



PUBLIC AND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

With regard to the Catholic School it is a pleasure to find the Catholic standpoint approved by a Protestant minister. The following paragraphs clipped from the Los Angeles Tribune, are the statements of Rev. James A. Francis of the First Baptist Church in Los Angeles:

"There are three places where the youth of our country may receive their religious education, the Public school, the home and the Sunday school.

"As to the first, it is well known that religious instruction is pretty thoroughly ruled out of the Public school right across this country.

"True, wherever there is a teacher whose life is radiant with light and thrilling with moral power, he or she cannot but exert an influence; yet, religious education, wisely or unwisely, is excluded from the Public school.

"I come now to the home. Here it is a case not of exclusion, but of neglect. I speak not, of course, of all. There are no statistics to show how many homes there are where the great things which nourished the very life of the soul are carefully taught; but we do know that there are millions of homes not of the slums, either, where the whole matter is simply ignored.

"We have left as a last resort the Sunday school. What of it? Is it a real school in any sense that a thorough-going educator would recognize and respect? Alas! Here we fall down again so sadly.

"There are notable exceptions, but there are multitudes of schools that can hardly be called schools at all. If you sent your boy to day school and he studied arithmetic for five years and then did not know any more about it than the average boy knows about religion after he has been to Sunday school, not five years but fifteen, you would conclude either that he was below par mentally or that the school was a make-believe.

"The idea that most any kind of a well-intentioned young man or more often girl is fit to teach the greatest subject in the world is unspeakable folly. There are signs of great promise on the horizon, but for the boy or girl now half grown the prospect, speaking broadly, is not very bright. Between a Public school with doors closed to religious teaching, a home where stupid neglect is the rule, and a haphazard, slipshod Sunday school, where does the boy or girl come in for a chance?

"I do not wonder that our Roman Catholic friends stick to the parochial school. Were it a Catholic I would, too. Our first duty is to call things by their right names, to stop sanctifying stupidity and glorifying inefficiency, and then to go to work and cure what's curable.

"Dr. Eliot was once asked, 'Don't we spend too much on religion?' He replied, 'That depends. If religion is a little optional side-show we certainly do. But if, as some of us think, it is the most important thing of all, then we don't spend half enough.'

THE CATHOLIC FAITH

SECULAR PRESS PRAISES ITS PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

REV. B. D. TUCKER, WASHINGTON, (D. C.) HERALD, OCT. 19, 1916

"Although the world's greatest universities were all founded by religious bodies, so great is the modern day opinion against religious training in the public schools that there are children in this country of school age who are ignorant of religion. Their home conditions are such that they have no opportunity to receive any spiritual training either in the family or at Sunday school.

"With the exception of France, this country is the only one which does not provide religious training in the Public school system.

"Education, whether along science or art, is dangerous unless coupled with spiritual teaching. The present immorality among young people in school is due to the fact that they have not had religious teaching in the Public school."

MILLAN W. BETTS, PROTESTANT SETTLEMENT WORKER

"Above all there should be immediate suppression of all proselyting among these people (Italians). Their Church is in their blood. The venerable, which is all the new church connection, stifles the vital breath of the soul, and leaves the so-called convert without a church. The exception proves the rule. Remove the temptation of the leaves and fishes in the proselyting endeavor and see how successful the effort is. Let the Catholic Church live at her highest among these people and the political problems they create will disappear."

PROTESTANT BANNER, PITTSBURGH, JUNE 18, 1908

"The Roman Catholic Church is the most ancient and is still the largest branch of Christianity in this country and in the world, and it stands for the fundamentals of Christian faith and practice. It holds to and proclaims the Fatherhood of God, the Deity of Christ, the Bible as the Word of God, the Christian Sabbath, Christian marriage, penitence and forgiveness, prayer and worship, and righteousness in character and conduct. It is especially a bulwark against Socialism and Anarchism, divorce and godless education. The way it fills its churches with worshippers on the Sabbath is an encouraging fact; and it has to hold on the masses of the people in the cities, especially those of foreign birth, that no other church has. It is an example to Protestant Christianity in unity, in gifts, in discipline and service, in zeal and in sacrifice."

THE FIRST GUNS

AUSPICIOUS OPENING OF THE GREAT CAMPAIGN TO RAISE \$6,000,000 FOR THE CANADIAN PATRIOTIC FUND

Ottawa, Dec.—The officers of the Canadian Patriotic Fund are greatly elated over the encouraging outlook for the Fund in Ontario in 1917 owing to the generous action of the County Councils of Simcoe, Victoria and Dufferin at the fall sessions recently held. The decision of these Councils marks the real beginning of the campaign, which will reach its climax in January and February to raise at least \$6,000,000 in this province in 1917. As this is a \$1,000,000 more than was subscribed for 1916, it has been felt by the Fund authorities that much of the success of the campaign would depend on the increase of the grants made by the County Councils.

The three counties which have already acted have done so well and shown so generous an example that the chances of attaining the desired sum are now considered greatly improved.

Simcoe, which in the past has left the support of the Fund largely to the township and town councils, has decided to make a general levy on the whole county for the purpose of the Fund. This implies taxing not only the rural districts, but such important centres as Orillia, Collingwood, Barrie and Midland. The sum to be given is \$10,000 a month, making the fine aggregate of \$120,000 in the year. This is a large increase over 1916, and the county councillors, by unanimously supporting the grant, have shown not only their appreciation of the Fund, but their political courage, for naturally the majority of them will be offering for re-election in January and will have to justify their action before their constituents. But more than this, the Simcoe councillors expressed the hope that the voluntary grants by individuals and organizations would be continued. The county grant represents two and one-half mills on the dollar.

Victoria, a county much smaller in wealth and population, has also excelled itself, and has raised its contribution from \$2,500 a month to \$5,000, or a total of \$60,000 in the year. This means a tax of three mills on the dollar. It is a noble grant, and places Victoria well up in the front rank of Ontario counties for generous giving, as it is for recruiting.

Dufferin, in 1916, gave \$500 a month. It has decided to quadruple this for 1917, and will give \$2,000 a month—a splendid increase.

The Fund's campaign has certainly started with a bang!

GENERAL INTENTION FOR JANUARY

RECOMMENDED AND BLESSED BY HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XV.

TRIUMPH OF THE INTERESTS OF THE SACRED HEART

We have each one of us, something that is always uppermost in our minds, something ever present, something that touches us closely; it may be our advantage under some aspect, or our honour, or our happiness; it concerns us intimately; it holds our thoughts preferably to other things. This something is called our interest. A mother sees her infant child fading away in illness and she is intent only on making it well again; this is her interest for the moment. A prisoner in his cell awaiting trial has but one concern, which is his interest, that of proving his innocence. A student preparing for an examination has one present concern, or interest, that of passing with honour. One's interests are the things which are of special importance to oneself. They may be pleasant or painful; but they concern one personally, and occupy one's thought and energies.

What are the special interests of the Sacred Heart? In order to reply to this question, let us put another: What were the things on which Our Lord's mind and heart were concentrated while He was here on earth? If we study His life and actions we find that there was only one thing that occupied His thoughts above all other things and that was the promotion of the glory of God His Father by the salvation of souls. His incarnation, His ministry, sufferings, death—in a

word, the teaching of His whole life and example—had this object alone in view. And since He has been with us in His eucharistic life, has it not been His dearest wish to become the food of human souls in order to strengthen and save them? The one really great interest of the Sacred Heart then, whose triumph would give Him pleasure, is concerned with the salvation of our fellow-men. This is the one object which those who love Our Lord should aim at. However, in the attaining of it other interests present themselves as means to an end—lesser interests, if we may so speak; essential, nevertheless—and should become the object of our prayers.

Among these interests we may mention the repentance of sinners, the fruit of the sacraments in souls, the perseverance of the good, their advancement in holiness, the happy death of those in agony, the freedom of action of the Papacy, the holiness of the clergy, the success of missions, the relief of the souls in Purgatory, etc. All these are interests of the Sacred Heart; grouped together they are means to obtain the one great object, and are assuredly postulated in the General Intention for which the Holy Father this month begs the tribute of our prayers.

Our Blessed Lord asks all Catholics to make the interests of His Sacred Heart their own. He is looking for apostles, not merely in the clerical hierarchy and in the restricted spheres of the cloister, but also in the broad fields of the world. Even among the laity He seeks souls who will help Him to promote the salvation of other souls; nothing more pressing than the invitation He extends to all to work to save souls. In order to make this work easy and agreeable, He has revealed to us in these latter centuries the amiable devotion of His Divine Heart. It pleased Him to show to us His Heart burning with love, and to exclaim "Behold the Heart which has so loved me; It asks only that men love It in return." He told Blessed Margaret Mary that His desire to be loved by men made Him reveal His Heart, that it would give Him a deep pleasure to be honored under the figure of His Heart of flesh the symbol of His love, whose image He wished to see set up and honored, so that the sight of It might touch men's hearts. He promised that He would shower down abundantly on those who would honor Him after this fashion all the treasures which His Heart contained. He had hoped that the spectacle of His adorable Heart, as it was shown to the holy Visitation, and the generous promises He made, would be sufficient to inflame hearts and make apostles of them. Alas, for the coldness of men and their indifference to His invitation! And yet He still appeals to every one of us to work in some way, according to our state and opportunity, for the interests mentioned above. Meanwhile, He imposes no sacrifice on us, appoints no heroic expiations, asks no victims of immolation; all He wishes is to make us share His thirst for souls, and he suggests to us that when this thirst has been excited the road through His Heart is the nearest road to reach souls.

EX ORE INFANTUM

The Rev. E. R. Grimes writes thus in the Universe of London:

I was an Anglican clergyman—a member of an Anglican religious order which prided itself on its "Catholicity." Being in temporary charge of the London House, I could go in and out without asking leave. There was a weight upon my mind, I was in grave doubt whether after all, I was a Catholic. I had read most of Newman's books, but there was one which I was afraid of reading, lest it might unsettle me, so I had resolutely left it alone. Now, however, all of a sudden, the opportunity seemed to stare me in the face. Why could I not walk over to the library of the British Museum and read that book? I could and I would. So I set out that early summer morning clad in cassock and girdle and long priestly cloak. It seemed like a dangerous adventure, so accustomed were we to judge adversely any internal voice which called us on towards Rome. But, stifling the sense of danger as far as I could, I ascended the narrow street, turned the corner, and came up against the stream of workers setting out for the business of the day. I nearly ran into one of them. It was a little child of nine with a satchel on his back, and he was leading his younger brother to school. I had stopped him unintentionally, and as he stopped he looked up and surveyed me with wondering eyes. "Are you a Catholic?" he said; "we are Catholics." That was all. It was one of those utterances which come spontaneously from the lips of a child, but it touched the spot as nothing else could have done. It was so sudden and unexpected that I could say nothing; I could only smile and pass on. But the voice of the little child was with me all day long. Immediately it sent a thrill of encouragement into my wavering mind, and I never hesitated again. The strong, simple certainty of that small schoolboy that he and his brother were Catholics made me long to solve the doubts of my aching soul, and to gain, if possible, the faith of a little child.

So I hurried my steps, went through the turnstile of the Museum, passed into the library, sat down in a quiet corner and wrote upon the slip of paper, "Development of Christian Doctrine," by Cardinal Newman.

Often before I had felt that mysterious attraction to Rome which we used to call "Roman fever." And many times I had thrown it off with the thought that, after all, the Christianity of Rome, with its exact definition of doctrine, its elaborate ceremonial, and its amazing organization, was a different thing from the Christianity of the early ages; and notably the assertion of St. Peter's authority and that of his immediate successors did not in any way compare with the claim of the Pope of today. Newman, I had been told, had actually invented a new doctrine, in order to bridge over this gulf and to justify his secession—the doctrine of the "Development of Doctrine"—and had embodied it in his book.

The book lay before me on the table, and I was reading it. It took me several days, but I plodded along, encouraged at every chapter by the voice of the child; and when I had finished, my doubts were finished. After all, this "new" doctrine was as old as the hills. All the creeds of Christendom by their history, structure and contents proclaimed it—the Apostles, the Nicene, the Athanasian, bore witness to it quite as certainly as the Creed of Pope Pius IV. It was enshrined in the very words of Christ: "I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot hear them now. But when He, the Spirit of Truth is come, He will teach you all truth."

"The Kingdom of Heaven is as a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds, and when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches so that the

birds of the air may dwell under the shadow thereof." The seed and the tree—so different in appearance, yet always the same. So simple the seed, so complex the tree, yet complete in their unity. The seed so new, the tree, so old, yet never a break in continuity.

A month later I was received into the Catholic Church, and ever since then I have known what it is to share the certain conviction of that little Catholic schoolboy, who was not ashamed to bear witness to his faith to a grown-up stranger in a London street. We are not strangers now.

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

The French sculptor, Alexandre Falguiere, did great work in his time; nymphs and goddesses, exquisitely chiseled from the cold marble, yet singularly un-Greek because of the Christian civilization reflected in their faces; the virile, tender St. Vincent de Paul, with two little children in his arms; and the heroic figure of Cardinal Lavigerie holding the cross before his converts of the desert.

But there is another—a masterpiece done in Falguiere's youth, which alone would entitle him to the gratitude of Catholics. It stands in the gallery of the Luxembourg and shows the young lad Tarcisus, beaten to death by the Roman street mob, the Blessed Sacrament carried next to his heart, while on his way to some Christians about to suffer martyrdom. It is related of him that as he passed a great house on that last morning of his life, a noble lady who stood in the portico, attracted by his beauty, asked his name and where his parents lived. "I am Tarcisus, an orphan boy," he responded with a smile, "and my home is here."

How the words came ringing down the centuries. Bands of golden sunshine fall across the path, inviting us to loiter by the way; voices of friends urge to the joys of companionship on the open road; pleasure stands upon the threshold and beckons to the banquet hall; but we may not stop. Better the dust of the highway or martyrdom, if need be, with our Lord treasured in our bosom, than comradeship or pleasures, if these mean neglect of Him.

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