pavements. The dangers of pavements are subtler. Bight (Elynn).

Keep marching lads - you too, Flannigan, though your programs burn ya.

TOWARD INDUSTRIAL PEACE

Ireland's Idea of 'The Welfare State'

By Richard M. McKeon, S. J.

To most Irish-Americans the sight of tens of thousands of their fellow-countrymen parading down Fifth Avenue on March seven-teenth is a soul-satisfying thrill. But for us who have studied the new Ireland as she takes her rightful place among the nations of the world...

AND SO HE explained the economic program by which Ireland will become a self-sustaining, self-reliant, and self-respecting nation. He was conscious of the gigantic problems ahead but he had faith in the Irish and his supreme conviction that the new constitution would guide the nation forward to the establishment of a true Christian democracy.

WE IN AMERICA have seen the harmful effects of industries concentrated in certain areas. Therefore it is interesting to learn that Irish factories are distributed so that no one section enjoys a monopoly.

MOREOVER many of the plants are small. This means better relationships between management and worker. It also means that far-seeing American industrialists are beginning to decentralize their huge corporations.

AT THIS TIME when many Americans are fearful about the danger of the welfare state not to mention the threat of the despotic state, it is well to listen to the words of the man who was once the president of the League of Nations.

"And we have another objective. Christian social and political philosophy is in action in Ireland. We believe in the importance of the individual and his destiny. We do grow enthusiastic about that luminous thing called the state. The state must be for the sake of the individual; the individual is not for the sake of the state."

That is why Americans mindful of the great debt we owe the Irish and proud themselves worthy of honored citizenship, should pray the blessing of God on Ireland as she strives to build up a Christian democracy based on justice and love and peace.

Editorials

Still a Need To Be Our Brother's Keeper

Patron of the Isle of Saints and Scholars
Sorrow Pauses To Anticipate Future Joy
By Msgr. William M. Hart

Charity Appeals To America

For several years the Bishops' Relief Fund has been raised annually in all the Catholic churches of our country to furnish desperately needed aid to men and women and children in Europe and the Far East. The Bishops have a personal representative close to the Holy Father in Rome to place in his hands the moneys assigned for relief in Italy, in Germany and Austria, in subject countries in China and other Asiatic lands...

Lecture Sunday of 1950 finds America in all its Catholic churches facing the current appeal for the Bishops' Relief Fund. Bishop Kearney's letter places the appeal before his people in the Inocese of Rochester. The Holy Father is quoted at length in a paternal cry for assistance ministering to the millions in dire need. Charity appeals to America; it shall not find America deaf to its cry.

St. Patrick's Day in 1950

Today is St. Patrick's Day! A feast for all of Erin, and for the sons of Erin in every land on earth! A feast for all the Church of God, and for millions who unite themselves with the children of the Gael to honor this world figure. There is something universal about the observance of St. Patrick's Feast Day. He belongs to the world; he belongs to heaven. His intercession continues through the centuries to win men to a better love of the faith that he brought to Erin 1500 years ago.

Societies and individuals join in the religious celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Green is the shamrock, green the decorations, green the trappings, for the great day. What other color could stand for the Emerald Isle on this day? Little wonder that gay civic celebrations everywhere match the religious observance.

The 1950 celebration should recall to us the brave zeal of one who alone stood against the minions of paganism in Ireland, and by labor and zeal blotted out all that paganism stood for. Through Patrick the land that had been steeped in darkness became for all future years the Isle of Saints and Scholars. How much the world in this Holy Year stands in need of a new Patrick! May we not feel that by his intercession and guidance he stands today beside the Holy Father in the Jubilee Year plans to overcome today's paganism by a resurgence of faith in every Catholic heart.

Joy In Our Lenten Works

Christ was a Man of Sorrows! His followers share in His sorrow. Lent is a special season of sorrow for sin, shown through penitential practices accompanied by renewed fervor in practicing religion. But Christ was more than a Man of Sorrows. He preached a glad Gospel of joy to all. There was no room in His teachings for lasting sorrow. He came to bring joy to the world!

So even in the midst of our Forty Days of penance, we find the Church inviting her children to lessen a bit the somber side of Lent, and give some place to joy. Lactare Sunday tells us of the joy that must surely come out of the sufferings and death of Christ. Today Christ suffers and His children suffer with Him; today Christ looks through the iron curtain of suffering and even death, to see the glory of the promised resurrection. Today His little ones pause a little while to let joy light up their hearts, looking to the day of the general resurrection when their joys according to Christ's promise, shall be full! The joy Christ gives is a joy that no man can take from us.

To Make Him King

The five thousand who had gone over to the other side of the Sea of Tiberias to be near Christ, were led by their desire to see further acts of healing of the sick. They had seen the lame made whole, the deaf and the blind and the paralytics restored in an instant to complete health. They followed Christ to see more of His power! They forgot their own need of food that would grow with each day away from their homes. They saw a new wonder wrought by their beloved Master. Five barley loaves and a few fishes became under the divine power of Christ a repast that fed all 5000 of them and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the bread left over. They were thrilled at the new miracle, they were happy in the thought that Christ had provided for their pressing need, they were determined that something should be done to mark this new wonder prompted by Christ's love for them.

They determined to make Him their King! They recognized leader, the ruler of their earthly life, the one to whom they would gladly give all their loyalty and service. Their King on earth! The Master of their earthly careers! Little did they know what blessings Christ the King had in store for them. But He would not be their earthly King. He hid Himself from them that they might not pursue their determination further.

To make Him King! Christians today follow the Holy Father in making Christ their King. But their idea of His kingship has been spiritualized. His Kingdom is not of this earth; it is of heaven. In His regal glory at the right hand of the Father on high, Christ the King, rules beneficently over the world, over the Church militant. He rules likewise over the Church triumphant and over the Church suffering. Men of every tribe and nation unite in making Him their King!

Italian Reds Plan San Marino Radio

Rome (CIP)—The tiny Republic of San Marino, with its 38 square miles and 15,000 inhabitants, may become the home of a powerful radio station spreading Communist propaganda. San Marino, which is surrounded on all sides by Italian territory and claims to be Europe's oldest state, is at present the only country West of the "iron curtain" to have a Popular Front Government of Communists and Socialists.

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS

Does Dr. Einstein Mean The U. S., or the U. S. S. R.?

By Rev. James M. Gillis, C.S.P.

Even in these days when colleges and universities have become rather like a Willow Run assembly line, it may still be possible for a research scholar to enjoy some academic seclusion. "Far from the raddling crowd's glibbie strife," but if a scholar early recluses forsakes solitude and goes out lecturing to the public (or for that matter pipes his lecture out for transcription), especially he talks on a forum where there is supposed to be give and take (perhaps even a bit of rough and tumble) he must not then hurry back to his ivory tower and decline to answer the questions he has stirred up in the minds of his audience.

On the first television program conducted by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt a buster body than Arthur Godfrey! Dr. Albert Einstein made a speech in absentia on "Peace in the Atomic Era." He then immediately returned to his scholarly seclusion. So I fear we shall have to put a few of our questions on paper.

THE ILLUSTRIOUS scientist and scholar said: "The armament race between the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. assumes a hysterical character." Apparently the doctor refers to America and Russia equally.

For myself I have seen no particular "hysteria" either in our government or among our people. In the sensational newspapers, yes. Hysteria on paper. But the American people don't go around fearing their hair and crying, "woe, woe." They remain remarkably calm. I wonder where Dr. Einstein has witnessed hysteria. As far as I know he has not been to Russia. It must be that he is reporting conditions there.

IN THE circumstances I should imagine some alarm may well be justified. Consider the facts, dear Doctor. The U.S.S.R. has been expanding rapidly of late until now it dominates some 500 million people and casts its shadow over a third of the surface of the globe. The expansion has not taken place naturally and lawfully, but by force, fraud, perfidy, violence and the wholesale "liquidation" of actual and potential opponents.

Furthermore, the U.S.S.R. by its own chief spokesmen has declared its intention of proceeding until it has obtained possession of the entire globe. As a scholar accustomed to weighing evidence you will hardly deny, Doctor, that the facts are as stated. If you were to do so, a host of witnesses would rise and overwhelm you. The facts therefore being as stated, do you really think that we Americans are too much alarmed? Wouldn't a little "hysteria" be expected and justified?

Further Russia has by her own claim a military machine vastly more powerful than ours. She parades the evidence of it on every occasion. What is more she claims to have the atom bomb, and if we are to judge from her code of international ethics — if it can be so designated — she would drop that bomb on us without so much as a hint in advance, not to say a declaration of war.

Would you care to contend, Doctor, that the U.S.A. is equally unprincipled? Why then do you say or even seem to say that we and Russia are equally to blame for whatever contention exists?

FURTHERMORE, Doctor Einstein would you mind specifying what is meant by the phrase "the country" in this passage from the speech on Mrs. Roosevelt's television program?

"Within the country concentration of tremendous financial power in the hands of the military, militarization of the youth, close supervision of the loyalty of the citizens, in particular, of the civil servants by a police force growing more conspicuous every day, of intimidation of people of independent political thinking, indoctrination of the public by radio, press, school, growing restriction of the range of public information under the pressure of military secrecy."

They forbid us to create in any non-Catholic mind "the impression that by their return they are making a contribution to the Church of something essential that she lacked in the past."

FURTHERMORE, the statement rules that for colloquies between Catholics and non-Catholics in the theological field, only priests may be employed, and only priests of "proven, staunch adherence" and that these priests must have been appointed to the task by their Bishops.

Now, this is not. Heaven knows, a statement indicating that the Holy See wants Catholics to enter any inter-faith movement in a spirit of "There are errors on both sides." It does not suggest, in any line of its long text, that we are to gloss over a single semicolon of Catholic dogma or to cry "Pecavi" for a single event of Church history in order to "get along" with those outside the Faith.

It is particularly stressed in this official statement that if we discuss the Reformation with non-Catholics, we shall not gloss over "the blame and defects of the Reformers" nor obscure the main fact, consisting in their defection from the Catholic faith."

THIS IS THE spirit of the newest statement on inter-faith affairs... and this is the spirit which was distorted in most of the secular wire-service stories. And such an event is a powerful argument for Catholics to get their religious news in the Catholic Press and only there.

For there is scant danger, in this country, that we shall err by being too intransigent.

What precisely have you in mind when you speak of "the country" in which all those horrible things are taking place? Is it this country? Or "the country"? Your country? The country that gave you refuge and bestowed its citizenship upon you? It must be abhorrent to you to dwell in such a country. You are, of course fairly well along in years but it seems still possible for you to move.

Why don't you select a country in which "militarization," "concentration of financial power," "close supervision," "intimidation," "indoctrination," "pressure of military secrecy" and those other inconveniences do not exist? And might we ask, dear Doctor, which country you would select? Russia?

BY THE WAY, would it not be lazier and more in accordance with scientific impartiality to catalogue some of the inconveniences to be met with in Russia and her satellite countries? Have you in any public utterance, catalogued Russia as viciously as you have catalogued the land of your adoption? If so would you mind referring us to the times and the places?

President Truman after inspecting the evidence says that there are some 15 million men, women and children in Russian concentration camps. Will you, Dr. Einstein, deny the existence of such camps or question the numbers contained in them? Perhaps you had better not because we would appeal to such authorities as David J. Davis and some hundreds of others equally well informed.

Since those concentration camps exist; since they are indeed only one evidence of the inhumanity of Soviet Russia, would you care, Dr. Einstein, to go on Mrs. Roosevelt's program again and speak your full mind concerning the character of the U.S.S.R.? You seem never to have done so.

On the contrary we find your name on the list of sponsors of many pro-Communist or at least leftist committees but not on Rear Admiral Byrd's or any other anti-Communist group of what about it, Doctor?

THE TOP OF MY MIND

Where Do You Go To find the Truth?

By Gretta Palmer

The Catholic reader who derives his knowledge of what the Holy See has to say to him from secular news papers is bound to get a biased version of the latest pronouncements on the Faith. The secular news stories out of Rome dealing with the "Ecumenical Movement" did not because of such practical matters as the cost of cables—give us the full text of the statement made by the Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office.

We could not be given the whole story... and so we were given only those portions which were "news" — those fragments of this statement which made a few minor changes in the regulations concerning the meeting of Catholics with those outside the Faith to discuss "reunion."

EVERY NEWSPAPER which carried the story at all announced that Catholics now might join in the Lord's Prayer with Protestants. Very few of them printed the elaborate warnings that accompanied this new concession. Yet—to Americans at least—the warnings are surely of a far greater significance than the "liberalization."

These warnings are precise and stern. They tell us that, in dealing with non-Catholics, we are to take care that we do not, "by stressing things on which we agree rather than those in which we disagree," foment a "dangerous indifference."

They tell us that we must guard ourselves against being led only by the spirit of "irreconcilability," which the dictionary defines as "a program tending to promote peace."

They particularly warn that we may not hold out to the non-Catholic any hope of joining us without his full, individual submission to Catholic teaching and that we are not to con- Jim by some specious plea that the encyclicals against heresy, not being of faith, might be repealed.

They very firmly repudiate the notion that "not even the Catholic Church is already in possession of the fullness of Christ and hence that others are still in a position of contributing towards its perfection."

in our dealings with non-Catholics. Our temptations are in the opposite direction born harbored from every side by propaganda for "tolerance" and for "the relativism of truth." We are in grave danger of considering theological differences of no great moment, at all.

We are tempted to take the true statement "There is a good in all religions," and to refer to the ven. heretical statement that "All religions are equal, good." We are tempted to accept a man's "good will" as an adequate substitute for his sound belief and to stress our similarity with the good Quaker the good Protestant the good pagan that we forget the vastness of truth of all that he is not in possession of the Truth in its fullness and that he must be taken as a relativist thinker on any supernatural question, so long as he lacks the guiding light of Faith.

THE STATEMENT issued from the Holy See carries a strong message in American Catholic circles. It tells us not to compromise the Truth for the sake of peace. We are not to let our eagerness for inter-faith accord mislead us into giving a wronged right with Truth.

The news stories, as carried in some daily papers, have so played down the spirit of the statement that some Americans may really believe the Church has yielded to the "spirit of the times." True she lets us say the Lord's Prayer with a group of heretics. This small item is "news" but this item is not the message that the Holy See would have us ponder in our hearts.

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