

**Let Us Improve
Duty Of A Catholic
Object of Devotions
Holy Father Considerate**

By MONSEIGNOR HART

Self Betterment

The soul that stands still deteriorates. It falls more deeply into sin, or withdraws from the perfect love of God. Lent sounds the warning! It calls on us to better ourselves, to get away from the lassitude and indifference that seek to control us: to awaken to new spiritual striving for the things that are more pleasing to God.

Ash Wednesday reminds us that we are dust and through death unto dust we must return. Those who wait till the moment of death to reform will go into eternity with their faults uncorrected, their sins still a barrier between them and their God.

Emendemur in melius! Let us improve, become better, in our service of God. Thus the Church urges us in the Ash Wednesday prayer. Penance for sin, fasting and abstinence, self-denial, attendance at daily Mass, and at Lenten Services. Self-betterment should be our Lenten Goal!

Abraham Lincoln!

What an appeal Abraham Lincoln makes to every American heart! The kind of an appeal that promotes a more intense love of our country, and a deeper appreciation of its ideals. No leaning toward leftist theories, no semi-hidden desire to abandon our God-given liberties for the traitorous heresy of Communism, will find place in a true follower of Abraham Lincoln. He labored faithfully for the cause of freedom, that a government of the people by the people for the people should not perish from the earth!

All his life was a dedication to American ideals! As the Great Emancipator he restored freedom to millions of slaves; as our Commander in Chief he led America to victory over those who would destroy the Union!

Our love and admiration for Lincoln will show itself in the determination to be guided by American principles in our thoughts and actions. Prejudice, racial and religious antipathies can have no place in a soul inspired by the patriotic example of Abraham Lincoln!

Read The Bible

It is the duty of a Catholic to read the Bible. As he desires to know God's Word and to be guided by it, he will want to treasure the group of inspired books that bring him a ready record of religious history and all of God's revelation save that which comes to us by tradition.

So read the Bible—read it daily! The larger tomes that repose so solidly on parlor tables are useful more as reminders than as actual readers; it will help your Bible reading if you have a reasonable sized copy of the Holy Bible: or, at least, a pocket sized edition of the New Testament.

Our Lady Of Lourdes

The Blessed Mother is dear to us under all her titles. But to many many millions of Catholics Mary comes closer through her appearances at Lourdes. The heart of a true Child of Mary thrills anew as the story is repeated of Bernadette and her association with Our Lady of Lourdes. She made herself known to Bernadette and her friends as the Immaculate Conception!

In a lonesome and remote recess in the countryside She caused to arise one of the great Shrines, which has become to millions of devout pilgrims the object of reverential devotion, to seek cures each year of the sick and ailing, the scene of miraculous cures.

Our Lady of Lourdes continues to bring her children everywhere current graces, spiritual and material. Fortunate pilgrims still throng her shrine at Lourdes. Others are there in spirit as they honor Mary and seek her help. Surely heaven is close to us because of the love and regard our Blessed Mother has for us! May her help guide us along the road to union with her in Heaven!

More Frequent Communion!

Pope Pius XII has gone all out for us in removing practically all that would make difficult or impossible the practice of frequent Communion. The Eucharistic Fast from midnight has been mitigated in the general removal of water as the object of that fast; further permission for taking of medicine is provided for in the powers granted to confessors for their charges; while for special cases liquid nourishment is made available with the permission of the confessor.

No longer can we be held back from frequent or daily Communion by the old-time excuses; the new laws make it easy for all to receive frequently without too great a burden.

The Holy Father has been most considerate, has made it easy for us to receive more frequently than we have been doing. What shall be our reaction to his expressed desire? Shall we continue the old practice of not receiving? Or shall we be at the altar-railing much more often? At least once a week and perhaps daily during Lent? Have you a message to the Holy Father on this matter? Let us 1953 should find an increase in the number of daily Communion over all the years that have passed!

**More Speed On Divorce
Than On Marriage Guidance**

As a result it is now receiving only 200 pounds (\$1,200) a year from the government to assist it to work.

Fast Day

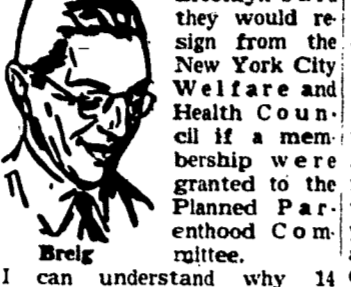
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JOSEPH BREIG

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If This Be Treason

I can understand why lots of people cannot understand why the Catholic Charities of New York...



Joseph Breig

I can understand why 14 Protestant ministers and two rabbis signed a resolution protesting against the exclusion of the birth-prevention group, and asking the Welfare and Health Council to reconsider.

I am not surprised that the stand taken by Catholic charities was denounced as un-democratic and un-American.

Of course it was un-democratic if by "democratic" you mean the absolute rule of majorities, uncurbed by any fundamental law, divine or human.

That kind of democracy is simply mob rule.

But it is inaccurate to say that the position of Catholic Charities is not a democracy in the sense of majority totalitarianism. America is not ruled by mobs; not even by orderly, calm, deliberative mobs.

The United States is a representative republic. Its decisions are not made by majorities. They are made by representatives selected by majority vote. Those representatives must operate within the framework of a Constitution which none may violate.

THE HUMAN RACE, likewise, has a fundamental law; what we might here call a Constitution. That Constitution is set forth in the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are a lucid statement of what evils men and women must avoid if they are not to do themselves terrible and perhaps irreparable damage. The statement was given by the One who knows perfectly what is good for man.

HE KNOWS because He made man. The statement emanates from His goodness and His love of mankind, and is backed by His justice and His supreme authority.

The Ten Commandments are unchangeable. They cannot be repealed. They cannot be amended. Either we obey them, or we come to disaster, as does a man who ignores the law of gravity by jumping from tenth-story windows.

ALL THE majorities on earth cannot change the nature of man, cannot alter the facts about what is good for man, cannot abridge by one jot or tittle the timeless validity of the Ten Commandments.

One of the Commandments forbids all abuses of sex; that is, demands purity. It is called the difficult Commandment because in this area, mankind is weakest, mankind is normally most tormented and tempted.

FOR PRECISELY the same reason, the virtue which this particular Commandment demands is known as the Angelic Virtue.

Faithfully observed, it makes men and women like angels; lifts them swiftly to high willows.

It generates, too, all kinds of other virtues. It brings with it magnificent gifts.

OUT OF IT grow spiritual insight, clarity of intellect, firmness of will, patience, gentleness, strength, nobility — one could go on for pages.

This angelic virtue of purity is under constant attack in our day.

Many minds have been so clouded by the verbal and pictorial propaganda against it that they no longer think straight on this subject.

THEY TRY to tell themselves that it is not wrong, not forbidden by God, to take the pleasure of sex while defecating, through the use of gadgets or chemicals, the purpose for which God created sex.

In other words, they assert that we do as we please in this matter, without respect for the Creator's will.

IT IS NOT so. As well might they argue that it is not evil to use the tongue for lying, the hands for theft, the mouth for blasphemy, the feet for trampling on the commandments for thanksgiving, the purpose for which God gave the faculty of speech.

THEY ARGUE that since man was created in the image and likeness of God, he has the right to do as he pleases, in any and every way that is not expressly forbidden by God.

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**Educator Analyzes
Dr. Conant's Stand
On Private Schools**

By REV. WILLIAM E. McMANUS
Assistant Director, N.C.W.C. Education Department

Is Dr. James B. Conant opposed to denominational schools? Has he advocated the suppression of all private schools? Does he believe that the expansion of private education will threaten American unity?

These and many other questions about the educational views of the former President of the National Education Association have been raised during the recent dispute over his appointment to Germany. Dr. Conant's testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and his latest book, "Education and Liberty" contain his latest answers to these questions.

ON DENOMINATIONAL Schools: In his book Dr. Conant admits that "there are many sincere Protestants, Jews and Catholics who believe that secondary education divorced from a denominational religious core of instruction is highly unsatisfactory education."

ON THE RIGHTS OF Private Schools: That they have a right to exist is "beyond question." This point was "settled" by the Oregon decision. "Over and beyond the legal issue is the fundamental belief in tolerance of diversity so basic to our society. I know of no one today who wishes to suppress private schools. If there were anyone who did, surely the means of putting the idea into effect would involve such drastic state action as to be repugnant to our fundamental ideas of liberty."

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You Can Win Converts

Texaco Convert-Maker

By

Rev. John A. O'Brien, Ph.D. (The University of Notre Dame)

Have you ever heard of a layman winning fifty converts? "Not often," you say. Yet that is the feat of Arthur C. Hughes, a champion convert-maker of Texas.

Mr. Hughes, vice-president of S. H. Lynch & Co., is a prominent business man of Dallas with many pressing duties weighing upon him, but he has managed to average more than a convert a year since entering the Church in 1913.

So much does his religion mean to him that he has tried to show his gratitude to God for the gift of Faith in the most appropriate of all ways — by sharing it with others.

HE IS ONE of the most zealous and tireless lay apostles in the Lone Star State. As a successful business man he knows about salesmanship, and as a former non-Catholic he understands misconceptions and prejudices against the Church.

He uses his knowledge to remove such misconceptions and he is constantly sharing his insights and methods with fellow Catholics.

ONE SUNDAY morning he spoke at a Holy Name Society Communion Breakfast at Sacred Heart Cathedral on "The Best Approach to Non-Catholic Friends." He stressed the importance of answering their questions courteously and correctly — looking up the answers if one didn't know.

"I'm afraid, Art," remarked Joe Walker after the talk, "that I've passed up many such opportunities by giving inquirers the brush-off. But after this I'll either supply the right answers or bring the inquirer to someone who can. You've opened my eyes to my responsibility in this matter."

SHORTLY afterwards Rev. Burnie Carraway, a Baptist minister, entered Joe's office. When Rev. Carraway mentioned that he came from a certain town in Oklahoma, Joe remarked: "Why I too came from there and was married in the little Catholic church there."

"Are you a Catholic?" asked the minister in surprise. "Yes," replied Joe, "been one all my life. Are there any questions about your religion that I'd like to ask you, if you don't mind."

INSTEAD of shifting the topic of conversation as he had been wont to do, Joe replied: "Reverend, I'd be delighted to have you ask any question you'd like to."

As usual with most non-Catholics, the minister wanted to know why Catholics go to confession to a priest and why they "adore" the Virgin Mary.

Joe answered the questions in a friendly manner and showed his visitor the illusions under which he was laboring.

WHEN THE minister continued coming back with additional questions, Joe said: "Reverend, this is a day of experts. I know a good deal about my religion but I'm really not an expert. Priests devote many years of study to these matters, and are experts in this field. There's an Inquiry Class just starting at the Cathedral and I'll take you down there where Father William J. Smyth will set you straight on all these matters."

"That's fair enough," said Rev. Carraway. "I'll go with you."

IN THAT Inquiry Class was another Baptist minister, Rev. Edward Emert, who wanted to learn what Catholics really believed.

After each lecture Father Smyth would remain and answer questions which any individual wished to propose.

The two ministers made generous use of such opportunities and at the end of the course both asked to be admitted into the Church founded by Christ.

ACTING AS the sponsor at their baptism was Mr. G. B. Powell, a former Baptist minister, whom Mr. Hughes had helped lead into the Church in 1924. Present at their baptism were Joe Walker and Arthur Hughes.

The Apostles' Creed

'I Believe...!'

By Rev. Albert J. Shamon

(This is a series of articles on "The Apostles' Creed" written by Father Albert Shamon, professor at St. Andrew's Seminary and author of "Behind the Mass.")

HE SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE—How much Christ suffered under Pontius Pilate, God alone knows. All that the Jews wanted from Pilate was the death sentence against Christ. But, thanks to Pilate's wicked weakness, they got much more.

In a play to shift the responsibility of judging Jesus, Pilate sent Him to Herod. Herod, and his paramour Herodias, clad in gilded garments, received Jesus in state. Having heard so much about Jesus, they were glad to see Him.

Herod questioned Him in many words... but Jesus answered him nothing. So many want to be intimate with God, but on their own terms, not His.

The humiliating silence was withering. To save face Herod had only one escape. He must make Christ out to be an idiot. If Christ be weak-minded, then no stain is cast on Herod's majesty. Accordingly Herod robed Christ in white. Romans canvassed for public office garbed in white.

A Christ in white would mean but one thing: Christ was a candidate for kingship, a pretender to a throne.

THE INNUEVO WAS CLEAR. No one would make such a claim before Herod but a fool. This Christ was a fool. So for cheers they gave Him jeers.

Did you ever have anyone laugh at you? Did you ever experience what it felt like to know that someone was trying to make a fool out of you right before your face? Well, that's what Christ suffered before Herod. The Jews didn't plan all this. But Christ suffered all this because of the wicked weakness of Pontius Pilate.

PILATE'S SUBTERFUGE BACKFIRED. Herod mocked Christ, but Herod did not judge Christ. Instead, he returned Him to Pilate. Pilate's heart sank. Then, all of a sudden, the seething mob blown together by the winds of rumor and curiosity, gave the Roman governor an idea. He would let them judge the case.

Like a lawyer pleading before a judge, Pilate said to the milling mob: "I will chastise him and release him." The word "release" registered. Every Pasch the Romans released the prisoner who received the greatest popular acclaim. Many of the mob were there solely to applaud the release of some crosby. They clamored, therefore, that he should do, as he had ever done unto them. Pilate hadn't thought of this. Here was a door unexpectedly opened.

Eagerly, Pilate dug out of his deepest dungeon the dirtiest and most despicable criminal incarcerated therein, Barabbas. Pilate kept the choice down to two—the innocent Christ and the notorious Barabbas.

Using a leading question, he suggested the answer. "Shall I release to you the King of the Jews?" You know the answer he got. Pilate's plebiscite failed.

How we smart when others are preferred to us—others perhaps more worthy than we. How chagrined we are to be compared to one below us, to be called a bum!

YET CHRIST WAS COMPARED TO BARABBAS and Barabbas was preferred to Christ. The Jews didn't plan this affront, but Christ suffered it because of the wicked weakness of Pontius Pilate.

Panic-stricken, with his back to the wall, Pilate lost all sense of justice. In vain he tried to serve two masters—the Jews and Roman justice. "I will chastise him and let him go," was his ignominious compromise. Imagine one of our judges saying: "This man is innocent, therefore, I will give him twenty years; and then let him go."

FOR ONE NOT SENTENCED TO DEATH, the worst chastisement was scourging. The non-too-squeamish Horace spoke of the scourge as the "horrible" lash. Describing a scourging, Cicero used vigorous language. "The lash," he said, "bit, furrowed and tore the flesh."

So severe was this punishment that it could be inflicted only on slaves and foreigners. Roman citizens were beaten with rods. Even today, flogging is the punishment most dreaded in Canada.

As blacksmiths rain blow after blow on the anvil, two strong-armed men (standing on each side of Christ) lashed His silver skin facing it with His golden blood. Like the roasted Paschal lamb, body the skin was stripped from the flesh of the Lamb of God, His flesh from His bones, until from the sole of the foot to the top of the head there is no soundness in Him. The Jews didn't plan this. It was the work of the wicked weakness of Pontius Pilate.

For some reason, when the scourging was over, Pilate was not ready for Christ. So to wife away an idle hour, the soldiers decided to give the King of the Jews a crown. Rods armed with thorns were part of a torturer's equipment. From these a helmet was fashioned. And He was crowned.

BECAUSE OF SIN, THE EARTH BROUGHT forth thorns. Because of thoughts, man sinned. Because Christ was the Victim of sinners, He let His crown be thorns. He let His crown be thorns.

Next, for a sceptre the King was given a reed; and for a throne, a stool. The entire cohort then paid Him homage. In mock obeisance, they genuflected; for a kiss they spat in His face; as a token of subjection to His Majesty, they rose, rudely grabbing the sceptre and cruelly slammed it down on the thorny crown.

ONE AFTER THE OTHER the well-drilled soldiers offered their cruel worship. All this, the Jews did not plan; it was the work of the wicked weakness of Pontius Pilate.

When cruelty had momentarily cooled itself, Christ was dragged to Pilate. The sight of Him would soften stones. At least, that's what Pilate thought. "Behold the man," he said. It was as if he had said: "Behold the fellow now; the man you feared so much; the man who could stop tribute to Caesar, in there any point in using further violence?" But Pilate was kicking against an awl. To his question reverberated the reply: "Crucify him, crucify him." The Governor was enraged at this taunting of his will. Interrogation and cross-examination went on. All the while Christ stood suffering and silent. But in the end He was crucified because of the wicked weakness of Pontius Pilate.

"I am not guilty of the blood of this Man," said Pilate. And ever since, history has chanted: "Words never erase deeds. Just saying it isn't so, doesn't always make it so. What I have written, I have written—Suffered under Pontius Pilate."

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