

Editorials

By
Rt. Rev. Mgr. Wm. M. Hart, P. A., U. C.

Absolutes

What is an Absolute? An Absolute is something that will never change. It is a principle of Divine Law or of natural law that retains its validity in all ages and in all circumstances. Sin is always wrong, can never become right. It is wrong to lie, to kill, to steal; the very welfare of the human race is tied up with such commandments, and since human nature does not change, these commandments can never change.

St. Ann in 1951

1951 is a year of wars and rumors of war. It is a year in which all the evils of modern civilization are making themselves felt throughout the world. Millions of people are living lives of slavery. Religious freedom has been torn away from their consciences and murdered; churches and synagogues and schools have been closed. 1951 is a banner year for the destruction of all the forces of religion.

Marriage, Real and Apparent

When is a Marriage real? The law of the Church speaks very clearly on this, and every Catholic, or those who marry Catholics, is guided by what the Church says. Only those marriages are real and valid which take place before the Parish Priest and two witnesses. The Priest in his Parish or the Bishop or Vicar General in the diocese, are named as the required official witnesses to any marriage taking place in their territory. Such marriages are real. They have been properly prepared for. Dispensation from any impediment has been secured.

BE THOU OPENED

These are the words of Christ which are repeated in the Sacrament of Baptism as the Priest touches the ears of the child: "Be thou opened." Christ cured the man of his deafness that he might be able to hear all the messages brought to him by the voices of his friends. How fitting it is that a child about to be numbered among the children of God through the reception of Baptism, should find himself equipped with a spiritual power of hearing that will keep him ever alert to every

written on the tablets of Sinai. There is too much loose thinking and too much loose talking in our day. It is well for men whose judgment rests solidly on right philosophy and orthodox theology to be ready to defend the eternal principles of God's law against those who would say that a thing can be right today and wrong tomorrow.

St. Ann in 1951! Surely this fateful year should find her clients confronting her with petitions that gravely concern the present sad state of the world. Peace in our day, cease-fire in Korea, strengthening of the forces of right that they may overcome every attempt of modern pagans to destroy us—these are some of the things we place before St. Ann in 1951. She is close to Mary whom God gave to her as a daughter. She is close to Jesus Christ who is her grandson. She is close to the throne of God on high and blessed by God with the power of intercession that should mean much for the human race. Let us join the multitude of souls in the prayer proper to this Feast—Good St. Ann, pray for us!

Only Catholics and those who marry Catholics are bound to the Catholic form of marriage as described above. Marriages of non-Catholics among themselves are valid marriages, unless rendered invalid by a definite impediment, such as the bond of a previous marriage. St. Paul tells us that marriage is a great Sacrament and gives added solemnity to his declaration by stating "I speak in Christ and in the Church." Catholics should be always mindful of the respect they owe to this great Sacrament. Catholics should be grateful that the Church has arranged the form of Marriage in such a way as to bring it directly under the Pastor of the Parish and two witnesses of their own choosing. Such marriages are real, are valid in the sight of God and before men. Such marriages alone bring to man and wife the blessings of the Sacrament of Matrimony.

the wonderful power manifested by Christ. "He hath done all things well. He hath made the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak." So also the little infant who has received the sublime riches of God's sanctifying grace in Holy Baptism will have reason all through life to rejoice in the gift of spiritual hearing and devoted speaking. The messages he receives and those he delivers will all be offered up to Christ as an odor of sweetness. "Be thou opened." They spoke everywhere of



GRETTA PALMER

When G. K. Chesterton predicted a day when the Church would alone, in stately solitude, maintain that two and two make four, it seemed as if he were going pretty far. His friends of a quarter of a century ago must have placed the remark to his account as "well" and not as "boohay." But sooth is what it seems to be. For nowadays the question "Is it true?" does not interest many non-Catholic minds. Instead, everybody asks, "What effect will it have to say so?"

But Wht, Dr. Scotford, Did You Bother?

The public relations attitude towards truth is shocking enough when it appears, as it does, among our Middleling Elder Statesmen of both parties. "It was just a campaign slogan," said Wendell Wilkie. "It was meant to minimize the shock of seeing Formosa fall," said Dean Acheson. But when men of God take the same "What's-it-for-us" attitude towards matters of theology then, indeed, the fourness of two and two is apt to be forgotten, along with every other truth known to the human mind.

Relics of Church's Trial On Exhibition in England

LONDON, (NC) The thumb of a martyr, the prayer book of a condemned queen, holy bones, a rope cloth soaked in blood, relics of the Church's fight against past enemies are now on show in London. Pathetic chalice as tiny as eggs, a thimble, altar cruet, camouflaged vestments and 500-year-old bits made for hiding are all part of an historical exhibition of English Catholic life at the Jesuits' hall in the heart of fashionable Mayfair.

JOSEPH BREIG

Judge Frossel: "No Metaphorical Wall"



"One of the curiosities of history is the enlarged and distorted meaning currently being given by some to the simple phrase of the First Amendment: 'an establishment of religion.'" The quotation is taken from the concurring opinion of Judge Frossel in the case in which the State Court of Appeals upheld, 6-1, constitutionality of the released-time system of religious instruction in the New York City public schools.

These are true and absolute rights under natural law, antedating, and superior to, any human constitution or statute. "What was in the minds of the Founders of America) is written as large and plain as anything on history's pages, and there is not the slightest possible warrant for ascribing to them an intent to interfere in the guise of a 'Bill of Rights') with parents' religious indoctrination of their own children."

A LOOK AT LABOR

Vatican Stand Contradicts AMA

The American Medical Association is probably chagrined over the letter that went out this week from Pope Pius XII to a meeting of the Serrano Society, a French Catholic organization. The letter was sent through the Vatican Secretariat of State. The subject of the Papal statement was "socialized medicine."

therefore, although the AMA has now taken private health insurance schemes to its bosom, there was a time when even private health insurance was looked upon by medical authorities with disdain and suspicion. From a Catholic point of view, there is no reason to suppose that the field of medical care is anyone other than the pale of government legislation in the interest of the common good, that housing, labor relations, disease control, etc. it is well to remember that medical care is already socialized in many respects. What the AMA opposes is the extension of socialization.

FORCED TO Sell Infant To Hungary Reds, Says Mother

London — (NC) — The Hungarian communist regime is forcing many parents to sell their children to the state and renounce all parental rights over them. The story of how this is done has been revealed by a 35-year-old widow who was forced to sell her only child, a 10-month-old boy, to the state. The mother, Mrs. Mary Nagy, was told by the state that the child was "purchased" by the state for 2,000 forints (about \$220). After a terrible scene, Lajos was taken from her and she was dragged to a corner where she was given 2,000 forints and the following letter:

THE BASIC argument with the AMA revolves around the fact that the question of whether or not there is need for new approaches in solving the problem of medical care which private medicine has not solved. If middle class people particularly are being deprived of adequate medical care because of its cost, if private health insurance plans will always be deficient in coverage, then some government action in this field will be necessary. This does not mean that the government should destroy all private effort in medicine. This would be wrong and harmful. There are dangers involved in "socialized medicine." Just as private medicine has created problems in its own order. However, we should not run from such dangers; we should try to overcome them. To run from the disease and sickness presently uncared for or inadequately cared for and to hide behind the shibboleths of the AMA is hardly realistic and ultimately will result in more socialized medicine than we need or want.

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When Mrs. Nagy was summoned by the doctor, he took the child from her arms. "A little thing," he remarked. "But he is worth 2,000 forints" (about \$220). After a terrible scene, Lajos was taken from her and she was dragged to a corner where she was given 2,000 forints and the following letter:

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THEY ILLUSTRATE how, during that long painstaking purge of medieval Britain then as Catholic a nation as any on earth never quite lost its fight for the Faith and here was ready, with Irish help, to hit back more powerfully than ever throughout the English-speaking world. They show too that those tyrants of the past, as hateful and thorough as their counterparts behind the Iron Curtain today, never quite succeeded. The tyrants are dead but by the Faith remains.

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MOST REV. JAMES E. KEARNEY, D.D., President.

Open First School
London — (NC) — The Augustinian Fathers—better known here as the Austin Friars—have opened their first school in Brit since the Reformation 400 years ago.