

FIVE-MINUTE SERMON SUNDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS JOY Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy. There is hardly any one, my brethren, who lives through this feast of Christmas as kept who does not feel a special joy in it.

It is merely that it is by common consent a great holiday; that it is a breathing-place in the bustle and hurry of life, a time for meeting our friends, for giving and receiving tokens of affection and regard, a time of feasting and making merry?

And what is this cause and source of joy? Is it because Christ our Lord has come to save us from sin and eternal ruin? No, it is not simply that; for we celebrate our salvation, our redemption, our ransom from the power of death and hell more specially at Easter than now.

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of all our hope, is so high that we, sinners that we are, cannot fully make it our present joy. But Christmas is heaven come down to earth. It is the God of heaven condescending to us; taking our weakness upon Him, sympathizing with us, and asking us for sympathy and love.

AT THE ROOT OF NATIONAL LIFE

The above is the title of a lecture delivered Oct. 28 in Dublin by the Very Rev. Father Aloysius, O. S. F. C., one of the Capuchin friars who are doing such fine work for temperance at present in Ireland.

anxiety for the preservation of the inner life of the country that so largely found expression in years back in the language and traditions of Ireland—they should throw themselves with earnestness into the temperance movement, and should be willing to make any sacrifice in its interest.

WHOLLY CALLED AN INDUSTRY "I need scarcely say how that capital is invested. In Ireland, most of our capital is invested in what we wrongly call an industry, and what by many is regarded as our greatest industry. In the World's Fair in the U. S. A., a round tower of whisky bottles represented Industrial Ireland, and, without a doubt, the liquor business towers above all our other attempts at industry.

THE ONE TRADE THAT FLOURISHES "Can the people afford the luxury of drink? The strange anomaly—the creation side by side of wealth and poverty. The net result of the business is the barrenness or poverty on the one side, and on the other the beggar and the criminal.

THE POETRY MAY BE CORRECT, BUT I fear the truth can not be questioned. "We sometimes hear people claim that the drink traffic gives a great deal of employment. We must remember that the money spent on drink would give employment, and anyone who takes the trouble to study the question will find that it will give far more employment if spent on the production of other things.

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standpoint of the consumer. For the few thousands employed by the brewer, how many are the thousands who are rendered unemployed by the poison of alcohol? For the three or four or six assistants in a licensed premises who make their living behind the bar, how many more contribute the share of bread, and comfort of home and children? No nation can maintain industrial health and compete in industrial rivalry if that nation keeps up a constant waste of money and spends on luxuries, not to speak of poison, money needed for the purposes that are vital and essential.

THE CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL "We must look to Christmas as the festival of the children," says Cardinal Manning. It is so because it is the festival of the child Jesus—it is the festival of the father, mother and little ones. And at this Christmas time all who have children ought to lay to heart the responsibility allotted them in respect to them. Let parents take care how they bring up their children. Let them not be lured by any of the attractions of great intellectual culture to send their sons or daughters out of the light of faith which, turned upon them, made them disciples of Jesus Christ.

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THE RELAPSED CONVERT RESPONSIBILITY OF CATHOLICS WHOSE CONDUCT DISPLEASES NEWCOMERS. Some recent occurrences connected with the relapse of certain converts ought to excite the Catholic indignation which some of us think it our duty to express on similar occasions. The relapsed convert—vert is perhaps a better word—is not so unusual as he is held to be.

IN THE AUTUMN TIME. Better consult one of our agents to-day or write to the NORTH AMERICAN LIFE Assurance Company "SOLID AS THE CONTINENT" HOME OFFICE TORONTO.

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