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THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

AND AMERICAN IDEALS

FEAST DECEMBER 8

By Rev. George Johnson in Truth We Americans pride ourselves that people. We delight in reviewing all the marvelous achievements of our short history, and we tell the world that this has all been possible because our ideal has been action. In the training of our children, in the formation of our youth, in our art, in our politics, in our economic life, we are continually preaching efficiency. The provides the property of the pro

produces tangible results.

The philosophy of life, wofully exaggerated though it has been, is not devoid of all truth. Our Lord Himself condemns the slothful sernational prepossession, and it would came death. hattonal prepossession, and it would be unfortunate, were those who are laboring and striving to raise the standard of our national life and inculate sound ideals, to lose sight since it is essentially lawful, being

The Immaculate Conception of the our Patronal Feast. Now, the average individual might not be disposed to take this very seriously. His the infinite Goodness of God. notion of Mary, should he have any at all, is far from being suggestive of goodness of Mary recommendations. anything like force or potency. He has pictured her as the incarnation of dainty prettiness; she is a bit of entiment—something to dream over in life's quieter moments. But Mary Immaculate as a mighty power to in-

the ordinary run of good people it encounters in everyday life. With these it is not very deeply impressed. It finds them a bit tiresome and impractical, too much concerned with the avoidance of trifling faults and too little interested in the bigger and broader things of life. They are harmless enough, to be sure, barring a tendency to bore one with their moralizing, but one would hardly look to them for anything like initia-

of it in some of the famous paintings of Our Lady. They exhibit a com-bination of delicate sweetness and girlish simplicity that is well calcu-lated to charm, but which in nowise serves to awe the soul and stir it to its depths. Yet Mary is awe inspiring; her goodness is like a mighty flame sweeping upward and losing itself in the fire of God's eternal love. Raphael felt this and expressed it in the Sistine Madonna. No one who Sistine Madonna. has stood before that sublime masterpiece and gazed into those wondrous syes can ever forget the message he read there of the horror of sin, the power of virtue, the relentlessness of

maculate that we must emphasize, if she is to mean all that she should to our fellow countrymen. We must show how it is precisely because of her sinlessness that she should be the Ideal and Model of a nation that is ambitious to do things. Here, at the outset, we encounter a serious difficulty. One cannot appreciate the value of sinlessness unless one has an adequate notion of the nature of sin, and unfortunately it has long since ceased to be the fashion to entartain definite notions of the nature of sin, and unfortunately it has long since ceased to be the fashion to entartain definite notions of the nature of sin, and unfortunately it has long since ceased to be the fashion to entartain definite notions of the nature of sin, and unfortunately it has long since ceased to be the fashion to entartain definite notions of the nature of sin, and unfortunately it has long since ceased to be the fashion to entartain definite notions of the nature of sin, and unfortunately it has long since ceased to be the fashion to entartain definite notions of such heroes? May we not strive in our own little way to make the value of sinlessness as an ideal? True, we have been wonderful in our achievements, but have we not formation of the nature of sin, and unfortunately it has long since ceased to be the fashion to entartain definite notion of the nature of sin, and unfortunately it has long since ceased to be the fashion to entartain definite notion of the nature of sin, and unfortunately it has long since ceased to be the fashion to entartain definite notion of the nature of sin the city and entartain deared himself to them. During the deared himself to them. During the deared himself to them. During the constant worker among the sick and this no doubt paved the way for the attack upon himself.

Born at Wyoming upwards of 44 years ago, he received his early education there later attending the seminary. He was ordained to them. During the constant worker among the sick and this no doubt paved the way for the attack upon himself since ceased to be the fashion to entertain definite notions on this score. cal rather than a moral standpoint, identifies it with disease, or poverty, or whatever else may, in his thinking, interfere with the progress of the race. Any notion of sin above and beyond this might be exceedingly

expressions of human thought as we find them.

Yet all of these points of view fail to take cognizance of that which constitutes the very essence of sin. It is perfectly true that sin is a matter of personal disgrace, an unlovely thing, the most shameful fetter that thing, the most shameful fetter that is likely the shameful fetter that thing, the human race; yet it is likely the shameful fetter that is any remain with him to the end of his days, reminding him ever that location in the Dicese of London. Apply with references and state salary expected to 80x location in the Dicese of London. Ont. 2095-3 edience of the Eternal Law.

Now, no action or course of action may lay claim to effectiveness unless it be governed by law. in its very nature, destructive. There is might and power unthink-There is might and power unthing able in the tidal wave, yet ruin and desolation follow in its wake. And the most disastrous tidal wave that the most disastrous tidal wave that history records is far less an evil may her intercession aid us! we are preeminently a practical history records is far less an evil people. We delight in reviewing all than one deliberate sin. For the

ency; it is the doing of things, not dreaming, that counts. There are even those among us who have gone all the ages it has left a darksome to the length of identifying all, truth | trail of ill; it has been lavish in the with action and proclaiming that bestowal of suffering of sorrow and produces tangible results.

The philosophy of life, wofully rant beauty of the home shrivel and die? It is because sin's fetid breath has blown upon it. Does strife and hatred sever brother from brother vant in the parable and curses the barren fig tree. At any rate the doc. trine is characteristic of the American people. It has become a kind of viduals are the pawns of sin. Of sin viduals are the pawns of sin. Of sin

of it. Any doctrine will find difficulty in awakening the national God. It is not mere passivity but sympathies, unless it be set forth as the utmost of activity, for it renders something positive, something prag-matic, something that will produce Goodness is the principle whence comes the world and all that is worth while within it. It set the Blessed Virgin Mary is a case in stars in motion; it produced the turpoint. Mary Immaculate has been bulent grandeur of the sea; it fashgiven to our nation as its patroness, ioned the flower that gladdens the its ideal; the eighth of December is greensward; it made man. For visible creation is nothing more than the expression and overflowing of

That is why the sinlsseness and goodness of Mary recommends her pre-eminently as the Patroness and pre-eminently as the Patroness and Ideal of an active nation. Her good-ness surpasses that of all created beings; it most closely copies that of her Maker, since she was so intimately united with Him. Most adequately of all things finite does and an anighty power to inspire one with greater courage and to spur one on to more consistent effort in the great world of deeds, would seem just a trifle unconvincing.

The trouble is that the world is prone to form its concept of Mary, in her goodness and sinlessness, from the ordinary run of good people it for the product of an animal peace. It has been witnessed in favored spots throughout the world in favored spots throughout the world in favored spots throughout the world. favored spots throughout the world where Mary does for those dear to her what nature and human skill are to accomplish. It has inspired hearts with lofty emotions which express themselves perenially in the mighty cathedrals that tell of the glory of "Notre Dame." It is cele-brated in the hymns of fervent thanks that go up from millions of hearts made better, greater and nobler under her benign influence. leok to them for anything like initia-tive or leadership. They are just good, nothing more. This misconception of the nature of goodness and sinlessness is not uncommon. There is even a trace tit in same of the famous paintings is flawless and contains the secret of all happiness and joy.

Happy the nation that has Mary or its Patroness and that strives to imitate her. A nation such as this is progressive, for it is a stranger to sin. Peace and contentment are the portion of its people. In the name of unwonted ambition or in quest of sordid gain, no dark deed is wrought, nor do men oppress one another. Violence is stranger and love holds the sceptre. The fires of sensuality are smothered and the body glories in the service of the soul. Health and vigor abound and there is a full, glad measure of all things worth feel that there is anything pretty or sentimental about Our Blessed Lady.

have been wonderful in our achievements, but have we not forgotten tertain definite notions on this score.
Even among those who still cling to some vestige of Christianity, very loose concepts of sin obtain. They recognize it in its grosser forms, more perhaps for the disgrace and distress it brings than for any other reason. Your idealist is impatient of even the mention of it, for it bears a suggestion of ugliness. The evolutionist, viewing it from a physical rather than a moral standpoint, identifies it with disease, or poverty, or whatever else may, in his think in interfers with the waggester. that there are achievements other than material? Is it not a fact that conquer, yes and within our own hearts, that there is greed to be over come, seldshness to be destroyed?
We have succeeded in the art of making a living; may we not learn from her how to make life worth and beyond this might be exceedingly difficult to discover in the ordinary expressions of human thought as we from her how to make life worth

thing, the most shameful fetter that binds the human race; yet it is immeasurably more than all of this. The essence of sin is lawlessness. It is the rebellion of the creature against the Creator; it is man's distance of the Eternal Law. damental of all activity, self-control, the secret of sinlessness—this would seem to be the mission of every one A N UNMARRIED, CATHOLICMIDDLE-AGED A man to tend to furnace and chores around house. Steady employment, Apply Box 109, CATHOLIC RECORD.

who has been privileged with Mary's intimate friendship. The manner of doing it? A life that demonstrates be governed by law. Even the doing it? A life that demonstrates ost ardent Pragmatist will admit beyond all doubt that freedom from this much. Energy uncontrolled is, sin and the practice of virtue is the in its very nature, destructive. most efficient of all, not merely in a

OBITUARY

PATRICK TRAYNOR

After a brief illness of acute lobar pneumonia, there passed away on Nov. 16 a pioneer and a most highly respected resident of the Township of Sydenham in the person of Mr. Patrick Traynor.

Deceased who was in his seventythird year was born in Albion, Peel County, Ont., and came to Syden-ham with his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Michael Traynor, sr., who settled on the 6th concession seventy-one years ago. For some years their home was a centre for the early missionaries and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was offered there from time to time for the faithful of that dis trict. Later a lot from this property was set aside for a church and St Michael's Church, Irish Block, was built by the Fathers of st. Basil's Community, forming a part of the Owen Sound Mission.

Reared by his good parents in this grand atmosphere of faith, the late Mr. Traynor became an excellent citizen, charitable, honest and in dustrious and most exemplary in the practice of his holy religion. He engaged in active farming continuously until seven years ago when he retired to Owen Sound; but after the death of his wife, formerly Miss Johanna McKenna, about two years ago, he resided with his son, Maurice P. Traynor, on the lot adjoining the old homestead and remained there until his death.

He is survived by two sisters Sister M. J. Patricia, of St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph, Mrs. W. Doyle of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and one brother, Mr. Bernard Traynor of Owen Sound. His twelve children also survive to mourn the loss of a loving and devoted father. They are: Rev. J. J Traynor, Sacred Heart Church, Kenil worth; Sister M Loretto. St. Joseph's Hospital, London; Sister M. St. Philip, Sacred Heart Convent, London; Mrs. Peter Matthews, Weyburn, Sask; Mrs. W. J. Doyle, Moose Jaw, Sask; Mrs. A. McDonald and Miss Elizabeth Traynor of Yorkton, Sask., and Miss Justina Traynor, Buffalo, N. Y., also Messrs M. X. Traynor on the old homestead, Maurice P. and Thomas B. of Sydenham and Flight Lieut. A. lictor Traynor, overseas.

The funeral took place on Monday orning, Nov. 18th, to St. Michael's Church, Irish Block, where Solemi Requiem Mass was celebrated by his son Father Traynor, assisted by Father J. Sharpe, C. S. B., deacon and Father McNulty, C. S. B., sub deacon, Rev. Father T. Roach, C. S. B., of St. Mary's Church, Owen Sound, also assisted in the sanctuary.

Interment took place in St. Michael's Cemetery. Three sons, Michael, Maurice, and Thomas, and three nephews, J. Francis Traynor, Thomas B. Traynor and Simon O'Reilly were his pall bearers.

FATHER DUNN OF STRATFORD IS DEAD

May his soul rest in peace.

Stratford, Nov. 29.-Rev. J. P. Dunn, curate for past two years at St. Joseph's Church, is dead here from pneumonia, following an attack of influenza. He had been ill for more than a week.

sentimental about Our Blessed Lady. It is Mary "terrible as an army in battle array," that the artist's genius has depicted.

It is just this quality of Mary Immaculate that we must emphasize, if she is to mean all that she should to the prosecution of the plenty they have garnered.

A dream this hardly and the she should to the prosecution of the plenty they have garnered.

A dream this hardly and the she should to the prosecution of high and noble ideals. And the reapers bend beneath the burden of the plenty they have garnered.

A dream this hardly and concentrated and city, not only among the Catholic people, but among the citizens as a whole. His cheerful manner made a host of friends in the city and endeared himself to them. During the The news of his death caused

that city here to succeed Rev. L. P.
Lowry when he wentoverseas as a
chaplain. He also was stationed at
St. Peter's Cathedral for a time.

Besides his father, Gregory Dunn, two brothers and two sisters survive. namely, Nicholas, William, Kate and Margaret, all of Wyoming

The Catholic Church deems it her duty everywhere to spread the spirit of peace, and to labor to preserve the tranquility of kingdoms and peoples. -Leo XIII.

" No, I don't call him a good man,

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DIED

POCOCK.—At Winnipeg, Manitoba, on Tuesday, November 19, Margarite, beloved wife of Alfred Pocock. Fu-neral from the residence of her father in law, Joseph Poccek, 318 Wolfe street London, Ont. May her soul rest in peace.

POPE-In Maidstone Tp., Ont., on Wednesday, Nov., 13th, 1918, Miss Agnes Pope, teacher of Pleasant Park Separate School and daughter of the late Frank Pope of Parkhill, Ont. May her soul rest in peace.

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