

Editorials

By
Reverend Messrs. Wm. M. Hart, P. A., U. G.

Prayers In Our Public Schools

Every believing American will approve the action of the New York State Board of Regents authorizing an opening prayer for each school day. The practice has been observed by some schools and will now be available for every public school. Where the Commandments and other Apostles of unbelief are so vociferous and so anxious to impress the coldness of their unbelief on our children

it is a wise thing and a natural thing to open every day with prayer. The prayer is an Act of Faith on the part of the child, which reminds him that he belongs to God. Day by day it will continue to build up in him the love of God, just as the pledge of allegiance builds up in him a spirit of patriotism and love for his country. Give God a chance! The enemies of God have had their way too long!

Renewing Our Decency Pledge

This is the season in which the annual renewal of the pledge of the Legion of Decency is made. The Bishop's letter will notify each Pastor and prescribe the manner in which the renewal shall be made. The Legion of Decency has shown the power of decent people in our community to fight immoral pictures and those which glorify crime.

How any thinking person can object to the Legion of Decency and its work is beyond understanding. Must all our consideration be given to those morons who feel that their work is to corrupt older people and scandalize our younger children? Let everyone renew his pledge in the Legion of Decency!

The Immaculate Conception

What a wonderful inspiration in our life is our realization of Mary, the Immaculate Mother of God. We are surrounded by un-Christian and anti-Christian influences on every side. The coldness of materialism affects our industrial and mercantile activities. A thousand material things call for our attention all through the day. If one were to surrender to the influence of this program he would soon be lacking in faith and the exercise of religious living.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception awakens in us a renewed love for our Immaculate Queen. Her sinlessness is a strong intimation to us of our duty to resist temptation and to see sin in all its blackness. Material values are all about us, but Mary will help us to know spiritual values as the real ornament of our lives. May the Immaculate Queen of Heaven bring peace to her children here on earth!

Religion And Science

Pope Pius XII gave a splendid message to the members of the Pontifical Academy of Science, to the members of the Diplomatic Corps and to other guests at a meeting of the Society a few days ago. The Society includes some of the greatest scientists in the world today. These men, in the fullness of their knowledge of things scientific, find no conflict between science and religion. Their study of the works of God serve rather to strengthen their faith in God than to awaken it.

The mysteries of nature served today not so much to bring men their first knowledge of God, but rather to lead men to a better understanding of the goodness of God and of the love of God and of the glory of God. Small minds will continue to study the works of God without attaining to a knowledge of God's existence and God's nature. True men of science and true teachers of religion will find and gladly make use of every new opportunity to admire the wisdom of God as shown directly through revelation and indirectly through scientific discovery. Truth is one. Through science and through religion God teaches us truth. The combination of scientific truth and religious truth can alone give to a man the fullest understanding of the universe.

THE MISSION OF CHRIST

The mission of the promised Redeemer was to save man from sin. He was to enter into the world and to die that men might have grace to overcome the evils that sin had brought upon them. With the beginning of His public life, He began to cure the ills of men.

Our Advent devotions find salutary food in the Gospel of this second Sunday of Advent. We come to understand the power of the Redeemer as we contemplate the evils that have come upon a sinful world. Contemplating them we understand better that they could be cured only through the power of Almighty God.

A LOOK AT LABOR

For some years now the American domestic atmosphere has been saturated with the stench of the moral decay in civic and social life. The spokesmen and the hip flasks of the "happy era" were bad enough. Now, after Keavenauer hearings and grand jury investigations and private disclosures, our citizens have been allowed to feast upon the corrupt carcass of a body politic. West Point cribbing, basketball fixes, teen-age drug addiction, graft-protected crime, five-percenters, deep freezers, income tax evasion, and shakedowns of all descriptions, constitute all the evidence we need of the decline of moral behavior in public life.

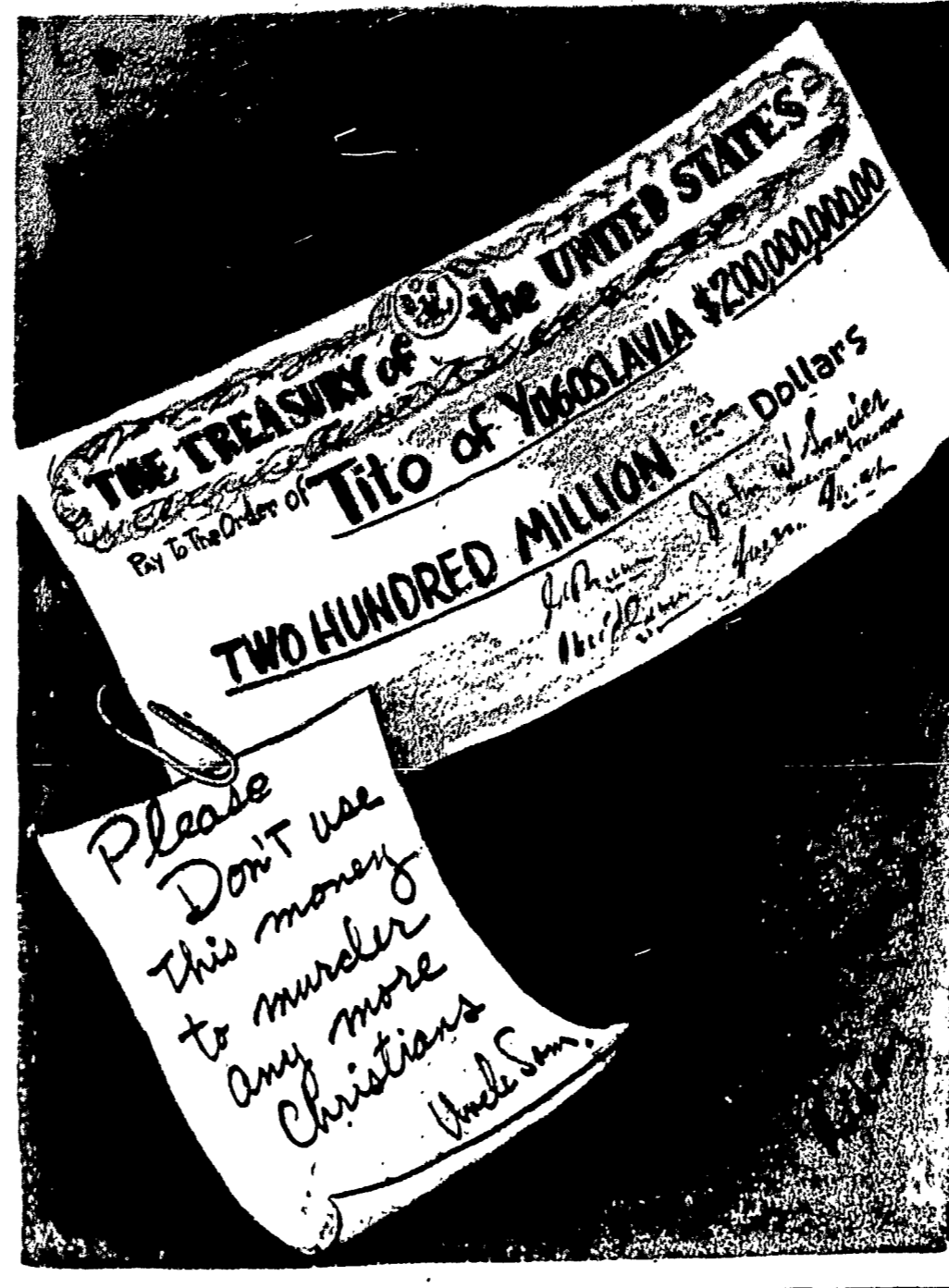
rest on "the clergyman, the educator, the doctor, the lawyer, the politician, the employer, the employee, husband, wives and children." There is some corruption in every walk of life. In seeking to clean house it is imperative that the public not make government officials the only whipping boys. Every house on every block and in every level of society can stand some winter cleaning. This is not to say that there is no corruption in labor's ranks. The waterfront story will make foul telling when it is finally and honestly told. The hearings on the Taft-Hartley law several years ago indicated that all was not lily white among labor leaders. Business agents and local officials have more than once led high on the dues and assessments they collected from unsuspecting and guileless members. Nonetheless, the scandals of the past year have by-passed organized labor in the main. Recent exposes on the other hand have been hard on government officials, whether they serve on the federal, state, or municipal level, whether they be Democrat, Republican, or unaffiliated with any party. And rightly so. Dishonest and corrupt government officials who betray their public trust and who shake the confidence of simple people in democratic processes deserve only great condemnation. Any man who would exchange his oath of office for thirty pieces of silver or their equivalent should be fired or jailed as the law dictates.

Clean Up For Society

By A. C. Tuohy
I MAKE A POINT of this kind of corruption which goes under the name of good business in order to balance the picture. Right now in Detroit, for example, the daily press is studiously avoiding giving prominent mention to some business immorality which if it involved labor leaders would deserve banner headlines. We must not think that the only corruption in public life will be found among government officials and labor leaders. The Bishops of the United States in the timely statement of last month made it clear that the obligations of the moral order

rest on "the clergyman, the educator, the doctor, the lawyer, the politician, the employer, the employee, husband, wives and children." There is some corruption in every walk of life. In seeking to clean house it is imperative that the public not make government officials the only whipping boys. Every house on every block and in every level of society can stand some winter cleaning. This is not to say that there is no corruption in labor's ranks. The waterfront story will make foul telling when it is finally and honestly told. The hearings on the Taft-Hartley law several years ago indicated that all was not lily white among labor leaders. Business agents and local officials have more than once led high on the dues and assessments they collected from unsuspecting and guileless members. Nonetheless, the scandals of the past year have by-passed organized labor in the main. Recent exposes on the other hand have been hard on government officials, whether they serve on the federal, state, or municipal level, whether they be Democrat, Republican, or unaffiliated with any party. And rightly so. Dishonest and corrupt government officials who betray their public trust and who shake the confidence of simple people in democratic processes deserve only great condemnation. Any man who would exchange his oath of office for thirty pieces of silver or their equivalent should be fired or jailed as the law dictates.

The Note Was Not Attached



GRETTA PALMER

When the tragedy known in history books as the Reformation split Christendom, many things were lost besides the Faith. One way of looking at our frantic age is to consider how much of its energy and ingenuity is spent in trying to find Ersatz substitutes for things the medieval man took quite for granted because society was Christian. There are first of all, the big things, the whole effort to found Leagues of Nations and United Nations, World Governments and United Nations. Now bankers after something pre-Reformation Europe enjoyed. Men from different countries did not meet then around green baize tables to try to reach fundamental agreements; they were already in agreement, for they were all Catholic in viewpoint and in judgment. They might have varied about boundary lines and about the degree of Papal supervision a monarch should recognize, even about which man was the authentic Pope. But these were arguments conducted within an unshaken framework of First Principles on which all men agreed.

Today we see uplifting quotations from Plato or Emerson inscribed on our public buildings, the old Catholic world had street corner shrines with candles before the Blessed Mother. We have the no-nonsense substitute of an unlovely substitute for the Angelus. Our common improvement would not be greater if tomorrow nature's cycle of seasons and hours were disrupted so that our whole lives were lived in the glare of a single unchanging noonday sun. Once when Christendom had not been rent the poor man begged for alms, or sought assistance from the good monks and nuns whose job it was to help Christ's suffering child. Each corporal work of mercy was attended by an even greater concern for the beggar's soul. Today there are vast philanthropic enterprises run with assembly line efficiency to help the poor, but instead of the help of a friar or sister, the poor man is helped by a case worker who dares not even if she wishes bring healing words of Christ's comfort to those under her charge. For she is employed by Caesar's social service department and Caesar nowadays is scrupulously non-sectarian.

String Bits To Join Tattered World

Travelers once went on pilgrimages, in a body for protection on the way, and shared each other's talkative companionship as a natural thing. Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" give us a hint of what we have lost, now that we travel in lonely splendor, with a jaunty airline hostess paid to give us a synthetic substitute for the friendliness of other days. Once, marriage meant life-long stability to everyone; nowadays even Catholics, who are themselves married for life, find their friendships upset by a constant changing of partners through divorce. There was a time, under the Roman Empire and later, when all Europe spoke the same language. There was another time lasting for many centuries when all the stonemasons lived the same life. When that ceased to be, the greatest bond that has held man to man was also lost. Our society is still seeking in a thousand places for bits of string to join together at this time of the tragic tatters of the old society. German Charities. The Association of German Catholic Charities has received another gift of American raw cotton valued at approximately \$65,000 on behalf of War Relief Services. National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Bishop Kearney's Appointments

- DECEMBER
- 1 Saturday — Mercy Motherhouse Chapel, First Saturday Mass, International Federation of Catholic Alumnae — 8:30 a.m.
 - 2 Sunday — St. Boniface, Confirmation — 2:00 p.m. St. Monica, Confirmation — 3:30 p.m. St. Theodore, Confirmation — 5:00 p.m. St. Anthony, Confirmation — 7:45 p.m.
 - 3 Monday — St. Anne, Brighton, Holy Childhood Mission Mass — 9:00 a.m. St. Mary's Hospital, Meeting of Medical and Advisory Boards — 8:30 p.m.
 - 4 Tuesday — Blessed Sacrament, Confirmation — 7:45 p.m.
 - 5 Wednesday — Nazareth College, Meeting of Presidents of Catholic Colleges of New York State — 10:30 a.m. St. Andrew's, Confirmation — 7:45 p.m.
 - 7 Friday — St. Joseph's, St. Monica Sodality Mass — 9:00 a.m. Sheraton Hotel, First Friday Luncheon — 12:15 p.m. Nazareth Academy, Sodality Reception — 2:30 p.m. Sacred Heart Academy, Sermon and Benediction — 4:00 p.m.
 - 8 St. Bernard's Seminary, Solemn Pontifical Mass, Patronal Feast — 9:30 a.m. St. Francis of Assisi, Family Rosary for Peace — 10:00 p.m.
 - 9 Sunday — Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Confirmation (A) — 2:00 p.m. St. Francis Xavier, Confirmation — 4:00 p.m. Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Confirmation (B) — 7:45 p.m.
 - 10 Monday — St. Joseph's Villa, Archbishop Hickey Memorial Chapel, Anniversary Mass for Archbishop Hickey — 9:00 a.m. St. Joseph's Villa, Confirmation — 10:30 a.m. St. Francis of Assisi, Confirmation — 7:45 p.m.
 - 11 Tuesday — St. Bernard's Seminary, Christmas Concert — 7:15 p.m.
 - 12 Wednesday — Nazareth College, Low Mass — 9:00 a.m. Nazareth College, Christmas Program — 7:30 p.m.
 - 16 Sunday — Mercy High School, Christmas Program — 8 p.m.
 - 17 Monday — Sacred Heart Academy, Christmas Program — 2:30 p.m. Nazareth Academy, Christmas Program — 3:30 p.m.
 - 20 Thursday — Sheraton Hotel, Diocesan Offices Christmas Party — 8:00 p.m.
 - 21 Friday — St. Ann's Home, Low Mass — 8:00 a.m. Sacred Heart Pro-Cathedral, Christmas Pageant — 7:45 p.m.
 - 22 Saturday — St. Monica's, Anniversary Mass for Monsignor Bergan — 9:00 a.m.
 - 23 Sunday — St. Mary's Hospital, Low Mass and Christmas Visit — 8:00 a.m.
 - 25 Tuesday — Sacred Heart Pro-Cathedral, Solemn Pontifical Christmas Midnight Mass — 12:01 a.m.

JOSEPH BREIG Do Women Want The Harem Level?

Not long ago (fearlessly taking my life in my hands) I wrote that women are chiefly to blame for the immorality and the suggestive-ness found today in books, magazines, advertising, movies, plays and TV. I said that in the good old days, when the men did most of the buying, things were different. It was not until the purse strings had passed to women that big business stopped advertising products, and started publicizing sensuality instead. Today, I am in admiration over the fact that about as many women readers have praised me as have denounced me for what I said.



Now I haven't a thing in the world against pretty girls. But the Wall Street Journal is not really talking about pretty girls — at least, not their faces. The author of the article makes that clear enough when he refers to this \$300,000,000 in advertising and promotion as "cheesecake." Which is to say, by and large, immorality. The Wall Street Journal is talking about the same thing as the Russian visitor to America whom I quoted in my earlier column. This visitor, Sergei A. Gerassimov, a film producer, discovered that "the unclothed woman, like a national trademark, has become the symbol of American commerce." And he remarked that American women do not present in fact, seem hardly to notice "the insulting role assigned to them by American culture." "Cheesecake? Is that the role which American women are willing to accept, even though they spend 85 per cent of the family income, and control half the nation's wealth? Have women unconsciously fallen back into a kind of harem mentality? Have they so far lost their self-respect, that they cannot resist being used, like so many Oriental slaves, for the mere peddling of products?" I leave it to the women. Is "American commercial culture" degrading them to harem level? Is the harem level the level to which they want to sink, despite all their talk about "equality" and "not wanting to use their economic power to do something about it? Why not send the "big businessmen" scuttling? Why not teach these commercializers of immorality and sensuality some manners and some morals?

PLACING THE blame is of minor importance. What is really important is to decide what can be done about it, and who can and will do it. And my answer is the same as it was in the first place: the women handle the family money and they can make advertisers, publishers, producers and merchants dance to their tune. The women need not take my word for that. Let me cite some statistics. But first let me say that one of the silliest things we hear nowadays is the cry of female speakers demanding equality for women. Equality? Consider these figures: American women spend 85 per cent of the total family income. They own 70 per cent of all private wealth, 55 per cent of all savings accounts, half the stock of industrial corporations, 44 per cent of public utilities, and 40 per cent of all real estate. They inherit 80 per cent of all money left to heirs, and they cast 52 per cent of the nation's total vote. How equal can you get? Now I submit that the people who spend 85 per cent of America's income can clean up America's books, movies, magazines, advertising and entertainment any time they have a mind to.

AS EVIDENCE of this, I offer another exhibit. It is an article in the Wall Street Journal asserting that in 1952, "U. S. manufacturers and trade groups will spend about \$300,000,000 in advertising and promoting their products or industry through tie-ins with pretty girls..."

STRANGE BUT TRUE Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY

A humorous feature of the beautiful 16th Century BABINGTON TOMB IN KINGSTON-ON-STOUR CHURCH, ENGLAND, is the baby and barrel frieze — a quaint pun on the owner's name — BABE IN TUN (BARREL).

The CATHEDRALS OF CHRIST THE KING, ANKWO, NIGERIA, PROVIDES A STRIKING EXAMPLE OF THE MANNER IN WHICH TRADITIONAL NATIVE ART HAS BEEN ADAPTED TO CATHOLIC USE.

Shrine of St. Roch, Auray, Brittany, commemorates a BIBLE STORY IN A REVERENT AND INSPIRING MANNER.

Among the carvings of saints on the pinnacles of MILAN CATHEDRAL is this TWO MEN BOXING.

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