

Editorials

By
Rev. Fr. Magr. Wm. M. Hark, P. A., U. S.

For All Ages

God's plan for man's salvation included revelation that would reach all men. Much of it was given first to a few; all means of publicity would later be used to give it to later generations. Matthew wrote down the words of Christ we hear on this 2nd Sunday in Advent. It was important, most important, worthy of permanent recording. Because of Matthew's current report, we are privileged to go over John's question concerning Jesus, and Christ Jesus' comments on the high calling of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist knew Jesus and His work; his questions put to Jesus called for an answer that would benefit the messengers more than the one who sent them. He would have them know that Jesus was the Christ, the Promised One, Miracles, good works, healing, preaching to the poor are the elements of Christ's answer. All of them spoke only too clearly that Christ was the Expected of nations, the promised Redeemer, the Messiah.

Prayers For Peace

For many weeks now, priests in this diocese have been including in their Masses the Oratio Imperata Pro Pace—the liturgical prayer for peace, as ordered by Bishop Kearney. Our people have been following the prayers in their missals. The Mass for Peace contains three prayers, the Collect, the Secret and the Postcommunion.

A deep personal responsibility in this matter. The cause is urgent; war is on in Korea and elsewhere, war may soon involve all the world. Only God's help can stop it now! God's help can come to us only through prayer. Our prayers should be offered daily for peace. Daily Mass and Communion are a powerful supplement to prayer.

United We Stand

The exigencies of the Korean situation call for united patriotic action on the part of our national, state and civic leaders, and on the part of the people at large. Every selfish interest, every political leaning, every divisive force must give way to the one necessary thing—unity of purpose. All must work for, and fight for, the preservation of our freedom and the freedom of mankind.

United we stand! An army of a million soldiers stands over against us. Our full manpower, our most powerful weapons, our best military strategy must press on to victory. Our prayers as individuals, our readiest cooperation with our civic and military leaders, will merit God's blessing on our arms, God's help in the defense of the world against paganism. United we stand!

The Immaculate Conception

Today is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Heaven and earth have great joy in the singular privilege of Mary, whereby her soul was created by God free from original sin. The remote preparation for the birth of the Saviour called for one "full of grace" to be His Mother. At no moment could she be under Satan's power. Therefore was her soul created free from original sin, therefore was she destined to be free even from the slightest stain of actual sin all through her life.

from the hand of God most pure of all creatures. Rejoicing greatly in the Lord, her immaculate soul was fitted to union with her virginal body. Make your own the first prayer of the Mass of the Immaculate Conception: "O God, Who by the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin didst prepare a worthy dwelling-place for Thy Son, and didst preserve her from every stain, applying to her the foreseen merits of the death of that Son, we pray Thee to come to Thee after being purified by her intercession. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."

The Power Of The Church

There is only one power that the Church of Christ knows, and that is the power to make men children of God! Earthly possessions, glorious temples, the acclaim of good people everywhere, a following above that of any other organization on earth, are all secondary—means to an end. "To as many as received Him, Christ gave the power to be made children of God." Men born not of blood nor of the will of the flesh, but of God—men who believe in the name of Christ. They are the children of Christ, members of His Church, finding the power of the Church in their transformation into children of God.

In asylums for the orphaned, the aged, the sick; her worldly influence has value with her only as a means of ministering to man's needs, with the ultimate purpose of fitting him for Heaven.

The New Saint Andrew's Seminary

On the 30th of November, the Holy Year, and on the Feast of Saint Andrew, the Diocese of Rochester dedicates the new, million dollar Saint Andrew's Preparatory Seminary, located on a 50-acre plot of ground just outside the City of Rochester.

The present enrollment numbers 190 students from Rochester, Syracuse, Albany and Manchester, N. H. With full facilities for a student body of 225, the new Saint Andrew's will be instructed by a faculty of 12 priests and will provide a six year course of education to lead its graduates to the Major Seminary, Saint Bernard's.

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The News Behind the News



THE TOP OF MY MIND

Imperialism—Or The Missionary Ideal?

By Gretta Palmer

American "pop" has broken down, hedged by nervous slave signs, down which a stream of latest-model cars race nowhere at eighty miles an hour. Yet that is the sort of ideal that is being urged upon our young men in this age.

There is, of course, but one ideal, one vision worthy of the energies and dreams of a contentful and handy, vigorous man who is wondering where to go. That is the Catholic ideal—the missionary ideal. And it may, perhaps, be true that America has attained the power that she has in order that she, like ancient Rome, might be the transmission agent of a greater ideal than the

one which made her strong. Rome was built up by power, by might, by force, by the power-dealing early Christians. America's materialism has also won for her an extraordinary position in history.

A LOOK AT LABOR

Sometimes One Has To Be Negative

By A. C. Tuohy

From Paterson, New Jersey, came a letter this week criticizing our column on the recent law reorganizing the British legal system. This constructive criticism made the following observations: "You have fallen into the error committed by most American journalists who commented on the new legal aid system in Britain. The legal profession was not socialized; all that happened was that legislation was introduced which would enable people in the low income group to obtain free legal aid without it being considered a charity. The legal profession was not coerced into the scheme, and the status of lawyers and barristers remains the same as before the legislation was enacted. It might interest you to know that over 3,000 lawyers voluntarily entered the scheme."

There are any number of catches in this plan, economically speaking, which occur to anyone more realistic than a college professor with a book. For one thing, as soon as a "backward country" really catches on to what the industrial system is all about, it ceases to be a customer and becomes a competitor.

Without wishing to see Socialists under every cover, I do insist that these same Socialists have no concern for Christian marriage and that through devices such as this they could never do directly.

MSGR. SHEEN WRITES . . .

The Two Aspects Of Motherhood

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Human Motherhood is twofold in its essence, and is a more complex thing than motherhood among the animals. There is, first, the physical act of giving birth, which women share with all of nature. As the tree bears fruit and the hen hatches her eggs, so every mother, by the act of birth, is bound up with the life of all living things, and of her it may be rightly said, "Blessed is the fruit of thy womb."

But human motherhood has a second and far lordlier aspect—that of the spirit. The soul of a child does not emanate from the mother's soul or body, but is freshly created by God Himself. Who infuses it into the body of the unborn child. Physiological motherhood is glorified by this cooperation with God Himself. Who fathered the baby's soul and then permitted a woman to clothe it in her flesh. The human mother does not bear a mere animal but a man, made to the image and likeness of the God Who created him.

with herself, yet to be loved differently from the self. The sacrifice sometimes involved in neighborly love now takes place within her flesh, the agent and the object of her sacrifice are both contained within her.

And the cooperation with grace in a mother, although it may be unconscious on her part, yet makes her a partner of Divinity: every human mother is, in a sense, overshadowed by the Holy Ghost. Not a priest, and yet endowed with a kind of presbytery power, she, too, brings God to man, and man to God.

She brings God to man by accepting her mother's role, and thus permitting God to infuse a new soul into her body for it to bear. She brings man to God in childbirth itself, when she allows herself to be used as an instrument by which another child of God is born into the world.

EVERY CHILD born of woman has, then, two fathers: his earthly father, without whom he could not have life, and his Heavenly Father, without whom he could not possess a personality, a soul, an irreducible "I."

The mother is the essential partner through whom both fathers work. Her own relationship to the child has two resulting aspects: there is the mother-baby aspect, wherein the child is physically and almost absolutely dependent on the mother.

But there is also the other-person relationship (expressed at baptism, when the child is given its own name). This confirms the dignity and separate selfhood of even the smallest infant and foreshadows his right eventually to lead his own life and to depart from his parents to cling to a wife of his own.

IF MOTHERHOOD is seen as a matter involving only a woman and a man it is seen too astigmatically, and without the honor that is its due.

For to comprehend the real significance of motherhood, we must include the spiritual element that goes to make a child: we must see the human woman cooperating with her husband, the father of the human baby, and with God, the Father of a soul that is eternal, indestructible and unlike any other ever formed throughout the history of the world. Thus every human motherhood involves a partnership with the Divine

The Lady With Open Hands

In her place upon the mantel, In a soft blue robe she stands; She is The Immaculate Conception

The Lady with Open Hands! We have placed her just above us That her graces may descend As we raise our prayers intoning Our wants that never end.

When the mother of the family Was just a little child, She sought the statue at a Mission With saved pennies she'd beguiled.

Because she loved the Lady Who had such a lovely face And was gowned in raiment beautiful.

A Lady "full of grace" She loved her like a doll Then one day she chanced to learn That this Lady loved her too! Granted wishes in their turn! That her hands were not symbolic But in truth, were opened wide To allow long sought treasures From them to gently slide!

Now a family is before her And on sacred ground it stands In the cascade of the graces From The Lady with Open Hands! And when, one day, it is a hourglass For each a drained of sands, A Lady will approach The Lady with Open Hands! H. C. MILLS

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY

ONLY THE POPE, AS BISHOP OF ROME, ISSUES PASTORAL LETTERS OR DECREES FROM INSIDE ROME, SINCE CARDINAL WISEMAN'S HISTORIC LETTER ANNOUNCING THE RESTORATION OF THE ENGLISH HIERARCHY WAS GIVEN OUT OF THE FLAMING GATE.

GHIBERTI worked for over 50 years creating too bronze doors for the BAPTISTERY, FLORENCE.

Travel on foot as a mortification was common in medieval Ireland. Often compulsory in Religious Orders, in one a monk of good health who dodged foot travel incurred excommunication!

TABLETS ON STRAYWAY TO ROOF OF ST. PETER'S MARK PROGRESS OF ROYALTY. IN WALKING UP. SHAN OF PERSEA COMPLETED THE JOURNEY, BUT ALFONSO DE SPAIN, CARLOTTA AND MARIANNA OF MEXICO & FEDERICA OF PRUSSIA CAME UP HALL WAY. K.