

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

GOD BLESS YOU

God bless you! with His grace and love divine. God bless you! if your heart with pain repine. God bless you! when the sky of hope is clear. God bless you! when the pulse is still with fear. God bless you! in the early days of life. God bless you! in the midst of bitter strife. God bless you! when dark sorrows crowd around. God bless you! when not one true friend is found. God bless you! when doubt your mind assails. God bless you! when your sinking courage fails. God bless you! when the future all seems dark. God bless you! when of joy appears no spark. God bless you! when to you the world is blind. God bless you! when not one on earth is kind. God bless you! when your sight and hearing fail. God bless you! when your strength does naught avail. God bless you! when no certain path seems clear. God bless you! when the night of life is near. God bless you! when the end of all is nigh. God bless you! when He brings you home on high.

-J. F. X. O'CONNOR, S. J.

OBLIGING OTHERS

Readiness to oblige is the small coin in the treasury of happiness, and it is within the reach of the poorest amongst us. It is the cheerful compliance with which one grants a request, receives a visit, or puts up with an annoyance. It is the amiability of expression, the pleasant smile which is so universally attractive. It is a trifling service promptly and gladly rendered, or, perhaps, requested with unassuming simplicity. Sometimes it is thanks gracefully paid, or a cordial word of encouragement to a disheartened fellow-laborer. All these appear small matters, but do not on that account neglect them. God will repay you for them abundantly.

HOW TO SUCCEED

Most young men and most older men consider a man successful when he has accumulated considerable wealth. In a measure, the accumulation of wealth does indicate success, but it is a mistake to think that all men who are wealthy are successful and that all men who die poor are unsuccessful. Some of the most successful men in the world have died with little or no wealth. Some of the wealthiest men in the nation, when the real test of success is applied to them, are failures. Wealth does not necessarily measure success or a lack of wealth failure. Success depends on rendering a capable and an honest service, doing the things that need to be done.

If all young men would make up their minds to prepare themselves for some job they like and pledge themselves to discharge the duties, which fall upon them, faithfully and to the best of their ability, all would be successful. One of the greatest assets in a young man's life is character and it requires character to be a success.—Catholic Columbian.

ABOUT BEING JOYFUL

What is the good of being grumpy or down-hearted? If you are ill it will make you worse, and if you are well it will make you ill, so there is no good in it all. Besides it is like the measles, it is highly infectious and spreads quicker than the rolling mist down the mountain side. Grumpy people are always tired, and entre nous those who have to do with them are tired also—of the company of Grumpy and Co. How can it be otherwise? An old song tells us:

"A merry heart goes all the day A sad heart tires out in a mile-o."

So be joyful, it's good for you, keeps you young, improves your looks. Yes, really it does, for expression is more valuable than complexion, as only the former shows on a photo. So let the mental photo that your friends—if you are lucky enough to have any—or your enemies—if you are unfortunately out with your relations—have of you be radiant, full of contentment, bubbling over with the joy of being alive.

Don't grumble at this dear old world. It isn't so bad after all, you might be a lot worse off in another, you know. So be content.

Of course it is neither you nor I that go in for a joyless outlook on men and things. We naturally belong to the most sensible part of humanity, and are never down-hearted, grumpy or very difficult to get on with—or scarcely ever. But we do know some—don't we?—who are always ready to look at everything from a gloomy point of view. With them if the world goes well today, it is sure to go wrong tomorrow. It's quite sure if you are constantly on the lookout for trouble it's going to arrive.—The Pilot.

"FATHER O'FLYNN"

"Father O'Flynn," one of the best-known Irish songs was nearly scrapped by Sir Charles Stanford,

the eminent composer, who died recently, when it came to him for its musical setting. But it was rescued, and a Catholic singer, the late Sir Charles Santley, started it on the road of success.

These incidents are related in the Schoolmaster by Mr. A. P. Graves, who says he received a letter from Sir Charles Stanford inviting him to write or adapt words to certain Irish folk tunes.

Mr. Graves sent about twenty lyrics. Stanford accepted them all, but took exception to the words written to a variant of the well-known Cork air, "The Top of the Cork Road." He characterized them as "not suited for a serious collection."

The lyric in question was "Father O'Flynn." Mr. Graves maintained, however, that it could not be characterized as a comic song, and Sir Charles Stanford replied, "All right, old chap; I'll throw it in with the rest."

It was suggested that Sir Charles Santley should be invited to sing it, but Mr. John Boosey thought it would be unwise, as Santley had lately become a Catholic.

One day, however, Santley picked up a copy of "Father O'Flynn," crying: "Here's a new song for me, and if I don't get a double encore for it I shall be surprised."

As a matter of fact, he got a treble encore.—The Universe.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

DA FIGHTIN' IRISHMAN

Irishman he mak' me seek! He ees gat excite' so queek! An' so queek for fightin', too, An' baysides, you neva know How you gona please heem. So W'ata deuce you gona do?

W'en I work een tranck wan day Irish boss he com' an' say: "Erva wan een deesa tranck, I no care eef he ees Franch, Anglaice, Dago, Dootch or w'at, Erva wan he musta gat Leetla pieca green to show For da San Patricio."

Dees ees Irish feasta day, Go an' gat som' green!" he say, "An' eef you no do eet, too, I gon' poncha head on you!" So I gat som' green to show For da San Patricio.

Bimeby, 'nudder Irishman He ees com' where I am stan', An' he growl at me an' say: "W'at you wearin' dat for, eh? Meebe so you theenk you are Gooda Irishman like me. Green ees jus' for Irishman. No for dumb Eyetalian! Tak' eet off!" he say, an' my! He ees ponch me een da eye!

Irishman he mak' me seek! He ees gat excite' so queek, An' so queek for fightin', too, An' baysides, you neva know How you gona please heem. So W'ata deuce you gona do?

A MEDAL BY PROXY

The little altar-boy's face beamed with pleasure, as he was named the recipient of the gold medal ordered for the most faithful Mass-server. The pastor announced:

"He deserves this medal; for rain or snow, dark winter or summer morning, he awoke faithfully and was never late for six o'clock Mass."

In the audience, the father and mother of the little lad sat watching their son receive his reward for faithfulness. A smile of amusement passed over the father's features, as he whispered to his wife:

"That medal belongs to you. You 'awoke faithfully' and got our hero out of bed."

It is our Catholic mothers who can teach their children to appreciate the great honor of assisting at the Holy Sacrifice of the Altar where, in an unbloody manner, Christ is offered up for us to His Eternal Father. The Catholic mother who gives her child a love for Holy Mass is assuring for him a strong faith in later years.—The Messenger.

THE DEVOTORY OF THE ROSARY

So important does Mother Church regard the devotion of the Rosary that she dedicates an entire month to reminding us of its importance, and grants a plenary indulgence on the usual conditions to those of her children who participate in the public recitation of the Rosary ten times. Her real object, of course, is to review the meaning, importance, and power of the beads, so as to add fervor and fidelity to their continued recitation throughout the year. The Rosary has a glorious record in the annals of the Church, and the object of the October devotions is to make history repeat itself.

St. Dominic, in his terrific struggle against Albigensian heretics who taught that murder and suicide were lawful, found that Mary was his sure refuge and help, and her devotion his royal road to victory. This marvelous story of souls by the hundreds of thousands, brought back to God's truth, Mother Church wants her children to know that their Rosary may brighten their dark hours, as it did the darkest hour in the life of the founder of the Dominican Order.

At Lepanto, a Christian fleet, hopelessly outnumbered in vessels and men by the Turkish foe, had only one hope, the power of Our Lady whose Rosary was at the mast head and whose inspiring aid the Catholic

world, led by the Holy Father, was invoking. Heaven was taken by storm, Europe was saved from the Mussulman, and the Mediterranean ceased to be a Turkish lake. This golden chapter in the book of prayer the Church would have her children learn by heart, that, Rosary in hand, they may face the Turkman of sin and temptation with the courage and confidence of the embattled sailors at Lepanto.

Nowhere is the power of the Rosary more gloriously demonstrated than in the trying days of the penal laws in Ireland. Mass could be offered and assisted at only by stealth. Both priest and people risked their lives to offer the sacrifice of Calvary in bog or mountain fastness. But one devotion was beyond the reach of the law; the Rosary, recited in every home at evening, kept the sorely tried hearts of the people close to God, kept His sufferings and triumph before them to tell them of a God who would not forget, and would lead them from their Calvary to a Resurrection Morn. What the Rosary did for a whole nation, it can assuredly do in the smaller trials of the individual soul.

Confidence in the Rosary, daily faithfulness to the Rosary, a deeper knowledge of the meaning of the Rosary, a truer appreciation of Our Saviour's birth, life, death and resurrection, these are the fruits which Mother Church hopes to see her sons and daughters gain from the October devotions.—Catholic Mirror.

ACTION OF CHURCH UPON SOCIETY

By Cardinal Manning

The kingdom of Jesus Christ is His Church, one and universal, and by it He exercises His sovereignty over the nations. The commission of His Apostles was to found a universal kingdom, which should never be destroyed; of which the prophet has said, "It shall not be delivered up to another people!" Empires have passed from people to people, kingdoms vanished from off the face of the earth; but the kingdom of Jesus Christ can never pass to any hand from that which was pierced on Calvary. His kingdom shall endure to all eternity. The Church of God on earth is a true kingdom, reigning by its own right. It has a right to its own existence, to its own possessions, to its own legislature, to its own executive, and to its own tribunals. It receives these prerogatives neither from king, nor prince, nor people; and no human authority can circumscribe its limits. Nay, it circumscribes the limits of all other authority, and is itself subject to none but God only. When the Church came into this world, it suffered its ten persecutions. The world, if it had been possible, would have stifled it in its own blood; but an indefeasible life cannot perish.

For three hundred years it spread, and penetrated and pervaded the whole civil society of the world; it entered into households, and peoples, and nations, and cities, and kingdoms. It reached, at last, to the palace of the Caesars; it took possession of the imperial family; it converted the emperor on his throne; and when it had pervaded the senate, and the tribunals, and the whole civil life of Rome, the empire was elevated above itself. It became regenerate by grace, and lived by a new life, and was guided by new laws, and confirmed by new authorities; and the civil society of the world was born again. That which God had created in the natural state was elevated, by its union with the Church, to the supernatural order; the members of it were regenerated by water and the Holy Ghost, and became members of the kingdom of God, illuminated by faith under the guidance of the pastors of the Universal Church and the Vicar of Jesus Christ. Then came to pass a change so terrible, that the world does not contain in history anything more fearful. Rome, which had governed the world by its laws, and its warfare, and its civilization, was purged by fire and by blood. The kingdom of Jesus Christ took possession of the civil society of the world. Then passed away the old civilization, which was corrupt to the very marrow; so corrupt, that nothing could have changed it but the baptism of fire, by which it was cleansed. The most terrible judgments of God fell upon Rome, upon the city, and upon the provinces of the Roman Empire. They were purged by wars and massacres, and pestilence; the old world was burned down to the roots that the new civilization and the new Christian world might spring from the earth purified by fire.

And nothing could be more beautiful, nothing more like to the vision of the Heavenly City, than the rise of this Christian civilization. When in the love of God, slavery began to melt away; when fathers with horror cast from them the power of life and death over their children and their slaves as a thing too hideous for Christian men; when husbands renounced with thanksgiving to their Redeemer the power of life and death over wives; when the horrors, and injustice, and abominations of the pagan domestic life gave place to the charities of Christian homes, then, the whole world was lifted to a higher sphere. It had come under the light and jurisdiction of the sovereignty of Jesus Christ. Such was the growth of the world; beginning, I will say,

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from the time of St. Gregory the Great, the apostle of our Christianity, who reigned with a patriarchal sway over the three-and-twenty patrimonies of the Church—over Italy and the north of Africa, and the coasts of the Adriatic, and the south of France, and Sicily, and the islands of the Mediterranean. This new Christian world was the germ of modern Europe. The Pontiffs laid the foundations of a world which is now passing away—a Christian commonwealth of nations, about which men vaunt themselves as if they were its saviours though they never cease to destroy it.

Let not your heart be troubled. Poverty, contempt, failure, mental and bodily affliction—regard all these but as blessings at the hand of God; as favors which He assigns to His children, and which He is dispensing to you; then will you look upon the world with a different eye, and possess your soul in patience and peace.—Fenelon.

Padre's Pencil & Pen

Answers for last week: 1 & 8: Baptism of Jesus by St. John the Baptist. 2 & 6: Death of Absalom. 3 & 7: Abraham about to sacrifice Isaac. 4 & 9: Cain kills Abel. 5 & 10: St. Michael (Sept. 29) conquers the Dragon.



October is Rosary month. Eight of these little drawings—four two sorrowful and two joyful Mysteries. The remaining two figures show members of a religious Order founded by a Saint of this week. This is one of the very few existing ancient Orders in the Church which has never existed in the Western hemisphere. Answers next week.

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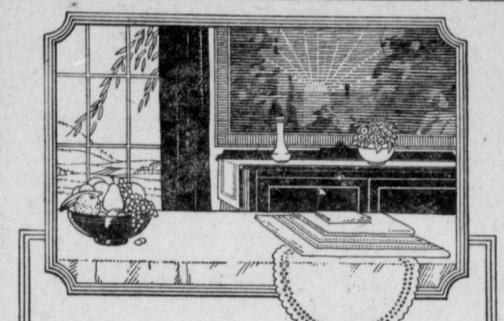
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