

FIVE MINUTE SERMON

BY REV. WILLIAM DEMOCY, D. D.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

THE LAW OF FASTING

"At that time Jesus was led by the spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil..."

Abstemiousness is one of the means of man's salvation. This would not have been so had he in the beginning remained faithful to God...

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CONFIRMATION

After considering the Sacrament of Baptism, which is the first, and the gateway, we naturally come to the Sacrament of Confirmation.

NATURE OF CONFIRMATION

Baptism is our spiritual birth. Confirmation is our spiritual maturity. It is called Confirmation, because it means to strengthen...

This is said of things that we should not do because the committing of them would be sinful. The Gospel suggests to us today the abstaining from things, not because they would be sinful in themselves...

EFFECTS OF CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation impresses upon the soul a special character, which, like that of Baptism, can never be effaced, and can, therefore, be received only once...

The law of fasting was more stringent in days gone by, because life then was not so strenuous as it is today, and because the faithful were more inclined toward such practices...

OBLIGATION TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT

Although this Sacrament is not absolutely necessary to salvation as the case with Baptism, its necessity is one of precept. Hence, those who are able to receive it, and who neglect to do so, are guilty of sin...

CEREMONIES OF CONFIRMATION

Confirmation has always been looked upon as a source of strength, courage and endurance—looked upon as a further token of love from a father who does not want affections stolen, by an alluring deceitful world...

as a further token of love from a father who does not want affections stolen, by an alluring deceitful world. This idea is strongly illustrated, by the outward sign, through which the gifts of the Holy Ghost are communicated...

The same idea of strength is further suggested by the manner in which the Bishop extends his hand over the person to be confirmed, praying that they may receive the Holy Ghost...

Confirmation, then, is a true sacrament, wherein the gifts of the Holy Ghost are received, making us perfect Christians and soldiers of Jesus Christ...

THE CREST OF THE HILL

Here and there in every large city, one may come across a quaint little shop of antiques, dear to the hearts of those who love to linger over the pages of the past...

On the crest of a hill, peeping out from among the basement doorways, and sequestered from the highway, is one such shop that I know. Daily the tide of life streams past, with few to turn eyes toward it, or bestow more than a passing thought to its appeal...

In the window there is a motley collection of memorials, gathered, it may be, from the four quarters of the earth. Tapestries resplendent with memories of old and stately mansions, iron candle-sticks, antique chairs...

In the midst of all—strange to see—is an almost life size statue of the Immaculate Mother of all men. It is perhaps some time since she was taken from a disused chapel or workshop and brought here. Her mantle was originally pale blue, lined with pink and embroidered over with stars...

Suddenly he turned his eyes in the direction of the statue, extending plying arms toward him as if beseeching recognition from one who was her child. He went up to the window and removed his cap, while over his face crept a look such as only saint and little children wear, and he said aloud: "Isn't she pretty?"—with all the favor of his soul, the while his whole being was transfused.

It was, perhaps, the first time that anyone had ever come up the hill and passed to salute the Virgin Mother, although there must have been many of her clients who passed and repassed day by day. And we may well believe that she returned the salute.

What transpired in his soul as he stood cap in hand, on the crest of the hill? While from the stately and magnificent buildings across the way the proud philosopher and the lady of fashion passed out with not even a glance toward him.

In spirit he may have been transported across the sea to a certain green isle, where in the springtime the hedge rows were thick with blossoms. As a little boy he strayed among them, picking the fairest for his Blessed Mother's shrine. It was once, in the long ago,—that, kneeling at her altar, in the month of May, he gave his heart to his Queen. Years have gone by, and in a new country trials have not been wanting,—but his heart is still loyal to her. He carries still in his pocket the worn brown beads which are as a charm to ward off every ill.

Truly we can never judge man by his exterior. The humble laborer went his way, and none of those who met him could realize that he was the soul of the true artist and poet, and, above all, the true lover. Faithful to the end—although the world

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hardly recognizes him as one of her own.

There was a something peculiarly beautiful in his love for the Virgin Mother. I could not but recall the memory of another client of hers,—a holy priest. In a nook, in the wooded dell across from the Seminary where he taught, he had erected a shrine to her. No one had ever seen it or discovered just where it was, nor would he ever permit anyone to accompany him on his daily visits there. But, at stated times, he was seen to cross the road and disappear in the thick shrubbery.

His wish was respected, and it was only after his departure for a mission in a foreign land, that they found the place. A rustic altar, erected with patient care by loving and unaccustomed hands, a poor and crude little image of the Immaculate. The grass was quite worn away by the imprint of his knees. Lined and holy, and advancing in age, yet he was singularly childlike in his devotion to her at whose feet he now securely lies, resting forever in the sunlight of her smile.

We are told of his saintly Father Paul Gombac, S. J., that only on Mary's Feast would he allow himself the pleasure of a ramble in the country. "This is our Mother's day, and one should take a little walk."

The image of Our Blessed Mother still stands in the window of the little antique shop overlooking the crest of the hill. As yet no one has claimed it, for I saw it, but yesterday in its accustomed place. Quite eagerly I looked to see whether by chance, my friend of the evening before, were passing that way and passing to salute her as he went.

But he was not there. He had gone on. I shall probably never see him again. But the lesson which all unconsciously he taught remains, nor shall it pass.

We may no in reality come upon the image of our Blessed Mother, as we go up the city street at sundown. But in spirit we may always see her, with outstretched arms and smile of encouragement,—as we climb, some times a trifle wearily—the crest of life's hill.—The Pilot.

CARDINAL GIBBONS AND ARCHBISHOP RYAN

A tender friendship existed between Cardinal Gibbons and the revered Archbishop Ryan, says Standard and Times. Many were the flashes of wit that passed between them, but back of it was that mutual esteem which means so much in this gray world of ours.

When His Grace of Philadelphia lay on his death bed, the Cardinal Archbishop of Baltimore hastened to this city in the hope of seeing him before he passed to his eternal reward. Archbishop Ryan had a bad morning, and when the Cardinal was ushered into his room seemed to have sunk into a comatose state. He walked over to the bedside and placed his hand lightly on that noble brow, and said softly: "Your Grace does not know me?"

"The closed eyes opened ever so slightly, and that voice which had thrilled so many thousands, was heard: "After forty years I know every tone of Your Eminence's voice, and now, as ever, I am convinced that you are the instrument of Providence for every good thing for our Church and country."

Great in life, the Archbishop of Philadelphia was great as he neared death, and his impressive words

but tended to confirm the declaration of Archbishop Ireland that Cardinal Gibbons has been a great power for good in this land of the free.

No true man shuns a fair fight. Real manhood wants to possess that which is rightfully his—his field which he may have and hold, and still look his fellowmen square in the eye without fear or favor.—Harold McCormick.



Use a Wash for Skin Diseases

Skin sufferers should use great care in the choice of a remedy. They should know the facts to guard against those preparations that are without merit—some, indeed, positively injurious. There is only one logical remedy for skin disease—only one way to reach the poisonous disease germs in the skin. That is by means of a

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Read What Grateful People Say. I used one sample bottle of D.D.D. and one dollar bottle and it cured my face of salt rheum. I spent a good many dollars with doctors and other medicines. I was bothered every winter and last winter I had no trouble. My skin was perfectly free from any such trouble. D.D.D. Prescription. 1412 Rae St., Regina, Sask. Last winter I sent for one of your free samples of D.D.D. Prescription. I tried it on areas that broke out on a teething baby's face, on cold sores and on a mild type of eczema and found it worked well, curing each trouble quickly and easily. This summer we have used it on bad rosacea, Blemish and it healed them in two or three applications. MRS. R. E. PURDY. May 6th 1917.—D.D.D. cured several skin troubles in my family so thoroughly I have not needed any for some time.

QUICK CURE OF WOMAN—A MASS OF SORES. In the fall of 1917 I had sores on my neck. In a short time it disappeared, but it returned in a worse form, and kept coming and going until February. I went to see a doctor who said it was eczema. At that time my face was just one mass of sores, very much swollen, and weeping water all the time. My sleep was broken and my eyes were miserable. I doctored with the doctor until the first of May. Then I sent a trial bottle of D. D. D. From the first I used it my face became clearer. When I had used the trial bottle I got for the full size bottle and used only half. Have been entirely well ever since. I will recommend D. D. D. whenever I can. Danville, Que. MRS. ORANGE HARVEY. I still give a good word for D. D. D. whenever I have a chance. MRS. ORANGE HARVEY. Danville, Que. May 16th, 1917.

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