

The Catholic Record

"Christianus mihi nomen est Catholicus vero Cognomen."—(Christian is my Name, but Catholic my Surname)—St. Pacien, 4th Century

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SUPPORTS CATHOLIC IDEALS

MUSSOLINI RECOGNIZES THAT CATHOLICISM IS THE HOPE AND STRENGTH OF ITALY

The Revue Catholique des Idées et des Faits, one of the leading Catholic publications of Belgium, has devoted several articles of late to the question of a Franco-Belgian-Italian federation. Several of these articles were brought to the attention of the Italian Dictator, Mussolini, who made known that on several points he was thoroughly in agreement with the Belgian review. The Revue Catholique des Idées et des Faits has now undertaken an investigation or survey of the religious, moral, political and economic situation of New Italy, and Mr. Norbert Wallex, Professor of the Commercial and Consular High School of Mons, has been appointed to make this investigation, in the course of which he will interview members of the Italian Government, prelates and prominent laymen.

The first interview obtained by Mr. Wallex was with the Dictator, whose statements, as published in the Belgian Review, cannot fail to be of general interest. Speaking of the necessity of a strong Belgian policy, Mr. Wallex opened the interview by saying:

"Excellency, Belgium is not a little nation. She is a great nation by her technical power, by her civic energy, by her sense of honor, by her artistic creations—the most beautiful with those of Italy—by the

"By the quality and activity of her Catholicism," interrupted Mussolini.

Mr. Wallex then proceeded to state that Belgium needed a strong policy but could conduct such a policy only in constant and intimate accord with Italy.

CATHOLICISM THE STRENGTH OF ITALY
Signor Mussolini listened with the closest attention, interrupting the speaker many times for an explanation, or to express an opinion.

"Yes," he said at last. "Belgium and Italy must collaborate and that intimately. You are right to emphasize the preponderant role of Catholicism in the life of nations. The strength of Italy, her joy and her marvelous chances for the future are due to Catholicism. I have frequently proclaimed it. I shall proclaim it whenever I have the opportunity. Catholicism, by its doctrines and its precepts of renunciation, penance, sacrifice, mortification, Catholicism, by its asceticism persuades men to combat themselves within themselves and in combating themselves to develop their deeper energies; or, more exactly, Catholicism trains men to prepare and assure the triumph of their best energies, those that make heroes and saints. It is thanks to our Catholicism that we Italians have preserved the spiritual vigor, the spiritual nobility, the spiritual fecundity which takes the place of the material wealth which we lack and which, by the way, make us fit to conquer it."

"Without Catholicism what would have become of us Italians? What would have become of us? Look, my dear sir, at the majority of the European peoples. They have given themselves up too much to the thirst of enjoyment. They have coarsened. They have become materialized. And if they are Protestants, they have dragged religion down in their downfall. They allow it to subsist only as a formula behind which there is nothing or almost nothing religious. Nothing is more significant in this connection than to examine the meaning of the word 'comfort.' This word comfort, my dear sir, is Italian. It signifies for us what it signifies in its original acceptance: joy of the spirit, joy of the heart, the delightful peace of the whole soul, a taste for super-terrestrial realities. That is comfort. But how many other peoples have made this word a synonym of arm-chairs and modern plumbing."

CATHOLICISM VIRILIZES BY PURIFYING
"Catholicism renders to Italy, as it renders to all the nations which consent to being penetrated by it, the incomparable service of virilizing them, or purifying them, of raising them above themselves by the victorious struggle which it induces them to wage against their grosser or evil appetites. Catholicism has rendered us greater services than that. By its spirit of mortification it convinces us that we should consume less of than we produce. It has thus endowed us with material resources thanks to which we have passed through crises which another people, doubtless, would not have survived."

"In what I have told you," the Dictator continued, "you will find the principal reasons for my attitude toward Catholicism—respect for Catholicism, protection of Catholicism, collaboration with Catholicism. The ecclesiastical Hierarchy should be honored by the State. Whenever I have the opportunity I

order the civil and military authorities to attend the great religious ceremonies. Ask what was done at Genoa at the last Eucharistic Congress. The resources of the clergy should be increased. Spontaneously and by a simple decree I have added thirty-eight million lire to the budget for this purpose. The teaching of Catholicism should be encouraged and stimulated by the State. I require all teachers to be punctual and zealous in this respect. The prestige of the Cross must be recognized, sanctioned by the State. I have reestablished the Crucifix in the court rooms and in the schools. I propose to reestablish it in Parliament."

"But what is Faith without morals?" he immediately added.

"I treat with severity whosoever undertakes to pervert my people, because by perversion they are weakened and dissolved. And to dissolve them would mean their eviction from the world. It would mean the annihilation of our efforts to place Italy in the front ranks of the nations."

PROTESTS UNAVAILING

In reply to a question as to whether there was no protest against this action, Signor Mussolini stated that the immense majority of his compatriots approved of his energetic measures, and that those who protested knew that their protests were perfectly useless.

"Unfortunately," he said, "many Catholics do not understand this language. Let Catholics read the Gospel. Christ drove the money-changers out of the Temple. This example has lost none of its value. There will always be money-changers in the Temple, there are always men who exploit, sell or pervert their brethren. Therefore, there must always be men to chase them out or submit them to a treatment more radical still."

It is the intention of the correspondent of the Review to interview various prelates and laymen devoted to the interests of the Church, and after an impartial examination of the facts, the statements made by Signor Mussolini will be reviewed and commented upon.

"TOO MANY LAWS"

Declaring "You can never drag men by law into morality," the Most Rev. Michael J. Curley, Archbishop of Baltimore, in an address before the Baltimore Kiwanis Club, attacked the method of continually piling up new laws to meet every new condition.

"We have too many laws," the Archbishop declared. "There is a tendency in the United States to pile on a law to meet every new condition that arises in public life. If a man drinks, drinking is forbidden, if a man happens to cut his throat with a razor, a law banning razors at once goes into effect. Knives and forks will probably be forbidden as lethal weapons within a few years."

The Archbishop further declared that without law there can be no liberty and that a deep respect for law, particularly in a democracy, is essential. He pointed out, however, that men who work constitutionally for the repeal of a law in which they do not believe are fulfilling their sacred civic duty just as certainly as the men who established the law.

N. Y. CONVERTS' LEAGUE

New York, Nov. 22.—The Right Rev. Bishop Molloy, of Brooklyn, has accepted the office of honorary vice-president of the Catholic Converts' League, according to an announcement just made. His Grace Archbishop Patrick J. Hayes, recently accepted the office of honorary president of the league, and Bishop Dunn, Auxiliary Bishop of New York, joins Bishop Molloy, both being honorary vice-presidents.

Louis H. Wetmore, secretary of the League, recently wrote Bishop Molloy asking him if he would accept the office. The Bishop's reply is as follows:

"My dear Mr. Wetmore: Allow me to acknowledge receipt of your courteous communication in which you very considerably invite me to become one of the honorary vice-presidents of the New York Branch of the Catholic Converts' League."

"I wish you to know that I am deeply appreciative of this proffered honorable recognition. My only reluctance in accepting this distinction is the conviction that I may not be able to manifest my interest sufficiently actively in the worthy work of your league. Since, however, you assure me that it will not be necessary to assume any burden I shall readily accept this honorable office."

"With best wishes to you and your associates for the more successful and fruitful realization of your laudable aims, I am sincerely yours,

"THOMAS E. MOLLOY,
Bishop of Brooklyn."

PAN-AMERICAN MASS

RELIGION IS DEMOCRACY'S ONLY SAFEGUARD AGAINST ULTIMATE FAILURE

Washington, Nov. 20.—Representatives of the United States and Latin-American Governments, the Apostolic Delegate, Archbishop Curley, of Baltimore, and prominent Americans of many different religious creeds at the annual Pan-American Mass in St. Patrick's Church here yesterday listened to a sermon on "The Church and the Republic" by the Very Rev. Ignatius Smith, O. P. Father Smith took the opportunity to expound the relationship between religion and the civil power with particular reference to the role of the Catholic Church in the United States. In the course of his address he referred to movements fostering religious and racial bigotry, of which he said, "all of us, real Americans without distinction of race, color or creed, are profoundly ashamed."

STATUS OF CHURCH IN UNITED STATES

Referring specifically to the status of the Catholic Church in the United States, Father Smith continued:

"The free institutions of our governments give almost unlimited opportunity to malevolent citizens to confuse liberty with license and, under the name of national patriotism and love to operate against the fundamental principles of democracy. It is to warn you against an exaggerated appreciation of the Americanism and democracy of such epidemics that I now speak. The primitive Americanism of the founders of our nation one hundred and fifty years ago was not atheistic and it was not anti-Catholic. The Constitution of this nation was written not in a spirit of religious discrimination but in the God-given hope that this land would be the sanctuary for the oppressed peoples of the world, that they come here with equal right and that they remain here with equal right as their institutions and their religions do not thwart the purposes of the land."

The Most Rev. Pietro Fumasoni-Biondi, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, and the Most Rev. Michael J. Curley, Archbishop of Baltimore, were in the sanctuary during the Mass. The Rev. John I. Barrett was the celebrant.

DIPLOMATS' PRESENT

Diplomatic officials who attended the Mass were: William Phillips, Under-Secretary of State for the United States; Mr. Augusto Cochran de Alencar, ambassador from Brazil; Senor Dr. Don Rafael H. Elizalde, minister from Ecuador; Dr. J. Varela, minister from Uruguay; Dr. Arturo Padro y Almeida, charge d'affaires of Cuba; Licdo. Emilio C. Joubert, minister from the Dominican Republic; Senor Don Manuel Zavala, charge d'affaires from Nicaragua; Dr. Enrique Olaya, minister from Colombia; Senor Dr. Don Ricardo J. Alfaro, minister from Panama; Senor Dr. Don Jodro Manuel Araya, minister from Venezuela; Senor Don J. Rafael Oreamuno, minister from Costa Rica; Mr. Leon Dejean, minister from Haiti; Senor Dr. Don Ricardo Jaimes Freyre, minister from Bolivia; Dr. L. S. Rowe, director general of the Pan-American Union; Franklin Adams, secretary of the Pan American Union; William A. Griffin, trade adviser to the Pan-American Union, and William V. Griffin, chief clerk. The special representatives of the special missions from Peru and Chile, Drs. Carlos Aldunate, Ernesto Barros, Mielton Porras and Solon Polo, were also present.

Following the Mass, Monsignor Thomas, Rector of St. Patrick's, entertained the distinguished guests at luncheon in the rectory.

THE LITTLE FLOWER

CURES DYING CHINESE PRIEST

In a letter addressed to Monsignor Freri, General Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Bishop Favona, C. M. V., Apostolic of Western Chekiang (China) relates a wonderful cure obtained through intercession of Blessed Teresa of the Child Jesus. Writing from Hangshaw, he says:

"One of our young Chinese priests, ordained two and one half years ago, the Rev. John Ouang, was recently cured miraculously during a novena to Blessed Teresa. Father Ouang was suffering from a tumor in the leg and the Chinese physicians were unable to give any relief. The pain became so intense that it was decided that the patient should go to Shanghai and be operated upon. The operation was performed but it was too late; gangrene had set in and the poisoning of the blood was far advanced. According to the doctors death was unavoidable and could occur at any time, and suddenly."

"Under those circumstances the Last Sacraments were administered to the young priest and he was already making the sacrifice of his life, when the Sister Superior of the hospital advised him to make a novena to Blessed Teresa. The novena was begun and from the third day the patient felt much better, recovering sleep and appetite. At the end of the novena he was up and could say Mass. He writes that his strength is returning rapidly and that within a few days he will be able to resume his work."

"Help me to thank the dear Blessed Teresa, the great friend of the missions, who keeps in reserve for them some of her choicest flowers."

representative government she would be seeking to obliterate the very fields in which she has been most successful. That is not only diplomatically inconceivable but is also in contradiction to the historically established fact that the Catholic Church is ever ready to step along with the wants of the people as long as these progressions make for a material happiness that does not thwart the purposes of a God whom she represents in society."

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GUATEMALA DECREE MENACES

Guatemala, Nov. 19.—A new decree recently promulgated by the President of Guatemala making it necessary to obtain a government license before taking up collections or making a drive for funds for whatever purpose, has caused great concern in Catholic circles where it is interpreted as another attempt to wipe out Catholicism by depriving the clergy and the churches of financial support. The full text of the decree is as follows:

"Decree No. 846.
"Jose Maria Orellana, Constitutional President of the Republic,
"Whereas: It is convenient to dictate the measures necessary to guarantee the handling of the funds collected among the public in order to establish subsequently the control necessary for the safeguarding of the interest of the country.
"Therefore, By virtue of the authority vested in me by Legislative Decree No. 1238, of May 11 last,
"I Decree:

"Article 1. In order to make any public or private collections, in whatsoever form they may be, the solicitor must previously obtain a license from the Jefatura Politica of his jurisdiction for the necessary license. The party making such solicitation must give satisfactory proof of the necessity of the collection and of the advisability of the purpose for which it is intended.

"Article 2. Having fulfilled these requirements, if the proof given is satisfactory, the Jefatura Politica will order the formation of a committee of honorable persons among whom a Treasurer will be appointed to handle the funds.
"If the persons proposed are accepted, the appointment will be confirmed, and after obtaining the guarantees required by the office, the license will be granted.

"Article 3. The Political Chiefs will open a book for the registration of the licenses granted, describing the circumstances and details which they contain.
"Article 4. Any natural or juridical person, association, corporation or institution which has charge of the handling of funds derived from public contributions, donations or subscriptions of whatever nature they may be, is obliged to render detailed account of the administration and inversion of said funds to the General Direction of Accounts through the medium of the Jefatura Politica upon fulfillment of the aim for which the collection was made, or every two months if the undertaking be of longer duration.

"Article 5. Persons making collections or drives and who do not comply with the conditions referred to in the foregoing articles will come under the application of the vagrancy laws, without prejudice to their other responsibilities. The funds which they may have collected will be taken over by the Jefatura Politica and forwarded to the respective Charitable Institutions.

"Article 6. The present Decree, which becomes effective on the date of publication, will be reported to the National Legislative Assembly at its next ordinary sessions.
"Done at Government House, in Guatemala, the twenty-sixth of October, one thousand, nine hundred and twenty-three.

"J. MA. ORELLANA,
"The Secretary of State in the Department of the Interior and of Justice.

"R. E. SANDOVAL."

VICTIM OF CHARITY

Paris, Nov. 9.—A young French philosopher and Catholic writer, M. Leonard Constant, recently met his death in the Rhineland, in a manner worthy of the generous causes he had always served during his life. He was killed while giving aid to a German wounded in a street fight.

Professor of philosophy in the French lycee of Mayence, M. Constant was on his way to the lycee when he happened to become the witness of a bloody encounter between two groups of Germans firing at each other with revolvers. One of the men fell wounded, and without concern for the bullets which were still passing between the two groups, M. Constant, although the father of six children, did not hesitate to brave the danger in order to give aid to the victim. He was bending over the wounded man when a bullet struck him in the forehead. He died a few hours later.

M. Leonard Constant was forty years old and one of the most active collaborators of the Catholic democratic movement of which Marc Sangnier is the head. All who knew him say that he was an extremely gentle and generous man, with the highest and most radiant ideals. A remarkable professor and a man of vast culture, he was one of the teachers of whom the University expected great things. Unfortunately, none of the philosophical works which he had outlined and dreamed of writing, were ever written, for he had delayed the

completion of his books in order to devote himself without reserve to his task as an educator and to the practice of every form of charity. The Minister of Public Instruction ordered the Cross of the Legion of Honor to be carried to him on his death-bed.

IRISH AND ENGLISH CATHOLICS

London, Eng.—A lecture on the relations between Irish and English Catholicism by the Irish Jesuit, Father Gannon, was the feature of the annual conference of the Catholic Young Men's Societies at Wigan City. Gilbert K. Chesterton, who was one of the speakers, made an address on modern journalism, in which he returned to his attack on the modern press and press combines.

A great number of Lancashire Catholics attended the conference which coincided with the official attendance at Mass of the newly-elected Catholic Mayor. The delegates to the conference joined in the mayor's procession to Mass. The Mayor of Wigan gave an official reception to the Archbishop of Liverpool who has returned from a visit to Lisbon, and other distinguished guests.

FATHER GANNON, who came over from Dublin especially to deliver the address, began by tracing the ancient origins of the relations that have existed between the Catholics of Ireland and England, relations that go back to the dawn of Christianity in these islands. There has been a reciprocity of service between the Catholics in both islands, Father Gannon said, which it was better should be stressed than the unhappy political division that have divided them. From the time of St. Patrick down to the present day, it was pointed out, there have been alternate phases in which the English church succored Ireland and later was repaid by the latter in full measure and overflowing, to need and receive assistance still later on, and again repay that debt in succeeding ages.

"The great famine in Ireland was already raging when Daniel O'Connell died," continued Father Gannon, "and it was to usher in another phase in the relations between the Catholic Church in the two islands. Immigration of Irish Catholics into England began on a huge scale. This immigration, more, I think, than any way of conversion in England itself, though that, too, was considerable, explains the fact that, whereas there were some 100,000 Catholics in Great Britain at the end of the eighteenth century, there are over 2,000,000 today.

"It is, of course, obvious that the influx of poverty-stricken aliens against whom there reigned at the time a centuries-old prejudice on racial as well as religious grounds, had its drawbacks no less than its advantages. It created an unfortunate semi-identification of Catholicism, or Papistry, as it was called, with Irish nationalism, which has exercised a repelling influence on sections of opinion in England that might otherwise have been amenable to the Drang nach Rom inaugurated at Oxford in the thirties.

"But it surely is equally obvious that the new-comers, with their profound faith, formed the nucleus of that young Church, which since Wiseman, Waterford's gift to it, has gone on prospering and to prosper, I hope, until it brings the whole people, whom Columbus, Aidan and Augustine converted, back in some not too remote day, to full Christian unity.

"Per contra, the growth of the Church in England has reacted very favorably on the prestige of the Church in Ireland. It became increasingly difficult for the old ascendancy to regard as outside the pale of civilization a creed which was winning yearly thousands of converts from the very elite, intellectually and socially in England.

ALLEGED CATHOLIC INFERIORITY REFUTED
"Absurdities often die slowly and die hard; but they do die. And the pretension of Protestantism to a monopoly of culture, intelligence, learning, and the like was as baseless an absurdity as was ever imposed on men. Whatever apparatus of truth was in it came from the simple fact that Catholicism, when conquered by the sword, was despoiled of its possessions, robbed of civic rights, denied education, and deliberately blinded by a long incarceration in darkness. With every fetter that has fallen from the Catholic community in these islands there has begun to disappear some feature of the so-called inferiority of Catholics. And this will continue with the process of the sun. Let no man be so weak in faith as to doubt of that!"

It is a great art to help others to be true to their best, and the one who can do this is worthy of great honor and praise.

CATHOLIC NOTES

St. Louis, Nov. 28.—Very Rev. Benedict Schmidt, O. F. M., died early on Wednesday at St. Anthony's Hospital after a short illness, at the age of sixty-six.

London, Nov. 24.—Birmingham Vincentians of St. Thomas Abbey parish, have presented their fellow parishioner, the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, with a Roman missal in commemoration of his election to office as chief magistrate of the city.

New York, Nov. 24.—Sister Mary Antoninus, who for eighteen years was Mother Superior of the girls' department of the New York Catholic Protectors, died on Tuesday in St. Vincent's Hospital, where she had been under treatment since last summer. Born in Providence, R. I., Sister Mary Antoninus was seventy years of age and was a nun for fifty years.

Maryknoll, N. Y., Nov. 15.—Lack of personnel has obliged Bishop Gauthier to hand over the sub-prefecture of Fatchao to the Maryknoll Fathers. Father Bernard Meyer went to Fatchao at the Bishop's invitation, to take possession of these newly established Christian settlements. The Catholic Mission at Kochow, of which Father Meyer has been pastor, bears witness to his great zeal and his exceptional enterprise.

There are many signs of the gradual return of England to the old faith, declares the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster. It is to be seen in the increasing average of converts, which each year is in excess of that of the year before. But it is most noticeable in the increasing number of Catholic churches, and the ambitious plans, such as the new cathedral projected for Liverpool.

After being lost for two centuries the body of Bernadine della Chiesa, first Christian Bishop of Peking, has been disinterred and reburied with fitting ceremonies at Hungghialou, a suburb of Tsinan. Bishop della Chiesa was born May 8, 1644, at Venice where he later joined the Franciscan order. He died December 31, 1721. The Bishop belonged to the same family as the late Pope Benedict XV.

London, Nov. 14.—Founded more than five centuries ago and preserving an unbroken continuity with the past, the Bridgettine nuns of Syon Abbey in Devonshire have received a special Papal letter from Cardinal Gasparri in which His Holiness commends the work of the nuns on behalf of the Holy Souls. Anniversary Masses, founded and endowed 500 years ago by King Henry of Agincourt, are still celebrated in the choir of the nuns, although the endowments were stolen centuries ago.

Brooklyn, November 24.—The essay of Miss Eileen O'Keefe, of All Saints' High School, Queens, has been selected as the best submitted by more than 8,000 school children of the Borough of Brooklyn in the American Legion essay contest on "Should America Prohibit Immigration for Five Years?" It was announced by the committee on awards. The winning essay was forwarded to State Legion headquarters and will be considered when the State and national winners are selected.

Berlin, Nov. 15.—As many false statements have appeared in the press concerning the donations made by the Pope to the Germans, the Katholische Korrespondenz has announced that the Holy Father has given to the Cardinal Archbishop of Breslau and the Cardinal Archbishop of Cologne the sum of 150,000 lire each for distribution in the dioceses represented at the Bishop's meeting at Fulda. In addition to this the sum of 50,000 lire was sent by His Holiness to the Bishop of Osnabrueck for the work in the Diocese.

Dublin, Nov. 14.—Increasing attention is being paid to the treatment of children in Ireland. Provision has been made for medical and dental inspection and treatment in the schools. Hitherto juveniles charged with offences against the law were tried in the ordinary criminal courts in surroundings and an atmosphere that were not edifying. Under the Courts of Justice Bill, about to become law, children's courts will be established in the cities of Dublin, Cork, Waterford and Limerick.

Cardinal Dubois accepted a special invitation to witness the performance of a film entitled "The Tragedy of Lourdes," the work of the well-known historian, George d'Espasber, conservator of the Palace of Fontainebleau. It describes the conversion of an atheistic father whose paralyzed daughter is miraculously cured at Lourdes. The principal scenes of the film were taken at Lourdes, by special permission of the religious authorities, at the time of the great national pilgrimage last summer.