

## The Church in the United States

According to the advance sheets of the 1913 edition of the *Official Catholic Directory*, there are 15,154,158 Catholics in the United States. This figure includes only the Catholics of the United States proper and does not embrace the people of our faith in the foreign possessions of this country.

The Catholic population for this year shows an increase of only 138,589 over the figures for 1912. This increase will not satisfy many; but, as a matter of information, the publishers state that the Catholic population figures are printed in the *Directory* just as they are furnished by the diocesan officials. Perhaps, in fairness, however, it ought to be mentioned that in thirty-five dioceses no changes were made in the population figures. In six cases where changes were made the revision was downward, one diocese reducing its population figure by 25,000, another by 12,000, while a third cut off 10,620. The three other reductions were only slight. It is impossible in all districts to take an annual census and in numerous dioceses the census is taken every five years. In two or three American dioceses the figures are changed only every ten years.

Adding the 7,131,989 Catholics in the Philippines, the million or more in Porto Rico, the 11,510 in Alaska, the 42,108 in the Hawaiian Islands, and the 900 on the Canal Zone, it will be found that there are 23,329,047 Catholics under the Stars and Stripes.

The *Directory* is full of interesting figures, and according to the 1913 issue a new Catholic church is built every day in the year. There were 373 new churches established during 1912, some of them, of course, being only mission churches. To be exact, there are 244 new churches with resident pastors and 129 new mission churches, that is, served by a neighboring pastor. All told there are 14,312 churches in the United States, 9501 having resident pastors.

According to the *Directory* there are 17,945 Catholic clergymen in the United States, 13,273 being secular clergy and 4672 being members of Religious Orders. In addition to the 17,945 priests, there are, also, hundreds of Fathers in distant lands; in fact, there is hardly a civilised or uncivilised land where United States clergy are not to be found.

In addition to the 17,945 clergymen engaged in the United States there are 6169 men and youths studying in 85 seminaries, located in various parts of the country. There are also 230 colleges and academies for boys and 684 academies for girls, where the higher education of Catholic youth is given serious attention. The number of academies for girls, is of course, larger than the number of colleges for men and boys, but the number of men and boy students is much larger than girl students.

One of the features of the *Directory* which will give food for thought is the table giving the statistics of the parochial schools. According to the figures which have been supplied by the Diocesan Chancery officials there are 5256 parishes which have parochial schools connected with the churches. In these 5256 schools 1,360,761 boys and girls are receiving their elementary education. Furthermore it must be borne in mind that in many rural districts, where parochial schools cannot be organised, due provision is made for the religious instruction of youth. With this in mind the fact that 1,360,761 children are attending the parochial schools will stand out more sharply.

It must also be remembered that there are 47,415 orphans in the orphan asylums, and adding together the number of pupils in parochial schools, in orphan asylums, detention schools, institutes, academies, high schools and colleges, it will be found that there are 1,593,316 young people under Catholic care in the United States.

The most important item in connection with the table of statistics, is, of course, the population item. The following are the States having the largest Catholic population:—New York, 2,790,629; Pennsylvania, 1,633,353; Illinois, 1,460,987; Massachusetts, 1,383,435; Ohio, 743,065; Louisiana, 584,000; Michigan, 568,505; Wisconsin, 558,476.

## Magellan's Great Discovery

Fernando Magellan belonged to an ancient and noble family, and was born at Oporto, Portugal, about the year 1480. From boyhood he was noted for piety, bravery, and enterprise. He spent some years at the court of his native country, and afterwards served with distinction in the Portuguese army. In 1517 he turned his steps to Spain. Magellan's mind was now filled with a mighty enterprise. A passage around Southern America, Magellan reasoned, would be a much shorter highway for commerce than the usual route by the Cape of Good Hope.

Besides, if such a passage were discovered he could then sail around the world. This idea, it will be remembered, owed its origin to the genius of Columbus; but it remained for another great Catholic pioneer to carry it into execution. Magellan at once made his plans known to Cardinal Jimenez and King Charles V., and met with every encouragement. Accordingly a fleet of five vessels having been put at his disposal, the little squadron set sail from San Lucar in September, 1519. The crew numbered two hundred and fifty men, and included several priests. After a rough passage of about two months, Magellan reached what is now the Bay of Rio Janeiro.

Proceeding along the coast, keeping a careful watch for every bay and inlet, he entered the River de la Plata on January 1, 1520, but, after sailing up the river for some days, he concluded it was not the strait of which he was in search, and continued his course toward the south. He reached the port of St. Julian on March 3, where he resolved to winter. In this uncomfortable station he lost one of his squadron, and the Spaniards suffered much from the excessive rigor of the climate. The fleet left the Bay of St. Julian about the middle of October, and following the coast very closely, reached the Cape on the north-east of the Strait on October 21. After sailing for twenty days in this lonely, labyrinthine, but picturesque strait, to which he gave his own name, which is three hundred miles in length, and where one of his ships deserted him, Magellan beheld the boundless expanse of the Southern Ocean.

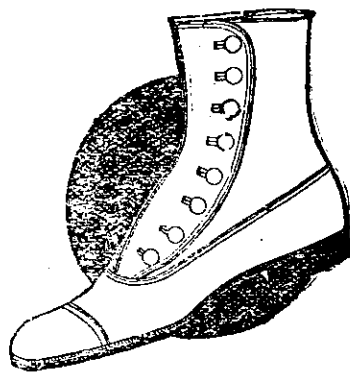
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