

Family Life

It isn't often that we can quote Moscow Radio in our favor, but even the Russians now admit that good family life is the best way to bring up children. The commentator, Prof. Viktor Koblanovskiy, said: "To a great extent, the development of the physical and mental capacities of a child depend on the parents' training." For once, we wholeheartedly agree with the Communists!

Earlier this month, another iron-curtain country, Yugoslavia, was host to a Child Welfare Congress attended by delegates from all over the world. The American representative reports that these 100 delegates of 34 nations all agreed that a child will develop normally only in a stable family environment. Evidence was presented by a French psychologist to prove that children who are deprived of a home are inevitably retarded in either their mental, moral, or emotional life.

And let's remember that a nice house is not necessarily a good home. Parents do not have an easy task in the rearing of their youngsters but they do have a unique opportunity. And if parents fail in this matter, there is no substitute which can replace them.

Mumford Centennial

Father Devereaux will lead the people of St. Patrick's, Mumford, in humble thanks to God for a century of Catholicism in their parish. For one hundred years, the same little white church has welcomed the faithful to Mass and Sacraments. This celebration, coming so quickly after Genesee's observance of its centennial, is evidence to us of the strong faith of the pioneers. In those early days when Catholics were so few in number and usually quite poor in this world's wealth, they were willing, nonetheless, to provide for a church where God would dwell in their midst. Bishop Casey will bring the congratulations of the Diocese to St. Patrick's parish when he celebrates Pontifical Mass there this Sunday.

Catholic Youngsters

Priests who are associated with our Catholic youngsters frequently remark to each other that the one factor which surprises them most is not the waywardness of youth but rather their high ideals and noble aspirations. Our young Catholic boys and girls of High School age are quietly but courageously engaged in apostolic projects of immense value to the Church and its work for souls.

Three great movements are presently attracting the attention of our young people—and each has its own distinctive purpose and program. The Catholic Students' Mission Crusade, better known as CSMC, recently had 3000 delegates meet at Notre Dame University to coordinate the activities of over 8000 units in our High Schools and Colleges. The Church's world-wide mission to bring all men to Christ receives generous support from the prayers and sacrifices of our youngsters.

Even better known is the Sodality of Our Lady with its units in every parish and High School. Sodalists pledge themselves to a better Christian life and you can see these young Catholics at daily Mass, making their visit, encouraging their lax companions to a more fervent faith. And only God and His angels can count their hidden mortifications and acts of charity which win His grace for them.

This coming Sunday, St. Joseph's Church in downtown Rochester will be filled with these youngsters who have given up a date or a favorite TV program to spend an hour in adoration to our Lord in the Eucharist.

How many parents have taken time to acquaint themselves with these various organizations? How many have encouraged their High School children to take an active part in them? These programs deserve more widespread recognition and unremitting encouragement.

Candid Commentary

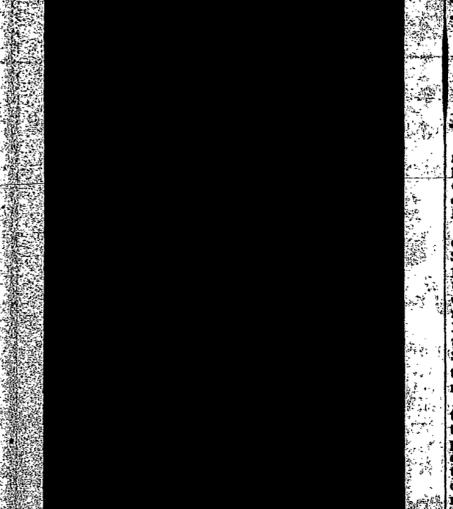
Watch this page in your next week's Courier-Journal for a new feature. Outstanding boys and girls of the Diocese will give their answers and opinions on such subjects as:

What person would you most like to meet? What do you expect a school should emphasize most: study, sports, character traits? What are you going to become after graduation? How often will a good Catholic receive the Sacraments?

You have your own answers, and you will be anxious to see the comments of our Catholic youngsters.

Children Should be Seen—Not Hurt!

LOOK! OBEY ALL WARNINGS—that's the word from the National Safety Council to all motorists. Youngsters don't look any way to school or at play are not always alert to potential dangers. It is the duty of the motorist to be on guard, all ways—always!



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Courier Journal

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 VOL. 65 — No. 51
PUBLISHED BY THE CATHOLIC COURIER-JOURNAL COMPANY, INC.
100 EAST WASHINGTON ST., ROCHESTER, N. Y. 14609

Subscription Office: 100 East Washington St., Rochester, N. Y. 14609
Phone: 4-1111
Advertising Office: 41 Grand Ave., Rochester 2-3111
Phone: 2-3111

Wed., Fri., Sat.

Ember Days Remind Us More Priests Are Needed For Harvest Of Souls

By REV. HENRY ATWELL

It often happens that you may not recognize the priest who celebrates the Mass you attend on Sunday. You may ask your friends or companions, "I wonder who that priest was? I never saw him before."

Perhaps you may discover from his religious garb that he is a Basilian, a Jesuit or a Benedictine, a Capuchin or a Redemptorist. Or instead he may be a Missionary from one of the Seminaries or Colleges, maybe an official of the Chancery Office. And you may wonder why it is that these "extra priests" have to come to your parish.

THESE ARE three factors involved in giving you an answer: (1) There just aren't enough diocesan priests to provide for the large number of people who want Confession on Saturday night and Mass on Sunday morning. (2) The pastor of your parish wants to arrange a schedule which will be convenient for you, and to do that, he needs more priests than are regularly assigned to your parish. (3) And finally, the priests of the religious communities and institutes are generous in their desire to assist you in saving your soul.

Every Saturday evening on Sunday morning, there is a general exodus of priests from their monasteries and schools as they travel by car or train or bus to the parish churches all over our diocese. Even then, however, there is still a critical shortage. AN INFORMAL SURVEY of the Superiors of some of our communities brought remarks such as these:

"We often get more requests than we can handle." "I had another 23 priests to send out," said another Superior.

"Our home is described over the weekend. All our priests are out doing parish work," commented a third.

And this whole situation is all the more complicated if there is a case of sudden sickness or other unexpected emergency. A pastor may have to spend an hour late Saturday night calling for an "extra priest" in order that Sunday's schedule can be carried out as usual.

UNFORTUNATELY, it looks as if the problem is going to become even more difficult. Our Catholic population is steadily on the increase and our churches are constantly more crowded. Many parishes would like to add more Masses but priests are not available.

"What about our Seminaries?" you ask. "Won't we have lots of new priests ordained soon?"

Yes, it is true that there are more students training for the priesthood but far more are needed. The seminary course is a long one, twelve years all told, and it is not an easy one. Study and discipline take their toll along the way. This is not a recent problem, however, because even Christ, the "Harvest of Souls," had to wait for His laborers as He said:

"THE CRUCIBLE, realizing this constant need for more and better priests, is working hard to meet it."

What makes a criminal? What goes on in those souls which peer out at their fellowmen with contempt and hatred?

"The loneliest man in the world," said a man in a prison cell, "is the electric chair last night," said an international news Service story.

the other day. "His body will not be claimed by his family." The INS reporter telephoned to a distant city, to the home of the condemned man's brother, a policeman. The policeman's brother was walking his beat when the convict-brother was put to death for the murder of an FBI man.

THE REPORTER talked with the policeman's wife — the convict's sister-in-law. With unconscious eloquence, she told him: "I gave him his last chance six years ago — to no avail. Why should we plague ourselves with more memories of what might have been? He never did have patience to wait for the material things of life. He grabbed. He stole. He even threatened his father when he was invited home after a prison term six years ago. "It broke all our hearts. But for our own good, we had to put him out of our lives, and keep him out." The INS reporter wrote that there was neither bitterness nor



Ember Days remind us more priests are needed for harvest of souls.

ter priests sets aside three days at the start of each season, the Ember Days. They have a twofold motive: first, to thank God for the gifts of nature that are characteristic of that time of year, summer, autumn, winter, etc., and, secondly, to renew our spiritual life and pray for the priests whom we need to guide us to heaven.

Like the waves of the sea, our spiritual life has its ups and downs. We rise to devotion and fervor for Lent or Forty Hours or Mission time, but then have a "let-down" during the summer or other "in-between" times. That is human nature. Not that we like it that way; not that we should ever give in to accepting it as inevitable. But if we have had a dropping off, if there has been neglect or omission or even sin, then Ember Week is the Church's invitation to renew our fervor for God, to make Him "laborer" with Christ in the harvest of souls.

It was at this time of year long ago that the Jewish High Priest made his once-a-year entry into the Holy of Holies, the innermost sanctuary of the Temple, and there in the light of God's brilliant Presence, the High Priest offered the blood of the sacrificial animal as a reparation for the people's sins. This was famous Yom Kippur, Day of Atonement.

Our Ember Days continue that tradition as, at Mass, we offer not the blood of a beast, but the precious Sacrifice of Christ. We must sincerely and humbly pray that God will raise up more priests in order to perpetuate this sacrifice for the coming generations.

And it might just happen that the parsons who pray for vocations to the priesthood may have God answer their prayer by choosing one of their own sons to make him a "laborer" with Christ in the harvest of souls.

Church Symbols

Among the most familiar, and least understood, symbols seen in church are the picture signs of the four Gospel writers, the prophet Ezechiel long before Christ, and John the Apostle toward the end of the first century. Each has a vision, a glimpse of heaven, and each mentions that he had seen four winged creatures—a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle.

These have been taken as representing the authors of the four Gospels: the winged man standing for St. Matthew (as seen above) because he begins his account with the record of Christ's human ancestry. The winged lion represents St. Mark whose Gospel opens with a description of John the Baptist whose voice rang out in the desert as the roar of a lion. St. Luke starts his Gospel with an account of the sacrifice of Zacharias, so the winged ox, an animal frequently used in Old Testament sacrifices, represents him. Finally, the soaring eagle is the sign of St. John whose Gospel begins at the high throne of God, the mystery of the Trinity.

These four symbols are often seen carved at the corners of an altar or on the pulpit. St. Matthew's feast is next Tuesday, Sept. 21.

What makes a criminal? What goes on in those souls which take the path that leads to this kind of ending?

"HE GRABBED. He stole. He even threatened his father. . . . "No penitence — merely the reclamation of a man feeling sorry for himself, and seeking some one else to blame." What makes a criminal? The theologians are clear about the difference between remorse and repentance.

You can boil it down to this: remorse is being sorry for yourself. It gets you nothing but misery. It's selfishness. Repentance is being sorry for your sins because they offend God's goodness, and hurt your fellowman. Repentance will get you eternal life.

Apostleship of Prayer

By Father Moore, S. J.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

At the Last Supper, Our Lord spoke of giving His peace to the Apostles and through them to the world. He made a distinction between the peace of the world and the peace of the Kingdom of God. He would give the peace of the Kingdom of God to those who were united with Him, and through Him, to the world.

When Christ spoke the words quoted above, He had already set in motion the tremendous forces of redemption. He had offered His sacrifice in the upper room. He was a Victim waiting for his executioners to organize themselves to bring about His death. By His death, He brought to men the peace of heaven. — They were reconciled with the Father.

To make this peace effective in all men, Christ united them with Himself, and through Him, with Him, they became united with one another. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Call them brothers of Christ, and brothers to one another. — St. John, Chapter 13.

"I AM THE VINE," you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he shall be cast aside as the branches, and wither. . . . If you abide in Me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will and it shall be done to you.

When men say that Western civilization is based on Christianity, they mean that men, for the most part, recognized and accepted the mode of thought which in these divine words. When men say that only a renewal of religious faith can save the West from utter downfall, they can only mean that men must return to a belief in the existence of "who will be willing and eager to become once more "living branches."

There is no vigor, no life at all, in wood stored in a yard. Only a tree with roots in the ground and branches in heaven is alive, and so capable of resisting attacks from without and decay from within. Without Christ you can do nothing.

President Eisenhower has asked us to pray for peace. He is a religious man. It is good to hear the political leader of a great Republic echo the words of Our Lady of Fatima and the words of the Vicar of Christ. It is good to see a statement on his knees, calling his people to prayer.

You Can Win Converts

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

Winifred Catherine Shoyan and Albert Reid were married 37 years ago in Memphis, Tenn. . . . They were blessed with three daughters and one son. Mr. Reid was a new convert to Catholicism. He was a greatly impressed by the deep faith and piety of his young bride, and he was glad to see the children practice the faith in which he had agreed they would be reared.

"We moved to California," said Mrs. Reid, "when the children were small and they all attended the parochial school. The fine training which they received from the good Sisters was continued at home where prayers were said at the meals and in the evening."

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happy to discover that he had recently been instructed by Father Wagner at St. Joseph's Church in Berkeley and had already become a convert. That enabled them to have a truly Catholic marriage with a Nuptial Mass and start their married life with God's blessing upon them.

"Catherine and Eleanor started going with John Bedecarre and Bill Hastings, students at the University of California. Each of the girls explained how much their Catholic faith meant to them and invited their boy friends to investigate it to see if it would not mean as much to them. Both were instructed and received into the Church by Father Quinn at the student chapel in Newman Hall on the campus.

"Mrs. Reid," I said, "you've shown us all what deep faith and unremitting prayer can do. John Bedecarre has told me how much they all admire and love you. Under God, they owe their faith to you. They're grateful to you for their conversion. They told their story early when it could do the most good. Only God can reward you adequately."

QUIZ

On Catholic Faith

Popes Always Italians?

How is it that only Italians ever become Popes? — D.J.M., Rochester.

As a matter of fact, men from at least eleven other nations have been elected as Pope. The first pope, St. Peter, was not Italian; he was a Jew. Since then, 13 Greeks; 12 Frenchmen, 5 Germans; 3 Syrians, 3 Africans, 2 Spaniards, and men from Palestine, Portugal, England, Holland, and Yugoslavia have been chosen as Bishop of Rome.

It is true that most of the Popes have been Italian; but this is to be expected since he is first of all Bishop of Rome. Just as we would expect to have an American as Bishop of Rochester and a Frenchman as Bishop of Paris, the choice of a Bishop for Rome tends to favor a man of that nation.

It is possible but not probable. The last layman to be elected Pope was Gregory XI back in 1370. Two other laymen had been previously elected: Honorius in 1268 and Innocent III in 1243. In cases like these, the layman is ordained and consecrated before assuming the office of Pope. Since 1378, however, only Cardinals have been elected to the Chair of Peter. Theoretically, any husband or your brother could be the next Pope, but don't bank on it.

Agreed Or Not Agreed

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA (Professor of Literature, Nazareth College, Rochester, N. Y.)

The Catholic Parochial school is a true public school. — Willard Parsons, S.J.

Now, secretly, I began to pray, telling nobody. For the first time I said "God" in a whisper, and felt curious. . . . It didn't seem to help me much at first. . . . And a small voice told me it wasn't enough to pray to "do what's right" . . . This began almost four years of search, mostly in the dead of night. I began by getting it clear, what not to pray for—nothing material. Nothing that, by my having it, would tempt others. — Father De Kruif, "My First Steps Toward God," Catholic Digest for September.

Those who think of American enterprise as a mere orgy of mindless and heartless manipulation had better explore the files, say, of Fortune for the past five years or so. They will find a capacity for honest thought, and far-ranging inquiry. . . . The power of pulling the machine are being fastened nor phillistine ideas can still carry weight and tomorrow, after all, is not actually here; we are still free to shape it. — Geoffrey Ashe in: September 10 Commensal.

CHILDREN ARE innocently honest, as one teacher found out when he asked a little one, "What did you ask Jesus for?" "I told Him," the lad replied proudly, "that you were half a saint and would be please make you a whole one." Catholic Digest for August.

The heroine nurse of Dien Bien Phu, who was cheered by thousands of U. S. citizens, is perhaps the exact symbol of what novelties have been missing and what the reading public wants. She simply did her duty. . . . but the duty was heroic. Will American novelists catch up with the fact that the 'common man' can be and is often not a heel, but a humble hero? — Rev. Harold Gardner in September 11 America.

There must be clear evidence that a given work of art, and not other causes, is directly disturbing or lessening the devotion of numbers of souls before it becomes necessary to remove it from a church. . . . One man's meat is another man's poison.

AT COUNTRY CLUBS, athletic clubs, Chamber of Commerce luncheons, over good food and good drinks, very "successful" Americans by the thousands are no doubt today berating France for shirking her international duties. Very well. Yet what sacrifices are we willing to make in our own lives to block the forward march of world communism? We would all like to do it on the cheap—simply by ridding government education and other areas of subversives. . . . It will cost a lot more. — Editorial, Sept. 11 America.

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