

The Catholic Record.

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

VOLUME XLVII.

LONDON, CANADA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1925

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CIVICS STUDY CLUB

Hyattsville, Md.—This town is witnessing an unusual but highly successful experiment in citizenship training. It centers about a Civic Study Club organized by a Catholic woman and using the Study Club Outline of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, but with both Protestant women and Protestant men attending.

Such a favorable opinion has grown up over the plan that at the meeting this week K. J. Morris, Protestant principal and teacher of Civics at the Hyattsville High School, addressing the members, said:

"I cannot let the evening go by without expressing my great appreciation of a church that will spend the time and energy to compile an outline such as we have just discussed.

I venture to say that all the irregularities and regrettable phases of government which have been discussed this evening would disappear in one generation if there could be such a Study Club group in each city and town in the United States."

The Club here was organized by Miss Agnes L. Espey, who is a member of the National Council of Catholic Women in the District of Columbia, only a few minutes from Hyattsville by trolley, and is one of the directors of the District N. C. C. W. There is no unit of the N. C. C. W. in this town, and when Miss Espey conceived the idea of organizing a Study Club, a project being pushed by the National Council, she found only a few Catholic women to become members and attend. She solved the situation by asking some Protestant women to join with the Catholic women in making up the Club. They came and became enthusiastic members.

Later, several men began attending the meetings, so that the organization has now become virtually a town Civics Study Club, using the N. C. C. W. Outline.

At the meeting this week, Miss Margaret Lynch, Assistant Executive Secretary of the N. C. C. W., and James R. Ryan, Assistant Director of the Department of Laws and Legislation, N. C. C. W., addressed the members of the Club at its invitation. Mr. Morris also was on the program, and it was after watching the effective work being done that he expressed his admiration of the plan. When Miss Lynch informed him that the National Council of Catholic Women and the National Council of Catholic Men are conducting 300 such clubs throughout the country, he expressed further gratification.

The subject of the Outline taken up at the meeting was "The Citizen's Part in Government," and the texts recommended were the N. C. C. W. pamphlet "Civics Catechism" and Dr. Lapp's "The American Citizen," also an N. C. C. W. publication. The topics dealt with the system of elections in the United States and the citizen's obligation to vote.

ONE IRISH PARISH SUPPORTS FORTY-SIX SALOONS

Dublin, Ireland.—That the temperance workers are the only body to save Ireland was the view of the late Cardinal Logue. This view is emphasized by the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association. Its members are quite dissatisfied with the licensing legislation introduced in the Dail which does not contain any scheme for the diminution of the number of licensed saloons in the country.

There are over 17,000 such saloons to meet the requirements of a population of little more than 3,000,000 persons. Very Rev. A. O'Keefe, of Kilkenny, instances a parish with a population of 2,300 which has 46 licensed saloons.

It is felt that there can be no adequate reform so long as this state of things is permitted to continue. One of the chief aims of the Pioneer Association is to bring about a curtailment of the facilities for traffic in intoxicating liquors.

STREAM OF CONVERTS IN ENGLAND

London, Eng.—Calling for more priests, Cardinal Bourne in his Advent pastoral says: "In every large parish additional priests might be employed almost exclusively in the instruction and reception of converts."

His Eminence also foreshadows the end of the student dislocation caused by the War. "In 1926, he thinks, the normal condition will be fully restored.

During the Great War many clerical students in the early years of their preparation for the priesthood joined the forces, and later on, when conscription came into force, the military authorities claimed all students who had not already received minor orders. When the students returned to the seminary after service at the battle front, the seminary classes were somewhat

disorganized as the result of the interrupted studies.

The Cardinal's plea for more priests for the particular purpose of dealing for the stream of converts is a new manifestation of the Church's growing popularity in England.

Official totals of conversions in England and Wales for the past few years are: 1922, 12,406; 1921, 11,621; 1920, 12,621; 1919, 10,592.

BISHOP ADDRESSES UNIVERSITY

Champaign, Ill.—One of the most notable addresses in the history of the Institution was delivered here recently by the Right Rev. Joseph Schrembs, D. D., Bishop of Cleveland, before the faculty and student body of the University of Illinois.

It is the custom here to bring once a month to the campus, a speaker of national reputation, to address an All-University audience. As this was the first occasion on which a Catholic Bishop had ever addressed the faculty and general student body of the University, an audience of 2,600 people turned out, taxing the capacity of the huge University auditorium. Dean Kendrick C. Babcock of the University presided. President Kinley also was on the platform.

Speaking on "The Providential Mission of America," Bishop Schrembs said:

"The history of the races forms a huge tapestry in which each nation weaves the pattern of its distinctive contribution to the progress of the world. Through centuries shrouded in the darkness of pagan idolatry, the Jewish nation was divinely destined to keep alive the belief in the one true God. Greece has contributed the finest concepts of surpassing beauty in art and culture. Rome has furnished the fundamental principles of jurisprudence so that the lex Romana remains to this day as the basic legal code of the world. Egypt has contributed to the science of mathematics and other nations have added their distinctive elements of worth.

"Centuries later, when the countries of Europe were being torn asunder by religious strife and men were persecuted for worshipping God according to the dictates of their conscience, a New World was providentially discovered across the seas. It was destined by God to be the land of liberty where no man would be persecuted because of his religious belief, racial extraction or political faith.

"The perpetuation of this glorious ideal of liberty, freedom and tolerance for all mankind—that is the providential mission of America. The great statue of Liberty on Bedloe Island on New York harbor, holding aloft her torch is but the sculptural veiling of the guarantee that is woven into the warp and woof of the Constitution—the guarantee of freedom to all her citizens.

"Certainly one of the greatest services which this great University of Illinois, with all its advantages for the dissemination of knowledge and light, can render to the nation, is the eradication from the minds of intelligent citizens of those elements of religious bias and racial prejudice which are vexing our country and impeding her in the complete fulfillment of her providential destiny.

The President of the University and the members of the faculty were unanimous in their praise of the value and timeliness of the Bishop's address.

ASK BEATIFICATION OF POPE PIUS

By Rev. Dr. Wilhelm Baron von Capitaine (Cologne Correspondent, N. C. W. C.)

Dr. Bertram, Cardinal-Prince of Breslau, has sent to the Holy Father a Rome letter in which he informs the Pontiff that all the German bishops, meeting in the conferences of Fulda and Munchen-Freising, were united in the common desire of the Catholic nations of the world that the late Pope Pius X. be given the honor of the altars.

Cardinal Bertram's letter states that the German bishops are deeply convinced of the sublimity and saintliness of the late Pontiff, both because of the sanctity of his life and because of his veneration for the Holy Eucharist and his encouragement of frequent reception of Holy Communion. The bishops also revere him, the Cardinal says, for the great contribution he made to ecclesiastical discipline by the reform of the canonical law. The letter praises highly the admirable example of the sacerdotal life of the dead Pope and his untiring zeal for the care of souls.

For these reasons, says Cardinal Bertram, Pope Pius X. has found such admiration among the clergy and such attachment among the Catholic laity that the expression on the part of the bishops must be regarded as the voice of the Catholic people. He adds that the beatification of the Pope would

bring new fervor in the first Holy Communion of children, in the frequent reception of the Sacraments by adults and in the perseverance of the clergy in the discharge of their duties, now so difficult in many lands.

In the Osservatore Romano, where the letter was published, at the same time it was recorded that other similar pronouncements have come from all parts of the world, and that many orders and congregations, including the order, Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, have added their voices to the general petition.

RESTORE CATACOMB OF ST. SEBASTIAN

WORK IS UNDERTAKEN BY FRIENDS OF LITURGICAL ART IN FRANCE

By M. Massiani (Paris Correspondent, N. C. W. C.)

The French Society of the Friends of Liturgical Art has undertaken to restore the catacomb of Saint Sebastian for the forthcoming Holy Year. In order to carry out this project, the cooperation of religious communities and workshops devoted to sacred art has been sought in order that they may share the honor of consecrating by their labor the memory of the first apostles of the Faith.

The communities and workshops will supply a permanent altar of stone, two portable altars, the liturgical vestments, linen, the sacred vessels, the lighting fixtures, etc. All designs will be submitted to the Society for approval, as the Friends of Liturgical Art desire the restoration and furnishing of the catacomb to be unostentatious and in perfect taste. According to Mgr. Batifol, President of the Society, "the ministeria placed at the service of the liturgy of the catacombs must be in accord with their gravity." Ancient models will be followed as far as possible. The chandeliers, for instance, are copied from a model found in the Villa Julia.

ACTING WITH PONTIFICAL COMMISSION

In all this work the Friends of Liturgical Art are acting in full accord with the Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archeology which is in supreme charge of the exploration, maintenance and furnishing of the catacombs.

The Catacomb of Saint Sebastian, which is to be specially outfitted by the French, is located on the Appian Way, under the Basilica of Saint Sebastian reconstructed in the seventeenth century by Cardinal Scipio Borghese. It was the first cemetery, the only one which originally bore the name of catacomb, a word which designated its proper site and which was later extended to all the Christian burial grounds found under the soil of Rome. It was in the cemetery that the bodies of Saint Peter and Saint Paul were kept for forty years, as an inscription of Pope Damasus testifies. Saint Peter was later interred in the Vatican and Saint Paul at the Three Fountains.

The excavations made between 1915 and 1923 under the present basilica of Saint Sebastian revealed the site of a room walled on three sides and open on the fourth side with a portico which apparently gave access to the interior. This room, called trichia, seems to have been intended for meetings and repasts. The height of the walls as they now remain, is only about one meter, and was later extended more than 200 graffiti, inscriptions left by pilgrims, have been found. The pilgrims frequently inscribed only their name. Sometimes they wrote also prayers to the Holy Apostles, such as "Petre et Paule subvenite" followed by their signature. The majority of the graffiti evidently antedate the Constantinian period, as the Constantinian chiasm, which appeared so frequently after that epoch is nowhere evident. Several graffiti mention repasts given to the poor, probably in fulfillment of a vow or as a sign of devotion.

NO TRACES OF APOSTLES' TOMB

Although the trichia has been found, there is no trace of the crypt in which the bodies of Saint Peter and Saint Paul were kept. All that is known is that it was next to the trichia and that in the sixth century Pope Damasus had caused it to be ornamented by a covering of marble.

The offer to furnish the catacomb of Saint Sebastian was submitted to the Friends of Liturgical Art by Cardinal Dubois upon his recent return from Rome. The Cardinal had himself received the suggestion from Mgr. Belvederi in the name of the Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archeology.

Each catacomb is to be entrusted to a Catholic nation which will have charge of fitting it for the services of the Holy Year. This ingenious thought, by dividing the effort, will produce splendid results by fomenting a spirit of friendly emulation. The general restoration and furnishing of the catacombs will therefore be of a permanent instead of a makeshift affair and will be completed by 1925 when pilgrims will throng to visit subterranean Rome in order to hear Mass and venerate the memory of the martyrs, as well as to view the first monuments of Christian art and the most ancient expressions of our Faith.

Assembly urged the Catholics of Germany to work for international peace and friendship.

GERMAN SCHOOL DEMAND

PROGRAMME SET FORTH IN STRONG RESOLUTIONS

By Rev. Dr. Wilhelm Baron von Capitaine (Cologne Correspondent, N. C. W. C.)

The Catholic Assembly of 1924 held in Hanover, resulted in a great deal of constructive action notwithstanding the hostile opposition holding the meeting in the section which is the stronghold of German Protestantism. Hanover, which has been a part of the German Dispora since the Reformation, has about 213,000 Catholics out of a total population of more than 2,000,000. It is in this district that the temporal affairs of the diocese of Osnabruck from the time of the Treaty of Westphalia down to within the last century were alternately administered by a Catholic Bishop and a Protestant Prince of the House of Lunebourg.

One of the outstanding features of the Catholic Assembly was the meeting held by the Catholic School Association at which resolutions were adopted calling for a settlement of the school question along lines in harmony with Catholic principles. The resolutions read as follows:

"The association regrets exceedingly that no solution to the school question has been reached. It appreciates the efforts of the Catholic delegates and is convinced that the Catholic delegates of the Reichstag as well as those of the various Landtags will in future defend the rights of Catholics. It particularly hopes that the impending national school legislation will be tolerant with regard to Catholic rights. It emphasizes the following demands.

DEMANDS OF ASSOCIATION

"1. None of the educational rights—parental rights, State rights or Church rights, are to be ignored. The law must allow for their co-operation. The organization demands that the rights of the State shall not be exaggerated in a manner to injure the rights of the parents or of the Church. A State school monopoly will never be tolerated by us. We do not desire a separation of church and school, but peaceful co-operation. It must be possible for private schools to exist and to develop.

"2. Religious education in Catholic schools should be given according to the principles of the Catholic Church and under her direction.

"3. The educational activities of the schools must be considered as a whole. All instructions must be given with a view to this educational endeavor. It is superficial to consider individual subjects of instruction as not affecting the character of the school. A school for Catholic children should be imbued with a Catholic spirit. The necessary spiritual community between parents and schools in the education of the children can be kept up in this manner.

"4. Catholic parents thank Catholic teachers warmly for their faithful efforts. They unite with them in the demand: 'Only faithful Catholic instructors for Catholic schools.' They therefore consider it absolutely essential to observe the requirements of the denominational schools in the education of teachers.

The meeting of the Catholic School Association in Hanover in 1924 urgently requests the German Catholics immediately to organize parents' meetings and parents' committees where none now exist, and where they already exist to take active part in the school care.

"In many places interdenominational educational newspapers have found their way into Catholic families. There is great danger in this. The best way to meet it is to organize Catholic parents' committees and through them to distribute the publication of the School Association, especially the parents' paper The Family Home, and School and Church.

PAPAL NUNCIO SPEAKS

The Papal Nuncio, Monsignor Pacelli, in an address to the

Assembly urged the Catholics of Germany to work for international peace and friendship.

JESUIT EXPLORER HONORED

Chicago's civic and religious observance of the 250th anniversary of the landing of Father Marquette, S. J., at the present site of the city, and his virtual founding of this metropolis, and of the Catholic Church here, which opened with the tableau of the landing, closed with a ceremony at the site of the Father Marquette Cross, which marks the spot on the Chicago river where Pere Marquette spent his first winter here.

Official representatives of the French and British governments, together with those of the State and city, were present, and addresses were made by M. Henri Didot, French Vice Consul; Hon. Douglas Rydings, British Vice Consul; Assistant Corporation Counsel Joseph J. Thompson, representing Mayor Dever; Dr. Otto L. Schmidt, president of the Illinois and Chicago Historical Societies, and Alphonse Campion, president of La Mutuelle, the first French society established in America.

Rev. Hubert C. Noonan, S. J., president of St. Ignatius college, and former president of Marquette University, delivered the invocation, and spoke for the religious

Order which sent the Jesuit explorer to America.

Guests present represented the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Alliance Francaise, the Chicago Association of Commerce and other bodies.

The site of the winter home of Father Marquette on the Chicago river was verified several years ago by Miss Valentine Smith, city archivist during the mayoralship of Carter H. Harrison, and a giant mahogany cross was erected at the place. It was about this cross that the ceremonial was held, following a tableau trip of Father Marquette up the river from the point near the mouth, where he first landed, and where the initial celebration was held two weeks ago at which President Coolidge was present.

MODERNIZED BIBLES

The craze for modernity has impelled some well meaning but misguided scholars outside the Church to expend their energies in an attempt to bring the Bible up to date. The specimens of these attempts that have come to hand all indicate that the experiment has not been a conspicuous success. Judged by the popular reaction as reflected in the editorial comment of the daily press, it has rather been a dismal failure.

The latest of these attempts is just being subjected to the judgment of the people. It is the work of a Glasgow professor, and purports to be a rendering of the Old Testament into modern English. Viewing the matter merely from the literary standpoint, popular opinion has unhesitatingly decided against translating the classic rendering of the Old or New Testaments into the popular speech of the day. Such a task, it is felt, are little more than interpolations. They will not make the Bible more acceptable to mankind.

For every English classic must suffer by being stripped of its rich idiom. Many of the expressions of the Bible have entered into the warp and woof of our present day English speech. They have become a portion of the vernacular tongue, household words, of which perhaps we little guess the origin.

Every man uses them in the very idiom of familiar conversation. The Bible in English, the work of the great translators of the sixteenth century is part, and a great part of English literature. And the literature of a nation, as Cardinal Newman reminds us, "is tyrannous; it is too much for us. We cannot destroy it or reverse it; we may confront it or encounter it but we cannot make it over again."

This is one disadvantage under which modern translators of the Bible are laboring. Another disadvantage is more serious. It relates to the religious character of the Bible. The books of the Bible are sacred books. They contain the word of God. The attempt to interpret them in terms of modern English should not be lightly or carelessly undertaken.

Catholics differ radically from their non-Catholic brethren in their notion of Biblical interpretation. In the Protestant belief, every one may be his own interpreter of the Scriptures, according to their faith and private judgment. If, as they falsely assume, every one can interpret the Scriptures according to his own lights, then every one can translate the Scriptures according to his own lights. And herein lies the mischief of tampering with the sacred books on the plea of making them more understandable to the popular mind. For the translators' errors and prejudices will inevitably creep into his translation, and the Bible, instead of being the word of God, will become merely the word of the translator.

Catholics believe that the Church is the divinely appointed interpreter and custodian of the Bible. She and she alone has been given the attribute of infallibility in faith and morals to help her from teaching anything but the truth. Hence in all matters relating to the word of God, of which the Bible and tradition are the repositories, she exercises meticulous care, and jealously guards from profanation the Sacred Books in whatever vernacular they are translated.

Modern unauthorized translations of the Bible are making the Bible neither more understandable nor more acceptable. They are simply confusing the public mind, garbling the sacred text, and trying to degrade the Holy Scriptures to the level of an ordinary book. More reverence for the Sacred Books of the Bible, instead of more translations of them, is what the world needs today.—The Pilot.

Let us bear in mind this truth—that on the bed of death, and on the day of judgment, to have saved one soul will be not only better than to have won a kingdom, but will over- pay by an exceeding great reward all the pains and toils of the longest and most toilsome life.—Cardinal Manning.

CATHOLIC NOTES

Catholic missionaries grew the first oranges in the United States.

The earliest known Christian library was established at Jerusalem by Bishop Alexander about the year 250.

A Catholic Cathedral is to be built in the new city that is being constructed at Delhi, now the official capital of India. The Government has given the site.

The Catholic Church has at present in China 56 bishops and 2,500 missionaries, to which number must be added 1,000 native priests.

The oldest building in Scotland in use as a Catholic Church is at Tynet, St. Ninian, Banffshire, which was erected in 1772, taking the place of one erected in 1696.

Catholic missionaries were the real discoverers of Mount Everest and the first explorers of Tibet. These facts are abundantly established in a new book, "Mount Everest," which Sven Hedin, the famous Swedish explorer, who is a Protestant, has just published.

Among the latest acquisitions of the Catholic University museum are a number of papal documents dating from the thirteenth to the seventeenth century. The oldest is a well-preserved parchment dated from the chancery of Honorius III. (1216-1227), and the latest dates from the reign of Urban VIII. (1623-1644.)

A fine earthenware urn discovered near Enniscorthy County Wexford, Ireland, is believed by Johnson Pasha, an expert on pottery, to have been made in pre-medieval days. Knockavoca is quite close to the spot where the urn was found. According to some commentators it might have belonged to an early King of Leinster inaugurated at Knockavoca.

Milan, Dec. 15.—Leonardo de Vinci's "Last Supper" on the wall of the refectory of the monastery of Santa Maria delle Grazie, has been once more restored, this time through the skilful work of Professor Silvestri. For the past five months Professor Silvestri has worked on the painting before the public and it is now believed that a new lease on life has been given this great masterpiece.

Congregationalists in convention at Springfield, Mass., recently, heard discouraging reports of lack of religious instruction and of counter influences. The declaration that 75% of the children in this country of school age have no religious instruction, while low standards of thought and conduct are being spread through motion pictures, novels and newspapers, was made by the commission on moral and religious education.

Among the students of the Catholic Institute of Paris who were ordained in 1924, there were two whose origin and attainments deserve special mention. One was a Japanese, Dr. Vincent Totsuka, who before entering the seminary was assistant professor of surgery at the Imperial University of Tsukuba. The other was a Dane, Abbe Cay, of Benzon, who was the first priest to be ordained in Denmark since the "Reformation."

Prague, Dec. 12.—Representation of the Vatican in the Assembly of the League of Nations was advocated in the Czechoslovakian parliament by Deputy Myslivec, Editor of the Catholic daily Cech. Mr. Myslivec said: "No one is ignorant of the high authority of the Pope and of his desire for general peace together with his great benevolence toward all nations. Representation of the Holy Father at Geneva, Mr. Myslivec added, is essential to the proper solution of problems confronting the League of Nations.

The Catholic population of the world is given at 324,328,408, an increase of 7,000,000. The Catholics of the British Empire number 14,827,312. The "Irish Catholic Directory" for 1924 gives the following statistics: Hierarchy, 28; parishes, 1,116; parish priests, 1,044; Adams, C. C. S., etc., 2,058; regular clergy, 734. Parochial and district churches, 2,873; houses of priests, 98; houses of monks, 131; houses of nuns, 430; total of priests, 3,828. There were 164 Irish students raised to the priesthood in 1923, including eight ordinands in Rome and two in Spain.

The most beautiful volume among the 300,000 books in the Congressional Library at Washington, says the Monitor, is a Bible which was transcribed in the sixteenth century by a monk. It could not be mated today by the very best equipped printing office in the world. The parchment is perfect in condition and every one of its 1,090 pages is a most wonderful study. The general lettering is in German text. Each letter is perfect and every one of them is real black, without a scratch or blot from cover to cover. It was useful work of this kind that the "lazy" monks performed so well that its influence is felt even today, centuries after.