



Bishop Kearney's Appointments

JANUARY

4. Saturday—Cenacle Convent: I.F.C.A. Mass—8:30 a.m.
5. Sunday—St. Joseph's Church: Preside and Preach at Diocesan Holy Name Society Mass—11:30 a.m. Episcopal Residence: Reception for Lay People of Diocese—3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
6. Monday—St. Joseph's Church: Low Mass and Sermon—Notre Dame Retreat League—8:00 p.m.
7. Tuesday—St. Ann's Home: Advisory Board Dinner—6:30 p.m.
8. Wednesday—St. Mary's Hospital: Men's Advisory Board Dinner—6:30 p.m.
23. Tuesday—St. Agnes High School: Feast Day Mass—9:00 a.m.
29. Wednesday—Powers Hotel: Nazareth College Alumnae Banquet—7:00 p.m.

Your Grandfather Was a Seaweed

Everything alive on earth today, said a Texas A&M biologist this past week, has evolved "a billion years or so ago from a common ancestry with the brown seaweed."

The same day a Michigan University anthropologist told fellow scientists our spunk launching modern age "can dispense with gods entirely."

Earlier in our twentieth century some so-called scientists had confidently assured us our ancestors were apes and that fact made religion obsolete.

NOW THAT WE have seaweed in our bloodstream and satellites in our sky we can once more slap God in the face, at least such is the obvious suggestion of this week's spokesman for science.

And then we are informed that our federal government is going to extract billions of dollars more from taxpayers to finance such drive as this.

The two scientists prove a point Catholic educators have been stressing for many years.

A strictly scientific education can be a treacherous boomerang.

An education restricted to the mere facts gleaned from test tubes or telescopes leave a man only half educated. There are truths to know which come to us from the accumulated wisdom of the sages. There are additional truths to know which come to us from the revelation of God Himself. To be ignorant of philosophy and theology is to be mentally crippled.

TRUE EDUCATION trains a man to think, to use the common sense God gives him, to evaluate facts, and to trace these facts back to their cause and find their reason.

Most reputable scientists, we suspect, dismiss with contempt the headline catching speeches of such speakers as Dr. Dillon of Texas or Dr. White of Michigan. Far wiser scientists than these two are known to bow humbly in prayer to God, the Maker of this complex universe.

For centuries the Catholic Church has recognized the possibility that God fashioned man through the long process of evolution, and now today as man stands on the threshold of travel into space, Pope Pius XII has assured us that scientific progress only convinces us the more of God's infinite power and wisdom.

So even if your grandfather was a seaweed and even if your grandson moves to Mars, there is still a God who long ago launched the cosmos and patiently abides the fools who study His work even though they never learn about The Workman Himself who skillfully fashioned all things.

Three Is Only A Good Beginning

Birth controllers won a front page plug when Dr. Elizabeth Drews told a science convention that "gifted" children in 60 per cent of the cases she studied were from families with an average of three children.

The obvious implication is that brains run out after the third child so you better stop there.

Her "gifted" theory certainly falls quite flat on its face considering that American families today average 2.2 children and even so the current hue and cry is that American pupils are way behind the Russians.

Dr. Drews' report also overlooks some of the plain facts of life and world history.

FORTUNATELY FOR US, the parents of many of the world famous masters in art, science and culture did not agree with Dr. Drews that three is enough.

There are some of history's outstanding names with the number of children in the families to which they belonged:

Rembrandt and Cardinal Newman, six; Henry Clay, Thomas Edison, Longfellow, seven; Sebastian Bach, Grover Cleveland, Charles Dickens, Thomas Jefferson, Napoleon, Shakespeare, eight; Daniel Boone, St. Therese the Little Flower, William McKinley, nine; George Washington, Daniel Webster, Carlyle, ten; Samuel Morse, General Pershing, Sir Walter Scott, eleven; Beethoven, Haydn, Tennyson, James Madison, twelve; Benjamin Franklin, St. Francis de Sales, St. Ignatius Loyola, thirteen; Schubert, fourteen; and St. Catherine of Siena was the youngest of twenty-five.

And this is only a partial list which should be sufficient evidence that talents don't give out at number three baby. Facts indicate that three is only a good beginning.

JOSEPH BREIG

Unbaptized Babies

Some weeks ago in this column, for the benefit of a mother whose baby died before it could be baptized, I set forth the teaching of St. Thomas Aquinas on the point. St. Thomas said that such infants at least enjoy an eternity of natural happiness even though they do not have the super-natural happiness of sharing God's own bliss.

Since then, a surprising number of readers have called attention to the possibility that God may supply the equivalent of baptism in cases where, a child of good Christian parents, through no fault of theirs dies unbaptized.

IT HAPPENS that a doctor of theology from Catholic University of America recently published an article upholding precisely that view.

He said that many theologians have so believed through the centuries, and more theologians so believe today. We are entirely free to consider their conclusion correct.

This particular theologian emphasizes that Christian married couples, through the Sacrament of Matrimony, acquire title to certain particular graces from God.

He puts it this way: the sacrament gives "a very special right to very special graces."

One effect of those graces, he holds, is "the firm and sincere intention" of good Christian parents to see to it that their children are baptized as soon as possible after birth. He wrote:

"Certainly . . . those parents have every reason to trust that God, knowing their faith, their sincere desire that the baby be baptized, will, in His Love . . . make possible the immediate entrance of the little one into the fullness of (super-natural) life."

The same view, a reader informs me, was adopted by Bishop Louis Morrow in his book, "My Catholic Faith." He wrote that the lack of baptism in such cases may be supplied "in a way we do not know . . . For who has trusted the infinite and merciful God and found Him deaf to supplication?"

AS I SAY, we are free to hold the same position. What St. Thomas set forth was a conclusion which we may consider morally certain. He did not exclude the further possibility of which we speak.

In none of this, of course, is there any encouragement for any laxity on the part of parents. We are always under grave obligation to see that a child is baptized as soon as reasonably possible.

PARENTS BEHAVE like idiots when they delay baptism to suit their convenience or for some preposterous social reason — so that Aunt Whatnot or Grandma Whonot can be present for the ceremony, or something equally silly.

A baby treated like that really ought to be given some miraculous power for 15 minutes so that he could rise out of his cradle and whale some sense into his parents.

If they squandered everything they owned on some imbecile pleasure, and burned down their house and left their child destitute, they would be grossly unfair to him. But their sin would be almost nothing in comparison with the callous cruelty of playing fast and loose with a baby's life to share eternally in God's own divine happiness.

I KNOW OF no words strong enough to describe the empty-headedness of such parents.

But we are speaking of fathers and mothers who want very much to see the baby baptized at the first possible moment, but are defeated by some accident.

Such parents may leave their little one confidently and serenely in the hands of God, who loves the child infinitely more than they do. And they have good theologians on their side in feeling that God stepped in when they were helpless and did for their son or daughter what they wanted to do but could not.

For what my own opinion may be worth, I incline to the same conclusion.



What a funny world! Youngsters must wonder sometimes about the strange creatures called adults. "We're told to keep the house neat and to be polite, but you should have heard the

big people and the mess they made New Year's Eve," said one small fry. Yes, it is a funny world because people make it so. Article below tells how to confuse children completely.

How To Raise Juvenile Delinquents

Juvenile officers at the Sheriff's Department in Houston, Tex., have mimeographed a memo that they give to parents of wayward youngsters who come to their office.

It is entitled "Twelve Rules For Parents In Raising Juvenile Delinquents."

1. Begin with infancy to give the child everything he wants. In this way he will grow up believing the world owes him a living.

2. When he picks up "bad" words or "dirty" words, laugh at him. That will make him think he is "cute." He will run

off and pick up some other words that will blow the top off your head.

3. Never give him any spiritual training until he is twenty-one and then let him decide for himself. By the same logic, never teach him the English language. Maybe when he is old enough he will want to speak Bantu.

4. Praise him in his presence to all the neighbors; show how much smarter he is than the neighbors' children.

5. Avoid the use of the word "wrong." It may develop in the child a "guilt complex." This

will prepare him to believe that when he is punished later on for stealing cars or assaulting women, society is "against him" and that he is being persecuted.

6. Pick up everything after him: his shoes, his books, his clothes. Do everything for him, so that he will be experienced in throwing burdens on others.

7. Let him read anything he wants. Have no concern whatever for what goes into his mind. Provide him with lily cups for his lips, but let his brain drink words and ideas out of any dirty container.

8. Quarrel frequently in the

presence of your children. In this way they will be prepared for broken homes later on.

9. Give him all the spending money he wants; never let him earn his own.

10. Satisfy every craving of the child for food, drinks, and everything that has to do with the sense of taste and touch, gratifying every sensual desire.

11. Take his part against policemen, teachers and neighbors. They are all "prejudiced" against your child.

12. When he gets into real trouble, always defend yourself and say: "I never could do anything with him."

Epiphany Recalls Wise Men's Visit

Twelfth night ceremonies in America feature huge bonfires of discarded Christmas trees. In Europe, January 6th is a holy day highlighted by priests blessing homes for the new year. And in Cologne Cathedral special rites are held at the reputed resting place of the relics of the three wise men.

Monday, Epiphany, is the Church's liturgical climax to Christmas. It recalls the visit of the three kings to Bethlehem and their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Christ Child.

Eastern rite Catholics also mark Epiphany as the feast of our Lord's baptism and His first miracle at Cana.

America's bonfire rites actually are rooted in medieval customs connected with the celebration of Epiphany. The huge fires lighting the night sky represented the famed star which guided the magi in their quest for the new born Saviour.

Despite this widespread and long standing observance of the feast, its principal characters — the wise men — are quite elusive when it comes to saying anything very definite about them.

SCRIPTURE scholars do not know exactly what office the magi held, where they came from, what their names were, or even how many there were. Today we take it for granted there were three wise men. Scripture does not specify the number and early Christian artists varied the total from two to twelve. Medieval legends gave the kings the names we call them today, Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar.

ASTRONOMERS have in recent years proposed various theories to explain the star which guided the magi. Some think that a brilliant comet attracted the wise men's attention. Some say the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in 7 B.C. or of Jupiter and Venus in 6 B.C. started the kings on their journey.

Scripture seems flatly to contradict such theories because the kings are reported as following a definitely miraculous star which "went before them until it came and stood over where the child was" (Matt. 2:9).

Comets, planets, or ordinary stars just don't move that way. Yet despite the lack of definite details, the visit of these strangers is a truly historic event and one of such spiritual significance, the Church has made it an annual feast day.

The fact that strange vis-



tors of high rank came from the east at the time of Christ's birth was real enough for suspicious Herod to interview them and later order the slaughter of Bethlehem's boys babies when the magi failed to return to Herod.

The importance of their visit is the fact that these magi were pagans, not Jews — graphic evidence that the new born Saviour was not a mere local messiah.

The three pagan magi who knelt to adore at Bethlehem were the first of that surging throng from all nations which today totals over 300 million across the face of the earth who adore that same Saviour.

Their symbolic gifts of gold represent the faith and devotion of present day believers and when the wise men returned to their homes they took with them the blessings which

can come only from God Himself.

In view of this dramatic symbolism, the Church has devised an Epiphany blessing rite for homes.

Special prayers for the ceremony are published in the official ritual book of the Church and climax with the priest or father of the family inscribing over the doorway the code:

19 + C + M + B + 58
— initials of the magi within the numerals of the new year.

Thus there emerges out of the haze of legend and the thread bare facts of an ancient event a living, rich heritage rooted in one overwhelming fact that Christ the Lord is the source of all blessings for all nations through all the centuries.

Daily Mass Calendar

Sunday, January 5 — Holy Name of Jesus (white), Gloria, 2nd prayer* of St. Telephorus, Creed, Christmas Preface.

Monday, January 6 — Epiphany of our Lord (white), Gloria, Creed, Preface and Canon Prayers of Epiphany.

Tuesday, January 7 through Friday, January 10 — Mass as Monday except no Creed and no special Canon prayers.

Saturday, January 11 — Saturday Mass in honor of our Lady (white), Gloria, 2nd prayer* of St. Hyginus; or, St. Hyginus, martyr (red), Gloria, 2nd prayer* of the Saturday Mass, Preface of Epiphany.

*Omitted at High Mass.

Any Questions?

Harry's teacher came by to see his parents, but the boy told her, "They ain't in."

"Ain't in?" exclaimed the teacher. "Where's your grammar, Harry?"

"Oh, she's upstairs taking a nap," said the boy.

His Fault

Jim came up to his mother and said, "Joe broke a window."

"What a bad boy," his mother said. "How did he do it?"

"I throw a hard snowball at him," Jim said, "and he ducked."

Marriage

Living Together

By MSGR. DeBLANC
N.C.W.C. Family Bureau

As so many relearn at Christmas time, life is not a closed vault but a many windowed mansion. To enjoy this mansion and actually to survive, the windows must be opened.

There is a large, important one which has been closed for too many years. We will call it the "In-law Window." Open it up we must.

Here are a few final directions:

When in-laws are domiciled together they should have reasonable expectations of one another. For instance, they should not always expect to be forever invited where the other goes or to be given constant explanations for all that goes on.

That would border on slavery!

Each party should also insist on privacy. A closed door should suffice to establish that practice — no locks should be necessary. Two phones then in the long run could be an economical investment.

In money matters common expenses should always be shared. Trial budgets should first be set up, then a regular statement of finances should be made; good business generally means good friends.

WARM, SINCERE appreciation should always be expressed for gifts received. The gift is a symbol of affection. That gratitude is coyly sought by the giver. To ignore a gift is a base insult.

It is fitting that children learn gratitude early by praying every evening for their grandparents, doing little favors for them, and inviting them to parties that they can attend. While on trips the children should send cards to Grandpa and Grandma and make frequent short visits to them.

PARENTS SHOULD know when and how to help a new family. An extra pair of hands given in an emergency and without reproach is a rare godsend — a benediction — a boon.

Babysitting for the grandchildren should be rather frequently and gladly offered. This is also of great help to the emotional life of a tiny tot who remains with his grandparents over the weekend and knows that he can still be perfectly safe away from home. No youngster can have too much of this kind of love.

This does not mean that children are to be dumped upon grandparents, or that mothers-in-law are to become a piece of automatic machinery, taken for granted. That is a crime.

Daughters-in-law should expect in-law difficulties. For anyone with original sin that is natural. The younger person ordinarily should take the initiative in in-law adjustments. Mothers-in-law give their hearts slowly and only upon proof. Their status and age should be respected.

A wife should set standards where she can be favorably compared with her feminine in-laws. She should take care of her housekeeping, her cleanliness, her dress, her social life, her cooking, and be at least on a par with them. Incidentally, any wife who loves can learn how to cook in two weeks.

Trips, celebrations, social life should frequently be planned with the in-laws. There should be a reasonable clustering together.

Christmas is oftentimes an occasion when parents financially help a struggling young couple. It is true that wives agree to live on their husbands' income and not on their father's, but why should parents wait for death to help those they love — children may need help more now.

Why not give help to them now if you can? Help must be offered prudently by parents. It must be accepted maturely by children who are not so foolishly independent that they refuse needed assistance.

Help the Hungry

Albert came running into the house and said, "Mom, may I have a nickel for an old man crying outside?"

"I suppose so," said the mother, "but what is he crying for?"

"Epples!" said the little boy.

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