'Catechism,' has a significant meanresounded of that which is to be by constant repetition drilled into the ears of man that he may hear and know. Under one mode of expression or another the Catechism is as old as the Church.

'Read and re read the Catechism sanctification. Read and re-read your Catechism that you be able to defend your faith and rehearse correctly the teaching of the Church to those who are not of her fold. Three fourths of the objections put out against the Catholic Church are misapprehensions or mis-statements of her creed. The quick, effective answer to such objections is to say

Thus, and not otherwise, the

Church teaches: read its Catechism. You will be told that an indulchism—'An indulgence is not a pardon of sin nor a license to commit mortal sin can not gain an indul-You will be told that Catholics worship the Blessed Virgin and the saints. Quote your Catechism—'The Church honors the saints because by honoring the saints who of mere priestly absolution, Catholics me: "This is the way; walk in think their sins are forgiven. Quote It was more difficult for me for sin, a true grief of the soul for having offended God, with a firm purpose of sinning no more.' In answer to innumerable other objectives. tions arising from ignorance, vincible or invincible, quote your Catechism. The Catechism is the final response to such objections."-Sacred Heart

WM. H. SLOAN

NOTED CONVERT AND FORMER HEAD OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONS IN MEXICO

Wm. H. Sloan, a distinguished Bap tist missionary, for twenty years head of the missions of his denomination in Mexico, became a Catholic after long and anxious study, in 1908. His death is the occasion of a noteorthy sketch of his life in The Missionary, from which we take the

William H Sloan moved to Kansas while still a boy, and in very needy circumstances he began a typical American career, winning by his unaided labors proficiency in all branches of the printer's trade, then a regular and thorough college edu-cation, including the degree of A. M. During all those years he worked every spare moment for his support. Then he took a full course of ministerial training in the Baptist University of Rochester, N. Y. Licensed to preach, he enjoyed several years of successful pastorates in prominent Baptist churches.

Besides being intensely religious and a fluent and powerful preacher, Mr. Sloan had a distinct tendency towards the adventurous calling of a foreign missionary. He held for several years a prominent position in the Baptist missions of Burmah. Meanwhile he had married and very happily. The climate of Burmah being quite unfavorable to the of his wife and growing family, he returned home, and soon after joined the Baptist missions in Mexico. Naturally a linguist, and always fond of study, he soon mastered the Spanish, and became as it with tongue and pen as with his native language. In a few years he became the general superintendent of the Baptist mis-

From time to time Mr. Sloan's conscience had been stung with sharp misgivings about the Protestant position. Those were accompanied by interior struggles of an exceedingly painful intensity. He never spoke to a Catholic on religion, except to try to pervert him, but now and then he procured Catholic books. Being of the kind of mind that studies rather than reads, he finally found his conscience occasionally in open rebellion, which he suppressed with honest but painful

"This process lasted a good many years, extending over the latter half of his twenty years' sojourn in Mexico. He has placed on record his interior experience there. Although he was confronted not seldom with the worst sort of Catholics, yet he was less scandalized by them than by the welcome they were given by the Protestant missionaries when they apostatized. 'I fought Catholicism by day, he has remarked, and studied it by night. At last he knew the Catholic religion thoroughly well, both in its living results in priests and people, and in its doctrine and history as it is known to the learned and witnessed in the writings of friends and foes.

" His change of belief at last was completed, and it was a mental transformation as unwelcome as it was compulsory. The call of truth gradually grown imperative, his children suffer. whilst Protestant error grew more whilst Protestant error grew more and more repellant. Religion of any sort is at its best propagandism, and the Protestantism in Mexico, to quote Mr. Sloan's own words, was a quote Mr. Sloan's own words, was a maze of multitudinous divergencies of doctrine and practice, an arena of mutual conflict and condemnation.

The foulness of the lives of the converts from Catholicism was awfully scandalous. And the wholly artificial and unreligious basis of the

able of books. The word itself, effort to de-Catholicize Mexico was undeniable. 'Can all this be of divine institution?' he tells us ing. It is a Greek word telling of divine institution? he tells us that which is to be sounded and he asked himself: 'Is this what God wants? Does the Holy Spirit, indeed, guide these people, or are they guided by misled, if unconscious egotism, and a desire to live a comfortable worldly life on a sufficient salary.' And he knew that the fatal defects of Protestantism are for your own enlightenment and essentially inherent in it every-

But Mr. Sloan, like any honest Protestant, must be turned to Catholicity by an overwhelming totality of proofs, and he therefore now more radically investigated the Scriptural evidences of the Church. He tells us that he labored seven years on the compiling of a Spanish Concordance of the Holy Scriptures, and I scrutinized every text that could bear on the subject that I had in hand. I found the authority of the gence is an anticipated pardon for Sin. In answer, quote your Cate the truth," the primacy of Peter, the power of the priest to forgive sins, transubstantiation, the efficacy of sin, and one who is in the state of the sacraments and one or two greater dogmas, to be so clearly taught in God's word that I dare no longer close my eyes to the truth. Once I was convinced of the truth that ultimate authority lay in the Church, and that she was the Church, and that she are the chosen friends of God we authorized interpreter of Holy Writ, honor God Himself.' You will be the rest followed as a natural contold that without sorrow, in virtue sequence. The Holy Spirit said to "This is the way; walk in it." your Catechism on the necessity of accept the discipline of the Church, contrition, a sorrow for sin, a hatred its ceremonies and ritual, but here

myself: By what authority am I persuading these people to give up the faith of their fathers? No church has given me such authority, for none in Protestantism claims any, the missionary board is not a New Testament institution, and does not pretend to be. Did Christ send me? If so, how is it that a hundred others around me claim the same authorization, and yet each one leads the people along a different road? not only among the multi-colored Protestant churches, but in my own church there were a score or more of different faiths, nay, even in a Baptist congregation of which I had been pastor. There was no authority anywhere to deliver a distinct ssage of Christian truth. (" Roads

to Rome in America." Curtis.) To become a Catholic meant the severing of old ties, the grieving of loved ones, the tears of wife and children, the cutting of every means of support for myself and family, the entire overturning of the old life and the forced adjustment to a new and strange one-a somewhat difficult thing for a man of sixty four years of age. I consulted no one but God, talked with no man or priest, until I was about ready to stand publicly by my conscience. Then I called upon Father J. A. Reis, pastor of the English speaking Church of San Lorenzo, City of Mexico; and later I called upon the Archbishop, whose pious advice, given me only a short time before his lamented decease, I shall never forget. And on the 20th of January, 1908, I was baptized by Father Reis, General Frisbie and Judge Ignacis Sepulveda being my sponsors. I found the peace of God which surpasseth all understanding."

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

may be there is nothing that can God is and how ardently He desires

Who would be so silly as to expect a child to become proficient in any needs of the Church at home and branch in a class of one hour a week? A boy's arithmetic would be in a sad state if his attention were directed to it only once a week. Then why experience in the said arousing their spirit in them and arousing their pect that the same boy who needs continual drilling, day after day, year after year, in order to acquire a rudimentary knowledge of that branch is to be thoroughly grounded in the knowledge of his religion with a few minutes' application once a week?

To know one's religion, as one should, daily study is necessary. Not only must there be the daily lesson in Catechism, but even th so-called secular branches must be taught under religious aus-

The school must have the atmos-

children the advantages of the Cath-olic school yet deprives them of it. He is to be pitied, for he does not know any better. Often he has some foolish idea that there is something defective about the parochial school. An educated, well informed, com-

school we have to rely on the Sunday school to give the children a religious education. It is a big task. Yet it must be done. And it will be done well, only if the parents give it

their support. A constant complaint with those who direct the Sunday schools is that parents do not cooperate with them. Some parents think that the Catechism can be learned without trouble If they are paying for music lessons, they see to it that they get their money's worth. They know that it is not merely the lesson that counts, but the study, the daily practice.

This common sense way of looking at things should be applied to the Sunday school. Catechism is not learned by inspiration any more than any other study. And surely it is quite as important, at least, as the home studies to which the hour or two hours are given ungrudgingly.

To parents belongs the duty of edu-cating their children in the knowledge of the things of God. They can not shirk that duty simply by sending their children to Sunday School. The first and most important duty is theirs to see to it that at home serious and daily study is given to the Catechism.—The Pilot.

GENERAL INTENTION FOR OCTOBER

RECOMMENDED AND BLESSED BY HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XV.

THE LEAGUE AMONG CHILDREN

The years are passing quickly, and so are the men and women who are now treading the stage of life. Those who are children to-day will soon develop into manhood and womanhood and take our places in the civic and the religious world. They are the ones who will be called upon to keep the light of our holy faith shining before men, edify their fellow citizens by their upright lives, and contribute to the support of our immense and ever expanding charities. The children of today will be expected in a very few years to hand down, pure and intact, our Catholic beliefs, our traditions and practices to the generation that will succeed them. This being the case, who does not see how im portant it is to prepare them for their future rôles by implanting in their minds a thorough knowledge of the doctrines of the Catholic Church?

This knowledge is a necessary

equipment for their coming years; but experience too often proves that something more is required; that religious knowledge alone does not suffice to keep souls in the right path. How many are there who in childfully instructed in the who have become wrecks on the way-side in after life. Mere knowledge of the truth may make men learned in the truth, but it alone will not make them good; it will not imbue Catholics with personal piety or fervor. Church and the spread of the lic faith throughout the world. Truth must flower in men's souls before it brings forth fruits of turn them into little apostles virtue; it must be reduced to practice | prayer. two operations, the first in the intelenthusiasm and zeal for the welfare of the souls of others as well as of their own. These various appeals to the higher sentiments of children when watered by God's grace which is never wanting, will move their wills to action and will have a wonderful effect on their lives.

Membership in the League of the Sacred Heart furnishes opportunities for the cultivation of this spirit in children, and helps truth to flower in their souls. The Morning follow except to give a wide berth to Offiering teaches children how to spiritualise—divinise, some writers The school must have the atmosphere of religion. Religion must lives into one continual prayer.

The most impossible person is the lives into offer to God, nor lives into one continual prayer.

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The most impossible person is the lives into one continual prayer. Catholic parent who can give his mental prayer which their immature piety of children when they are taught that their Morning Offering An educated, well informed, common sense man would know that to many thoughtful people outside the Catholic Church the one thing to be envied is our religious school system. The lives of Catholic children than to his children suffer.

On the other hand, there are so suffer? The habit of vital prayer is presence, and has an enormous influence on the hearts of children:

living in God's grace.

This state of soul in children is



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mere instruction in the doctrines

and practices of the Church. The "Imitation of Christ" teaches us in many passages that knowledge-ever feligious knowledge—is not sanctity. Learning is not to be blamed, nor is the mere knowledge of anything which is good in itself and ordained by God; but a good conscience and a virtuous life are always to be pre-ferred before it. This counsel is good for adults; it is also good for children and should never be forgotten by educators. The cultivation of the mind and the formation of the will are two operations which should go hand in hand during the plastic years of childhood. When the minds and hearts of children are developed after this fashion the next genera tion of Catholics, that is, those who are to succeed us, will be not merely instructed but also filled with piety and zeal. For this reason all have at heart the spiritual welfare of children—parents, teachers and others—should enroll them in the of the Sacred Heart and explain to them fully what membership means in this world wide organization which seeks its efficacy in its union with the Sacred Heart. hearts of little children are made to love, and if properly explained no devotion will appeal so strongly to them as devotion to the Heart of Jesus. The simple recital of the events of our Lord's life, Hts discourses. His miracles and parables will reveal to their immature but searching minds the only motivethe motive of love-that permeated all His words and works and urged Him to do all He did and suffered They will realise at once that the love of the Sacred Heart for them was boundless and they that they must return Him love for

Once the Morning Offering has become a habit with them, it is an easy step to the offering of the Daily Decade to their Blessed Mother recited for the intention of the Holy truths of the Catholic Church, but Father. Besides the General Inten tion, children have many things to pray for. They are asked not to forget their family, their pastors, teachers and school-mates, success in their studies, the welfare of the Church and the spread of the Catho-

Membership in the League will They will have learned how in their daily lives before they can be called complete Catholics. The acquiring of knowledge and its flowering in the human soul imply will not need much urging to make lect, the second in the will. And because one operation is as important Being more closely united to the them go to Communion frequently. as the other in education, while the sacred Heart, they will feel the need intellect is being trained, the will THE SUNDAY SCHOOL
The Sunday School is at best an inefficient substitute. No matter how zealous priests and teachers how zealous priests and teachers how a priest is not being the complete to being trained, the will of nourishing their souls with must not be allowed to lie fallow. The wills of children must be cultivated by appeals to their higher and in the spiritual life. What between how zealous priests and teachers how zealous priests and teachers how zealous priests and teachers. take the place of the religious school.

The place of the religious school.

The place of the religious their love in return, by suggesting reasons to make them proud of being confidence could they have than to Catholics, by putting before them the feel that they are living and working and growing in years under the proabroad, by praising the saints and tection of the Sacred Heart? And when we disappear from the scene we shall not fear to shift the re sponsibility of doing God's work in

E. J. DEVINE, S. J.

A MODERN EVIL

The Church having defined and re-asserted her position on spiritism, present state has brought spiritism to the fore among many classes of

Books, pamphlets and journals are published periodically setting forth the wonderful manifestations of the other world, and defining the happiness which each soul reached now possesses. Almost without exception the message is one of felicity with a wish that the recipient might possess the happiness that the departed one

now enjoy The whole foundation upon which spiritism is built is dangerous and subversive of morality. It has been proved that the spirits at work are the powers of darkness. Deception and trickery, falsehoods and delu-

seance hall nor have any intercourse whatever with spiritists or mediums, they will feel more acutely the horror of sin and the advantage of faith. And well has such a course been followed by her. When one something far more important than examines spiritism in the light of

came judgment be must inevitably come to the conclusion that not only are the revelations of spiritism ofte untrue, but its practice is positively dangerous.

The agency at work is not God. It is apparent to any sensible man that God cannot be the author of falsehood or influenced by mere caprice. Much less does He act at the whimsical call of men who have openly denied Him and cast ridicule upon the Christian faith. The inter vention of God postulates at least sanctity of life on the part of those who invoke His aid. They may then, become the instruments of God in the working even of miracles. But no such considerations are requisite for the introduction of spiritistic manifestations. It is not, therefore God who is at the bottom of spiritism.

Nor can it be said that the good angels are operative forces in this craft. As God does not act at the whim of man, neither would He permit His angels to become the hidden agency of spiritism and subject to the call of godless and capricious

God, indeed, in His wisdom could use the souls of the departed as His special instruments in the accomplishment of His high purposes among men, but this has happened but rarely in the history of the world, whereas the manifestations of spirit ism are of daily occurrence.

It is not the souls now saved who act through spiritism. They have with death suffered the loss of the body which was the means of com munication with the material world. Dispossessed of the body, the soul of itself cannot have communication with the universe. sides are God's friends, and are not subject to the commands of dissolute and often irreligious mediums. The loss of a means of communication likewise militates against the souls of the damned becoming the operative influences of spiritism.

There remains, therefore, but one agency that produces the strange phenomena of the seance room, namely, the powers of darkness, the lost angels who rebelled against God in the beginning, and who through hatred of God and jealousy of men roam through the world seeking man's spiritual ruin.

The arts and crafts of the devil are and deceptive. At times the truth is told; again patent contradic-tions issue forth; lies abound. In the end there is destruction of faith perversion of morals, spiritual death. All these are the toll of this nefari ous practice which claims to exert such a beneficent influence upon the world and upon the lives of men.

It is no wonder that the Church has interdicted such a practice knows the subtlety of the devil and his deception practiced among men It is her province to safeguard her children against this evil .- The Pilot

WASTED SYMPATHY

Church Progress observes: "Sympathy is usually extended to that type of man who is said to be his own worst enemy. Generally, no doubt, on the theory that he couldn't be more unfortunate if everybody was his enemy."

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