

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

THE BLESSING OF SAINT AUGUSTINE
May God's sweet blessing in thy heart abound,
And glory's sun thy head encircle round.

A NEW YEAR'S REFLECTION

Today arises the somewhat saddening realization that we have reached the conclusion of another year of our lives. Behind us trails the old year with all its works, sorrows, disappointments and joys, which are now gone, nevermore to return.

The marking of the new year is but a mere convention. One day in the matter of time is about the same as another. Every morning unfolds the scroll of a new year; every night rolls up that of another.

The span of human life is short at best, and New Year's day reminds us that we are so much nearer to the end of our lives. It is not a very cheerful and pleasant thought, but it is nevertheless a true thought.

New Year's day ought to remind us that our happiness does not consist in gratification of the senses; in indulgence "in eating and drinking, in rioting and drunkenness, in impurity and wantonness;" nor as many seem to think in heaping up money, in possessing houses and lands and bankstocks; in becoming famous, in any worldly thing whatever, for all these things will have an end.

New Year's day is a great accounting day. It is a day when we must examine ourselves to see how we stand in the affairs of eternity, and in the supreme business of life.

THE LAMPLIGHTER

It is not so much the great things in general that influence our lives as the little things. Seemingly insignificant at the time of their happening, they leave an indelible imprint upon us. Some day we wake to the realization of their true import and we are filled with gratitude for the blessing that they brought.

seeking the vanities of life, remember we are still alive, and can still put away the playthings of childhood and conduct ourselves with the wisdom of manhood and womanhood.

The world loves a dreamer, if only he be a dreamer of the future, and not a doting year, typified by the figure of a hoary decrepit old man, demands our veneration and respect; but the year new-born, inspires, arouses, enthuses us.

Hell is paved with broken resolutions. New Year's day is a day of resolutions not to be broken, but to be kept. We have made mistakes in the past. That is but natural. He who never made a mistake, never made anything. 'Tis only a fault to make mistakes, but it is a crime to repeat them.

How many are there not who were with us one year ago and now are no more. At that time we bade them the compliments of the season, today they slumber in the city of the dead. From this let us learn to live our lives the better, for in this year of grace we may hear the call that comes but once in the lives of men.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

GOD SAVE YOU!

There's an Irish salutation, 'tis a pleasant one to hear; To the mind it is refreshing, it is music to the ear.

The warbling of the songbirds at the dawn of the day, The laughter of the children, when engaged at evening play, The murmur of the rosary, by mother lips expressed, Are sweet to hear, but O my dear, I somehow like it best.

LIFE'S LITTLE WOES

Each of us has little troubles in life to bear. No matter whether it be a sick parent, a useless child, a departed relative, an affliction, a bad digestion, a sour disposition or whining friends at home, we think we have a terrible lot to put up with.

Look about you in the soft, easy-going world; the machine, mechanical and material city; the myriads of foolish people whose only existence is for pleasure and for the gratification of the sense, and then look at the crucified figure of the Saviour and King of mankind on the Cross!

SELF-CONTROL AND BIRTH-CONTROL

A five-line cablegram published in the Chicago Tribune reports that the action for libel brought in the English courts against Dr. Halliday G. Sutherland by Dr. Marie Stopes had been won by Dr. Sutherland. Dr. Sutherland is the author of an excellent work, "Birth-Control," and Dr. Stopes is well known for her efforts to spread contraceptive practices in England.

With slow and faltering movements, the aged man ascends to the top of the lamp post. A flicker through the darkness, and lo!—the dark street is illumined as if it were a portion of fairyland. And the child, with the exuberant emotions of childhood, feels that nothing in the world could be so attractive as a vocation when he shall have grown to man's estate as to go about with Leerie and light the lamps with him at night.

The old lamplighter has completed his task. Stiffly he descends to the wet pavement, shoulders his ladder and lantern and turns to depart. But first he nods brightly to the little child at the window who claps his hand and smiles in return.

It is also granted that in given instances obedience to the law of nature may call for virtue that is heroic. But difficulties, while they may lessen the guilt of the transgressor, never constitute a license to violate the law.

Answers last week: Holy Year 1925, Rome. Holy name (IHS: Jesus, and P: Christ). Circumcision. Knife right hand of seated figure.

DRAMATIC STORY OF OLD MASS TREE

The history of the 107 years old St. John's parish, Canton, Ohio, and a review of the recent program of consecration of this church has been compiled into a 110 page volume entitled "A Sketch of Saint John's Church—1817-1924," by Reverend Edward P. Graham, pastor.

St. John's was the second parish to be established in north-eastern Ohio and was preceded only by the parish of Dunganon. Dominicans were the first missionaries in the early days and considerable space is given in the volume to a recital of the early ministrations of the priest that Order.

Upper picture is from New Testament, the lower from the Old. What are they? (Abram is kneeling figure in lower picture; the event is symbol of Eucharist). The three persons at left side of upper picture give name of next Sunday's feast. (These three altar figures are sketched in outline. If you want a little practice in drawing, fill in the details). Answers next week.

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