

Century Of Mercy

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COURIER-JOURNAL
Friday, June 7, 1957

JOSEPH BREIG

Brainwashed Catholics

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Sacre Coeur, magnificent church honoring the Sacred Heart of Jesus, towers over Montreal section of Paris. Two laymen in 1870 started shrine to honor the Sacred Heart. Devout pilgrims thronged to the site necessitating construction of huge present day edifice.

Sacred Heart Of Jesus

June is observed by devout Catholics as a month of devotion to honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Annual feast of the Sacred Heart occurs this year on Friday, June 28.

Even better known is the "monthly" feast of the Sacred Heart, the First Friday Communion of Reparation which regularly attracts thousands of Catholics to the altar rail.

OTHER WIDESPREAD practices include the Holy Hour, Act of Consecration and Reparation, Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes, as also the familiar picture or statue of our Lord's Sacred Heart placed in churches, classrooms, homes, automobiles, stores.

One of the great promoters of Sacred Heart devotion is the Apostleship of Prayer organization, also called the League of the Sacred Heart. The league's monthly magazine, the Messenger of the Sacred Heart, has a subscription of over 170,000.

The league's monthly "leaflet" is known to thousands of Catholics with its calendar of feast days, explanation of a special prayer intention, and listing of requests from members for prayers of fellow members.

The Sacred Heart League, a world wide group under supervision of the Jesuit Fathers, ranks the Rochester Diocese second high in the United States (Ordensburg is first) for number of parishes as active "centers" of the devotion.

Father Louis Holman, diocesan director of the League of the Sacred Heart, reports that 10 parishes distribute the league leaflets each month to members.

Specific duty of each member is daily recitation of the "Morning Offering," a prayer dedicating the day's "works and sufferings" in honor of our Lord's Sacred Heart.

Over 75,000 are enrolled in the Rochester Diocese with Sacred Heart Cathedral at the head of the list with 5,000 members.

Father Holman explains that despite the growing "popularity" of the devotion, actually it had its origin on the first Good Friday.

THE HUMAN HEART is traditionally recognized as the symbol of a person's character. We describe someone as "kind-hearted," "hard-hearted," "soft-hearted." Those who have deep affection speak about loving one another "with all my heart."

February's Valentine cards have capitalized on this "heart in love" idea.

Underlying all the facts of how this devotion has developed in the course of centuries is one basic truth — the overwhelming reality that an all-good God loves the likes of us.

Through our prayers and pious practices it is our privilege to make a token return and strive thereby to show our appreciation for the Saviour who has loved us with all His Sacred Heart.

ARE PRIESTS NECESSARY IN RELIGION?

Objection: The purpose of all religion is to bring a person into communion with God. It seems to me to be clear that anybody can achieve this communion with God directly, and in a far more satisfying and effective manner than if he has to be dependent on priests or any other human instruments.

Moreover, experience proves that many individuals who accept no church or ecclesiastical authority as representative of God, have achieved a high degree of prayer, meditation, virtue and union with God.

Therefore I can see only a hindrance and not a help to personal religion in the priesthood and papacy.

Answer: The purpose of all religion is correctly stated in this objection, viz. to bring a soul into personal union with God.

However it must not be forgotten that it is obligatory on all men to observe any rules that have been set down by God Himself as necessary means to the proper union with God.

If God has spoken about how men are to attain union with Him, it is folly for a man to say, "I have my own system of attaining to union with God."

Certainly no one who believes in Christ or in the Bible can say that Christ did not lay down a rule that men must be dependent on other men for the means of their union with God.

He said to His apostles, "He that heareth you heareth me." He commanded them to teach all nations and "to baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost." He commanded them, when He first performed the miracle of the Eucharist, to "do this in commemoration of me," and thereby to "show the death of the Lord."

None of these means of union with God prescribed by Christ would ever be available to men without human instruments appointed by Christ. The important point is that Christ willed them and commanded them, and against His will and command no one may say, "But I don't need them."

But what about individuals who feel themselves to be closely united to God by their direct prayers and communings? And are these not better than men who attend Mass and receive sacraments and use the ministrations of priests, but whose religion is almost pure formalism without conscious union with God?

In answer to the first question, we may say that God does not reject anyone's attempts to pray to Him and to be conscious of Him even though through ignorance they are unaware of the means He wants them to use. If, however, they reject the means God set up for the attainment of real union with Him through their own perversity, then their vain feeling of union with God is only a deception.

In answer to the second question, it should be quite clear that they who use the forms Christ set up in His Church as forms only and not as means of ever closer union with God, are as perverse and reprehensible as those who reject the necessary forms entirely.

Reprinted from The Ligator, a Catholic monthly magazine published by the Redemptorist Fathers, Liguori, Missouri.

Devotion honoring God's love through the symbol of Christ's Heart spread with new fervor. Pope Leo XIII in 1899 consecrated the world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Pope Pius XII issued two encyclicals fostering the devotion, and last year Pope Pius XII termed the Sacred Heart devotion the "synthesis" of Catholic life.

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FATHER SHEERIN

Parish Pupils Brainwashed?

Do Catholic schools "brainwash" Catholic pupils? This is the gist of a charge made by the Rev. Ganse Little, a Presbyterian pastor from California. He made the attack in a talk he delivered recently at Omaha. The occasion was the annual general assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

Ordinarily I consider religious controversy a futile waste of time. It generates a lot of heat and little light. In this particular case, I don't want to open fire on Mr. Little but I do want to explain the Catholic position.

For his remarks were contained in a speech to the assembly urging the adoption of a special report, and the report was adopted and now represents the policy of the denomination.

The Protestant clergyman claimed that parochial school education smacks of high-pressure methods of modern propaganda. He said it resembles the methods of those mass psychology moguls who try to inject propaganda "in proper dosage and in a properly isolated audience" in order to produce a desired response.

After the talk, he asserted that his remarks applied to Protestant as well as Catholic schools.

When asked for specific proof as regards the latter, he admitted he had never been in a Catholic school nor had he ever made any study of the curriculum of such schools.

Now, high-pressure propaganda methods and Catholic education are as different as a dog trainer and a Harvard professor. The high-pressure propaganda philosophy is that men are merely animals who must respond to stimuli. Administer the right stimulus and you can make a man's mouth water and his brain agree.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION, on the other hand, is based on an utterly different philosophy. The teaching nun strives to show the

present pattern of "going steady" must go. We cannot continue to place children in intolerable situations and punish them for misbehavior. We are the only nation in the world which lets youth do what it wants and then punishes upon it. But coming to grips with this problem, the Holy Father's call for Communion for all even time Mass is attended will be the deciding factor.

Some are militantly against "going steady" during high school because it warps the student's mind. Students, they say, lose interest in school and grow apart from friends of their own sex.

It prevented from "going steady" by Dad and Mom, they will quickly turn against their very parents and relatives.

They will insult and threaten them and leave deep scars, never erased or forgotten by all members of the family.

Some are adamant against "going steady" because it is clearly an occasion of sin against God. The saints when on earth would not have trusted themselves in circumstances that "going steady" promotes. It is easy to see why religion becomes a bore, or a barrier, to so many of these couples.

One cannot constantly cheat on the Commandments and enjoy going into Our Father's House. A keen edge on conscience is easily lost and seldom recovered. If one does not live his religion, he loses it.

We are forced to agree with the many high schools who now publicly denounce "going steady" and who forbid that those who practice it be encouraged or recognized through the school paper. Likewise, we see practical merit in the high school policy which refuses to give school honors and offices to anyone "going steady."

We can now no more kid about this practice for early teenagers than we joke about missing Mass on Sunday, and birth control.

A POSITIVE SUBSTITUTE must replace this pattern of dating if it is ever to be changed. Parochial, private, and public schools, through parent and teacher organizations, could sponsor home parties of all types. Home parties have a chance to remain a permanent custom.

We must be able to convince ourselves and our children that

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Tornado, Flood Havoc Show Civil Defense Need

Widespread human suffering and property damage in the millions of dollars are left in the wake of recent tornadoes and floods sweeping mid- and far-west states.

Father Robert Kress, civil defense director in the Auburn area, told citizens there that an enemy attack with modern atomic weapons would make nature's destructive force look like "a hail stone" in comparison.

He appealed for more civilians to enroll in training courses to serve in time of emergency.

Other civil defense leaders agree that the more citizens trained in the defense of their communities, the less likely will be the damage to life and property in case of catastrophe.

Father Kress said that volunteers in the flooded and storm wrecked areas were able to give doctors, nurses, police, and firemen invaluable assistance in rescue work, traffic control, and care of those driven from their homes by nature's violence.

The Auburn priest cited the slogan, "Alert Today, Alive Tomorrow," to urge civilians in New York State to prepare for trained relief work in emergency situations.

He said the "let-George-do-it" attitude is neither the sensible nor the charitable nor the American attitude.

Certainly Catholics as citizens should be in the forefront of any program set-up for the defense of our country and the care of our fellow citizens.

Patriotism, in Catholic doctrine, is a virtue, part of the Fourth Commandment which imposes the duty of rendering respect for all legitimate authority. Such respect is not meant to be a mere lip-service or flag waving gesture on the Fourth of July.

Virtue is always meant to be proved in deeds. In these times of total war it is every citizen's responsibility to be alert to ways of serving the cause of freedom. There is, therefore, a very practical patriotism in the current appeal for more people to prepare themselves in civil defense methods.

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FATHER KRESS
"a hail stone in comparison"



Home Parties Seen Way To End 'Going Steady'

By MSGR. IRVING A. DEBLANC
(Director, Family Life Bureau, N.C.W.C.)

For the last two weeks we have discussed a troublesome dating pattern. Some are principally against "going steady" in the early teens because it makes emotional pygmies of its devotees. The very bracelet which is exchanged by the "lovers" is more a slave bracelet than a symbol of security.

Some think a "steady" is necessary to assure a date for all dancing parties, but you can agree to accompany each other for all parties without "going steady."

Some are militantly against "going steady" during high school because it warps the student's mind. Students, they say, lose interest in school and grow apart from friends of their own sex.

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The
Bell
Tower

Color Test
"They say brunettes have sweeter dispositions than redheads."

Tomorrow
During a pause in a long, tiring speech, one guest said to another: "What follows this speaker?"

C. O. D.
Father: I wish that kid outside would stop his internal crying.

Mostly Minus
Tom: My, but the girl you just introduced me to is magnetic.

Bill: She ought to be. Everything she has on is charged.

Daily Mass
Sunday, June 9—Pentecost (red), Gloria, Creed, Preface and Canon prayers (for rest of week) of Pentecost.

Monday, June 10 through Saturday, June 15—Mass as in missal for each day.

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