

and the glory of them are so bewitching to our bodily senses, they are in such a state of ceaseless bustle and turmoil, they bring into play such a multitude of devices to draw our attention to their doings and sayings, to fill our mind with their thoughts, and to win our admiration for the brave show they make, that they not unfrequently shut out all else from our view, and expose us to forget that the fashion of this world passeth away, that we have not here an abiding city, and that the kingdom of heaven, the kingdom of which there shall be no end, is at hand. Hence the need of Parish Missions; the need of a clear and forcible statement of the fundamental truths which alone afford us a solid basis on which to build truly successful lives here and hereafter; the need of an occasional breaking in upon the ordinary routine of parish life, by means of the exercises of the Mission; the need of the infusion in some degree of the element of novelty, from time to time, to arouse in many souls a keener interest and a livelier faith and to win back to God and to their duty those who may have refused for years to avail themselves of the ordinary helps of an organized parish.

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The Apostles, as we know from St. Mark and St. Luke, on coming back to their Master after this mission, related to Him all things that they had done and taught; doubtless they were filled with joy and astonishment at the wonderful success of their labours. So, too, the missionary of to-day has often reason to bless God for the visible evidences which he beholds of the power of divine grace to conquer man's rebellions will and strengthen his faint heart. He sees the realization, in a true and mystical sense, of the promises made by our Divine Saviour when He was sending forth His Apostles to preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark, c. 16, v. 17): "These signs shall follow them that believe: In My name they shall cast out devils; they shall take up serpents; if they shall drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them;