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FROM JUDAISM TO CHRISTIANITY

By Rev. William H. Williams in The Missionary

I have always thought that one of the most interesting cases I have had to do with in my pastoral work was that connected with a prominent Jewish family in the town where I was in charge of a parish some twenty years ago. The conversion of two young daughters of this family to the Catholic faith created a good deal of excitement and comment when it became publicly known, and I was threatened by the strong Jewish element of the community with harsh corporal treatment, until it was discovered that the real author of the religious transformation was not the pastor of the local Catholic Church but a modest and retiring housemaid who, several years before, had simply been faithful in the performance of her religious duties. The facts are these:

They were of German descent, and the family was one of the wealthiest and most prominent in commercial circles in the community in which we lived. The father was an eminent Rabbi of the town, ministering in a large synagogue to a large and distinguished congregation. They had some Jewish servants in their home, but in order that these might not have to perform manual labor on Saturday, the Sabbath of the Old Testament, when the family wanted to attend services in their synagogue they had given employment to a young Catholic girl by the name of Mary Blythe. Mary had been educated in the parochial school of the town, and was one of the brightest and most devout of the young people connected with the parish. She was very punctual in the performance of her religious duties, and her fidelity in the work of the Sodality to which she belonged had been rewarded with the prize of a beautifully bound prayer-book, illustrated, as is usual in such books for Catholic children, with pictures describing the different parts of the Mass. Mary was very fond of the little volume, and gazed often with much devotion upon those engravings, while the descriptive reading matter became as familiar to her as the proverbial "household words."

The young Jewish and her sister did not fail to notice Mary's attachment for the little morocco-bound volume, and often they longed for an opportunity to look at it, to see what it was that so arrested the child's attention. They caught a glimpse of the pictures, and one day mustered up confidence enough to ask, "May we read your little book?"

"Yes, miss, certainly you may. You can have it to read any time you like. It is full of pretty pictures that I am sure you will like to look at," and Mary handed them the volume.

Not far from the house, out beyond the orchard, was a hedge that had been set out as a wind-break, at the foot of which ran a purling stream in which the girls in their childhood had often waded, and where now they loved to sit after school hours and talk over the events of the day. Here they formed a little arbor, in which rustic seats were placed, and to this spot they hastened in the sunny afternoon to look over the little book with the golden cross stamped on the cover. Sitting under the hedge, the blue sky looking benignly down upon them, as though the Almighty Father were well pleased with their girlish efforts, they read together the life of our Blessed Lord as narrated in connection with the ceremonies of Mass. The two little Jewesses were full of inquiries as to the meaning of the engravings that pictured the various steps in the Mass, and still more eager were they to understand the life and passion of the Saviour as these were successively pictured on imaginary screens back of the altar. Mary, although not a doctor in Divine theology, had learned well her catechism, and had always devoutly followed the priest in the various details of the Holy Mass, afterwards questioning the nuns concerning things that were not easily understood by one so young, and therefore she was able to give a satisfactory reply to every query and to explain many things that are often hidden from the wise and prudent. Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise, because of thy enemies (Psalm viii, 3).

After such a study as this, with the artless teaching of an innocent child who had little conception that she was doing a missionary work that the angels of heaven might envy, the Jewish girls resolved some day to be Christians. Not long after, Mary Blythe left the family, and soon after entering womanhood married a young man of good Catholic antecedents and became a most active member of the parish to which she was attached. In after years she counted among her nearest and dear-

est friends the two members of Jewish faith who had found the way to the true Cross through her guidance.

But the two young Hebrew girls, with a fear that was quite natural, delayed revealing their change of belief; they were afraid to confess their belief in Christ to their father and mother. But the death of the Rabbi and some legal proceedings that followed in the probate court gave the elder girl quite unexpected an opportunity of openly confessing Jesus Christ. She and her mother had to appear in court to take an oath. Her mother had sworn the official, handing the girl the Old Testament, "tell the truth, and the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."

A sudden faintness seized the girl; she was brought face to face with one of the hardest tests of her life; but the martyr spirit was there. Bracing herself under the impatient scrutiny of her mother, she gently pushed the Old Testament aside and said distinctly, so that all in the court-room could hear: "Give me the New Testament, for I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ."

The scene that followed was startling; it was a sudden outburst of horror and indignation on the part of the many friends and relatives present, all Jews. These separated themselves from the other spectators and made a move towards the tribunal. It seemed to be their intention to seize upon the girl and to commit some kind of violence. But the authorities interfered and saved her from the hands of her infuriated former co-religionists. Her family joined her in her conversion, and were mourning for them a year, as though they were dead. But throughout all their trials and afflictions they remained steadfast in their faith, and before the year had passed I had received them into the Church, where they made a most noble confession of the religion that the elder girl read in public a statement concerning her religious experiences, giving many of the facts that I have mentioned, and describing in most charming language other and deeper soul experiences that caused the tears to flow in the eyes of the hundreds who listened to her spiritual history. That was a Sunday in my ministry that I shall certainly never forget.

The elder sister married a practical Catholic whose gentle life was cut short by an automobile accident. He left his wife in very wealthy circumstances, and she devoted herself and her riches to the uplifting of the poor, the ignorant and the suffering. Her name has become as well known in Europe as in the United States. She was especially interested in fallen women in European cities, and she founded one institution after another in their behalf. A convent was built by her in the State of Kentucky, one of my parochial schools shared in a most generous contribution from her, while the missionaries in foreign lands saw numerous chapels, schools and rectories erected by funds from her consecrated purse. Take it all in all, I doubt if many efforts made by a Catholic girl or boy have ever brought forth greater fruits than did the simple missionary labors of Mary Blythe under the old hedge beyond the orchard wall.

SOME "INSIDE" FACTS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

SOME THINGS THE CATHOLIC CHURCH BELIEVES
By Rev. Thomas F. Conkley, D. D., Pittsburg, Pa.

The Catholic Church believes that religion should be reasonable, and that every Catholic should be able to give a reason for the truths he believes. If any doctrine of the Catholic Church can be proved to be unreasonable, the Catholic Church will reject it.

The Catholic Church believes that every person should investigate the reasons for his faith. Don't take any person's unsupported word for it. Prove it yourself, sound the origins of your religious belief, trace them back to Christ, compare Christ's teachings with what you believe to-day, and see whether there is any harmony, or whether you are deviating from the unadulterated Word of God.

Christ wants you to believe all of his doctrines, every one of them, not merely one or two or a few. There can be no elective course in Christianity. Hence any Church minimizing the doctrines of Christ, or denying any of them, cannot be the true Church of Christ.

The Catholic Church teaches that it is utterly impossible for two contradictory things to be true at the same time. The true Church of Christ cannot believe Christ is God in Pittsburgh, and deny that he is God in New York.

The true Church of Christ cannot believe that baptism is necessary for salvation in San Francisco, a matter of indifference in Chicago, and not necessary at all in Boston. Such contradictions make religion a mockery.

The Catholic Church must preach the Gospel of Christ to all the world, all the time. Hence she cannot limit or restrict her territory, or cease for a moment in her missionary activity both at home and abroad, or consent to remain away from certain missionary fields, because other forms of religion are already there.

The Catholic Church is the greatest institution in the world to-day. She numbers more than 300,000,000 persons, in every land. She has been in existence for nineteen hundred years "she has seen all our times, she has encountered all our adversities, she has shaped herself for all emergencies."

The Catholic Church believes therefore that all persons claiming to be educated or cultured should know the Catholic Church, and what it teaches otherwise they lay themselves open to the charge of not knowing the history, teachings and practice of the greatest institution in the world's history.

The Catholic Church believes that the Catholics in Jerusalem mistaken hundreds of years ago believed the same truths that the Catholics in Pittsburgh today, no more or less; hence there can be no additional truths which Catholics will some day be called upon to believe. The Catholic Church is the same, yesterday, today and forever.

The Catholic Church believes that it is not necessary to prove every doctrine of Christ from Holy Scripture. We might just as well ask St. Paul who died in the year '67, to prove his doctrines from the Bible, which was not all written until some thirty years after his death.

The Catholic Church believes that she will exist for all times and that no power on earth can destroy her, because she is not a human institution, but of divine origin, and supported by the divine power of Christ Who promised to be with her to the end of the world.

The Catholic Church believes that she were a mere human institution she would have ceased to exist within a few years after Christ. But since she has witnessed the birth of all the governments and all ecclesiastical establishments that now exist in the world, she will likewise exist in their requiem, hence there is a power higher than human that sustains her.

The Catholic Church believes that Christ established but one Church, not many conflicting ones, and until there is that one fold and one shepherd that Christ desired, the Catholic Church will labor incessantly for Christian unity.

The Catholic Church believes that the peace and good will of the community will be vastly increased if all the community know exactly what it is that the Catholic Church teaches. Know the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth about the Catholic Church. Apply to headquarters and be sure you are getting the truth when you read about the Catholic Church.

DIED

FARRELL.—At Arthur, Ont., Friday, July 6th, 1917. Wm. Farrell aged seventy-eight years and six months. May his soul rest in peace.

COLEMAN.—Killed at No. 12 Colliery, New Waterford, N. S., on July 25, Mr. Peter Coleman, aged forty three years. May his soul rest in peace.

WOODS.—On Thursday, July 19, 1917, at the American Hospital in Vedado, Habana, Cuba, Annie Evaleen, beloved wife of Dr. E. J. Woods, Neuvitas, Cuba, aged thirty-two years. May her soul rest in peace.

What you say about books and personal example is very true. It is the life that quickens; the words die without the life. The same words which Our Lord said, and moved hearts from their center,—we know that they were, and can repeat them; but they are dead in our mouths and fall lifeless from our lips. An interior man will do more good and effect more with ten simple words than another with ten discourses composed with care and elegance.—Father Hecker.

TEACHERS WANTED

WANTED FOR SEPARATE SCHOOL No. 6. Township of Sherwood in the village of Barry's Bay, two teachers: a principal having Normal training and an assistant teacher for the Junior form. Duties to commence Sept. 4th, 1917. Apply stating salary, experience and qualifications to Martin Daly, Sec. Treas., Barry's Bay, Ont. 2024-3.

A QUALIFIED TEACHER WANTED FOR S. S. No. 15. Huntingdon. Duties to begin Sept. 3. Address to Thos. O'Reilly, Madoc, Ont. 2026-2.

WANTED TEACHER HOLDING A 1ST OR 2ND class certificate having Normal training. Salary \$800 per year. Address to Thos. O'Reilly, Madoc, Ont. 2026-2.

QUALIFIED TEACHER FOR SEPARATE school section. No. 4, Burgess, N. S. Salary \$450 per annum. Apply to R. T. Noonan, Sec. Treas., Stanleyville, Ont. R. M. D. No. 2. 2026-2.

WANTED NORMAL TRAINED TEACHER for S. S. No. 10, Lancaster, Glenora Co. Salary \$525. Apply to R. J. McDonald, Dalhousie Stn., Que., R. R. 1, Box 41. 2026-1.

WANTED TEACHER FOR SCHOOL SECTION S. S. No. 1, Cornwall; normal trained. Salary \$500 per annum. School to open Sept. 3rd. Apply to Hugh Cahay, R. R. No. 2, Northfield Station. 2023-4.

TEACHER WANTED FOR CATHOLIC S. S. No. 3, March, holding 2nd class certificate. Duties to commence 1st Sept. Apply stating salary to Ambrose Carroll, Sec. Treas., R. R. No. 2, Dunrobin, Ont. 2023-4.

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WANTED A TEACHER FOR C. S. NO. 2, Orpington, with at least 3rd class certificate. Salary \$450 per annum. Duties to commence Sept. 3rd. Apply stating qualifications to Wm. Barry, P. O. No. 1, Manotick Station, Ont. 2025-2.

TEACHER WANTED FOR THE CATHOLIC Separate school of Keewatin. Teacher must have at least a third class certificate for the Province of Ontario, must be able to teach both French and English. Salary \$550 per year. Apply to Sec. Treas. Joseph Gagnon, Keewatin, Ont. 2021-6.

TEACHER WANTED HOLDING A 2ND CLASS certificate for Separate school, No. 2, North Burgess. Duties to commence Sept. 1st, 1917. Apply stating salary and experience to Sec. Treas., Stanleyville, Lanark Co., Ont. 2024-4.

SECOND CLASS PROFESSIONAL TEACHER wanted for S. S. No. 4, Ennismore. Liberal salary paid for experienced teacher. Duties to begin Sept. 3rd. Apply stating experience and salary to Rev. P. J. McGuire, Ennismore, Ont. 2023-3.

TEACHER WANTED FOR S. S. NO. 10, Carleton Place. Duties to commence after holiday. One holding a 1st or 2nd class certificate. Apply to Sec. Treas., Charles Scheffer, Midway, Ont., R. R. 3. 2023-3.

WANTED TEACHER FOR CATHOLIC Separate school, Sec. No. 1, Morley. Salary \$500 per annum. Not less than a third class certificate will be accepted. Apply to John J. Hunt, Sec. Treas., at Rainy River District, Stratton, Ont. 2025-3.

WANTED 2ND CLASS PROFESSIONAL teacher for St. Augustine Separate school, County Huron. Duties to commence Sept. 3rd, 1917. Apply stating salary and experience to J. W. Boyle, Sec. Atsurg, Ont., R. R. No. 2. 2023-4.

CATHOLIC TEACHER WANTED FOR S. S. No. 1, Rutherford; 1st or 2nd class professional certificate. Male or female. Duties to begin 1st Sept. next. Salary \$700 to \$800 for 2nd class certificate. Apply to P. R. de Lamorandiere, Killarney, Ont. 2025-3.

TEACHERS WANTED HOLDING FIRST or second class Ontario Certificates for Catholic schools. Fort William, Ont. Salary \$600 per year. Duties to commence Sept. 1st. Apply to G. P. Smith, Sec. 1121 Simpson St., Fort William, Ont. 2023-4.

NORMAL TRAINED TEACHER WANTED for C. S. No. 4, Westmeath (La Presse). Duties to begin Sept. 3rd, 1917. One capable of teaching French and English. Apply stating salary and experience to W. C. Gervais, Sec. Treas. C. S. No. 4, Westmeath, La Presse, Ont. 2021-4.

TWO TEACHERS WANTED FOR SEPARATE school, Beaufort, Renfrew Co., holding 2nd class Normal certificates. Duties to commence Sept. 3rd, 1917. School beside the church and close to railway station. Apply stating salary and experience to J. L. Legris, Calabogie, Ont. 2023-4.

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