

Laymen's Retreat Group To Meet

Chicago — (NC) — The National Catholic Laymen's Retreat Conference will hold its 15th biennial convention in Chicago from May 21 to 23.



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NAZARETH ACADEMY PARENTS



Annual Card Party of the Nazareth Parent-Teacher Association will be held Friday, April 30 at the Academy. Here shown busy with arrangements are, seated (left to right): Mrs. Burton Walker and Mrs. Charles Laetus. Standing (left to right) are: Mr. Burton Walker, Mr. Joseph O'Day, PTA President, and Mr. Charles Laetus. Mr. and Mrs. Walker are serving as co-chairmen of the card party. Mr. and Mrs. Laetus are co-chairmen in charge of tickets.

Editorial Position

Monroe County weekly newspaper has an opening for an Editorial Assistant. Experience preferred, but not essential. Excellent working conditions, good starting salary. Give all particulars, age, marital status, education, training, salary desired, etc., in writing to

Box 17
Catholic Courier Journal
35 Scio St.
Rochester 4, N. Y.

19th Centenary Of Assumption?

New Haven, Conn. — (NC) — The present Marian Year marks the 19th centenary of the death and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, if Father Marion A. Habig's chronology is correct.

In a detailed chronology, published in the May issue of Columbia, Father Habig, a member of the Order of Friars Minor, offers calculations that Mary was born in the year 20 B.C. and died after her 72nd birthday in 54 A.D.

The Mother of Christ, Father Habig said, was 15 years old when Christ was born and 48 years old when Our Lord died on Calvary. She aided and encouraged the Infant Church for 24 years after the Ascension of Our Lord into heaven according to the chronology.

Father Habig's study is based in part on research concerning the chronology of Christ by Father Dimiana Lazzarato of Rome.

'Roads To Rome' Reveals Conversions

New York — (NC) — "Roads to Rome," a new volume of convert stories edited by the Father John A. O'Brien of Notre Dame University has been published here by the Macmillan Company. Scholars, scientists, historians, theologians, philosophers, doctors, a general and authors of international renown have contributed to the volume. Among contributors are Gene Fowler and Anne Fremantle well known writers; Dr. John C. H. Wu, noted Chinese lawyer and scholar, R. W. Keyserlingk, Canadian editor.

THE LIFE OF CHRIST
By BISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN

THE BEATITUDES

Christ Tells Men To Suffer For His Sake

(Continued from Page 1)

shall have their fill. Blessed are the merciful; they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart; they shall see God. Blessed are the peace-makers; they shall be counted the children of God. Blessed are those who suffer persecution in the cause of right; the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Blessed are you, when men revile you, and persecute you, and speak all manner of evil against you falsely, because of me. Be glad and lighthearted, for a rich reward awaits you in heaven. To be "blessed" means to be happy.

Poor in spirit: 'Poor' does not mean indigent. To be poor in spirit is to be conscious of one's spiritual poverty, to blush at one's own defects, to have a deep sense of nothingness before God, and to be resigned before the beneficent Hand of Providence.

The foundation of all spiritual happiness is to be conscious before God of one's emptiness or one's need, like the publican spilling his breast. Poverty of spirit is the very antithesis of the worldly doctrine of self-sufficiency.

The patient: The patient bow to the rod of affliction, and bear injury meekly; in prosperity, they are thankful, and in adversity, they are resigned. Patience is meekness, which is opposed to anger, resentment, and retaliation. It is a consequence of the first Beatitude, for he who has learned the depth of his own weakness, will not be so ready to strike others, but rather will approach them with clemency.

The land they will possess is not landed property; the Beatitudes rather means that they can now enjoy the earth as a stepping stone to life eternal. The meek person is never disturbed by the fact that someone else owns something; possession to him is not an annoyance, but a pleasure which he takes as it comes; therefore, he enjoys the earth. Meek men in the Old Testament, like Caleb and Josue, inherited the Promised Land.

Those who mourn: Those who mourn are not the weepers from discontent, but those who feel the sorrows and the sins of the world as their own. The world regards sorrow as disaster; Our Lord looks upon it as the darkness that heralds the dawn. The sorrow here is not so much physical as spiritual, that is, for sin rather than the consequences of sin. Once the soul looks into its own past, and sees there its multiplied rejections of Divine Love, it cannot help but mourn. This contrition is the condition of moral progress and the pathway to true comfort and peace of soul.

CHAPTER XIV
Those who hunger and thirst: They are those who so yearn for holiness, which is abandonment to the Will of God in all things, that they would die rather than commit a single sin. The hunger and thirst here are not physical, but spiritual; it is not just an inner dissatisfaction with human prescriptions, but rather a yearning to attain holiness and righteousness which is conformity to the Will of God. Swine are satisfied with husks, but not the soul of immortal man; it is the desire of holiness that is blessed; the achievement and perfection of it is on God's side. We receive holiness, but we do not create it. All the cups of earth of which we drink are

son, body to soul; reason to faith, the whole personality to God. Peace is not automatic; it is made. He is no peace-maker who has no scourge in his hands against evil, whose love does not hate sin, and who is incapable of righteous indignation. Peace is based not on expediency, but on justice. The peace-maker must fight without ever ceasing to be love. Such peace is first not in nations, but in souls. A peaceful world comes not by legislation, but by inner regeneration. Only he who has the peace of God in his own soul, can give it to others. God hates "peace" in those who are destined for war, and we are all destined for war against sin and evil. Those who make such peace shall be the children of God, the Prince of Peace.

The eighth beatitude about the persecuted, is the summary of the preceding seven. The persecuted are those who know that to follow Christ is to be hated; hogs will say they are dirty; goats will say they smell; wolves will accuse them of stealth. But abuse, scourges, jails, blood-martyrdoms, all these must be accepted as a blessing which bears witness to Christ. The Preacher on the Mount is not summoning men to ease and comfort, but to suffering for His Name's sake.

In these beatitudes, Our Lord takes those eight flimsy catchwords in the world: 'Security,' 'Revenge,' 'Laughter,' 'Popularity,' 'Getting even,' 'Sex,' 'Armed Might,' and 'Comfort' and turns them upside down. To those who say: "Strike it rich," He says: "Blessed are the poor in spirit." To those who say: "Don't let him get away with it," He says: "Blessed are the patient." To those who say: "Laugh and the world laughs with you," He says: "Blessed are those who mourn." To those who say: "Never restrain your instincts," He says: "Blessed are the clean of heart." To those who say: "Become popular by flattery," He says: "Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you." To those who say: "In time of peace, prepare for war," He says: "Blessed are the peace-makers."

(Continued Next Week)

COURIER-JOURNAL
Friday, April 23, 1954

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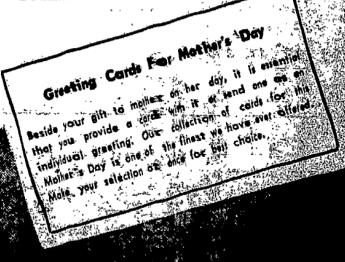
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