

SIX FIVE MINUTE SERMON

BY REV. WILLIAM DEMOUY, D. D.

PASSION SUNDAY

MODERN PAGANS

"He that is of God, heareth the words of God." (John viii. 47.)

People are often heard to remark: "What a dry thing religion is!" It is not interesting in any respect to thousands of people in every country. These individuals are worse than were the heathens of days long gone by, before we had the new and true religion established by Christ. The ignorant worshippers of the pagan deities certainly had a superstition cult, but in substance they honored and adored God as they conceived Him. According to their beliefs and opinion of the Divinity, they established their forms of worship. Of course, no one would attempt to justify them in their moral actions, for they had the law of nature which was their guide, or at least should have been. They sinned when they acted contrary to the law. However, regarding their manner of worshipping God, no one could find fault with them, so long as they remained ignorant of the nature and unity of the true God. All these pagans and idolaters were deeply interested in their religion. They followed out its prescriptions to the very minutest details. Even today, in many false cults yet remaining, we can not help but admire the sincerity of the adherents. Who has not read of the almost ecstatically prayerful and religiously abstemious Mohammedans? How faithful they are to fulfill all the regulations of their religion! It is true that their form of worship is false, but the majority of them do not know this; they consider it the true faith, and live up to its commandments. No doubt many cults demand but little from their adherents, and allow them sensual enjoyments contrary to God's pure law; but the majority, if not all, of the worshippers see no harm in the whole of it. They are certain that, according to their idea of God and morality, they lead what they call a religious life.

Many in the world today, who have come to a true knowledge of God or who are able to acquire this knowledge, are living worse, from a moral viewpoint, than did the pagans of long ago; and even worse than many of the false worshippers of God at the present time. Why is this the case? The evident answer is that men are too sensual. When we speak of sensuality, we do not mean that of man's lower nature alone, but the sensuality which extends almost through his whole being, and influences him in his daily life. The religion of Christ would force him to sacrifice himself into various ways. He can not do all that nature urges him to do; he can not believe all that he sometimes would be inclined to believe; he can not act always as freely as he would wish. This curtailment of freedom is by no means acceptable to him, and frequently he will refuse absolutely to undergo it. All this results from the fact that he does not stop to consider the importance and necessity of religion. With a world surrounding him and offering him gratifications of every kind, he is not willing to look beyond and, with the eye of faith, see what is to come. He neglects the opportunities of learning the truths of religion, and disregards the warnings and commands of Christ. His temple is self, his god is self; religion he will leave to the weak-minded, or those whom he considers to be such simply because they are fervent worshippers in the true Church of God.

People of this class are worse than the pagans of unenlightened days. The ancient pagans we repeat had false gods, but they thought them true, and they had no means of acquiring knowledge of the true God. These modern pagans have set up a false god which they know is false, and this in spite of the means at hand of learning the true nature of God and the religion in which He should be honored and worshipped. Nay, many of them have set up for themselves a false god, in the very face of the truth they possess of the true God and of His true religion. There is no doubt, too, that this latter class of pagans is daily increasing in numbers. Perhaps some day the tide will turn, but there are no signs now that it is liable to happen in the near future.

There is today another class of people who endeavor to mix their paganism with the true worship of God. These are they who are not willing to make all the sacrifices their religion demands of them. They try to combine a certain worship of the world with their worship of God. This is done, principally, by despising certain teachings and laws of the Church, which conflict with modern opinions. They will be heard to say that the world is changed now, and that such doctrines are old-fashioned. Again, they will try to excuse themselves for certain actions, on the ground that society permits them, and if pressed for further reasons, they advance the theories of the world. How foolishly they act, in opposing the divine wisdom of the Church with these flimsy doctrines.

Let Catholics beware of these classes. Unfortunately, among the members of our Church, there are many who have an altogether insufficient knowledge of her nature

and of her teachings. These, and particularly those whose faith is not very firm, ever must be on the lookout. The wisdom of the world easily can be made plausible to them, and thus incline them to think the Church unwise in many of her teachings. Let them ever bear in mind that their Church was founded by Christ, for all people and to last for all times, and that He is still with it, guiding it to the end for which He established it. Above all things let them be religious, faithful to every precept of the Church. If they strive toward this end they will hear the word of God, and not the word of the world when it endeavors to substitute itself for that of God.

GENERAL INTENTION FOR APRIL

RECOMMENDED AND BLESSED BY HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XV.

EUCCHARISTIC LEAGUES

A few months ago, when the late Holy Father approved and blessed the General Intentions for 1922, he suggested certain developments which he wished Messenger Editors throughout the world to emphasize and at the same time he expressed the desire that the present Intention should be set for April. "We shall in this way," he added, "prepare for the Eucharistic Congress which will be held in Rome in the month of May." It is for the purpose of responding to this call of the Sovereign Pontiff that the Intention on Eucharistic Leagues is presented to our members. We are asked to pray fervently that the coming international Roman demonstration may be a brilliant triumph for Our Blessed Lord in the Sacrament of His love.

The last International Congress was held at Lourdes in 1914, and yet it seems a century ago, so much has happened in the interval. A devastating war paralyzed the greater part of Europe, and Catholic nations, even though they wished to do so, would have found it difficult to undertake all the preparation which those great Eucharistic events called for. Only after eight years have the Organizing Committees seen their way clear once more to invite lovers of the Eucharist to meet internationally. Preparations for the great Roman event have been in progress for over a year, and in a few weeks thousands will be flocking from all parts of the world to the Eternal City, to render public homage to God in the Eucharist.

And yet International Congresses have other objects to attain; they aim at other ends besides giving external glory to the Eucharist. No matter how royally these wonderful pageants are carried out, they are, after all, only passing tributes of homage. Solemn acts of worship, undoubtedly, but we must look beneath all the outward pomp and color to realize that something deeper and more lasting is aimed at than the fitting splendor of pageantry. From the first great demonstration held at Lille in 1894, down to that at Lourdes in 1914, Congresses were looked upon as schools in which the doctrine of the Eucharist was treated from a dogmatic, historical and disciplinary point of view. Every Congress has marked the beginning of a new Eucharistic era in the Catholic world, inspiring many activities destined to spread devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, and drawing millions closer to the Tabernacle. To cite only one instance: Since 1905 Congresses have done a great deal to popularize the decrees of Pius X., on Frequent Daily Communion and on Communion for Children.

Again, great events like International Eucharistic Congresses, involving as they do so much time and expense, must necessarily be rare in a busy world when economic considerations cannot be overlooked. It is no small matter for large numbers of the clergy and the laity to transport themselves from country to country to take part in Eucharistic demonstrations. Seeing, however, the good that is being accomplished, it is evidently the wish of the Church that minor celebrations, diocesan and even national, should keep up interest in the Blessed Eucharist, and should try to do on a smaller scale for home-lands what International Congresses do for the whole world. Here in Canada this work has been begun. Diocesan Eucharistic Leagues have been formed or are contemplated, and spiritual fruit commensurate with the efforts put forth will undoubtedly be gathered in the future.

But we should bear in mind that the historic Catholic Church has not waited for these later days to honor publicly the sublimest of our Christian Sacraments. It was to foster devotion to the Eucharist that the Feast of Corpus Christi was instituted. It is for a similar purpose, that the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated everywhere with solemnity, Benedictions of the Blessed Sacrament imparted, processions formed, Adoration Societies organized, the Holy Hour kept, days of General Communion appointed, etc. All these constitute Eucharistic groupings which assure the participation of our faithful people in Eucharistic worship, implant greater reverence for the Blessed Sacrament, help to a more vivid realiza-

tion of the treasure which we possess in our Tabernacles, and to a deeper appreciation of the great gift God has made to men. Members of the League of the Sacred Heart may justly claim membership in a Eucharistic group, for our organization is essentially Eucharistic in spirit. If specifically it cultivates devotion to the Sacred Heart of Our Lord as the symbol of His love, this is only a means which it employs to lead the faithful more frequently and more devoutly to the altar-rail. The same principle and practically the same methods are found in operation in our League as in other Eucharistic groups. We have a further illustration of the strength of numbers. Men alone and isolated accomplish little, but when they are linked together by some bond or other, their union gives strength and efficacy, and much more can be done by them, not merely for their own spiritual profit but for public edification as well.

The Communion of Reparation in our League, originally planned as an independent work, was later incorporated in the Apostleship of Prayer, and with the consent of the Holy See has been confirmed as the Third Degree, an essential element of our organization. What is this Degree but a call to hundreds of thousands to honor Our Lord in a spirit of atonement and to nourish their souls as often as possible with the Heavenly Manna? What could there be more Eucharistic than the endeavor to console the Heart of Jesus for the outrages heaped upon It, especially for the coldness and the contempt that is so often manifested towards the Sacrament of His Love? Seeing that the crimes of men tend to draw down fearful chastisements on the world, what could be more Eucharistic than to perform the most august and most meritorious act possible in the Christian life, namely, to console Our Lord by receiving Him into our hearts? What could be more Eucharistic than to thank Our Lord by a solemn act of Communion for the opportunities given us to do in our own small way what He Himself did while on earth, namely atone for the sins of men? Speaking of Saint Margaret Mary, Jesus said, "If I have so great a desire to be honored, it is in order to renew in souls the effects of the Redemption and to establish My reign again among men. . . . In revealing My Heart I wish to become again the Mediator between God and men." To facilitate this work for Our Lord is the aim of all Eucharistic worship, and this too is the aim of the Third Degree of the Apostleship of Prayer. Its mission is to atone for sin, to extend the reign of God in the world through Communion and thereby to secure the salvation of innumerable souls.

How consoling this work must be to the Heart of Jesus! In one of His intimate communings with Saint Margaret Mary, He admitted, "I take much delight in seeing their desire to receive Me in the Holy Eucharist. As often as a soul forms this desire, just so often do I regard it lovingly, that I may draw it closer to Me. . . . If adorners of My Divine Heart would manifest their love, let them make amends for the ingratitude of which it is the victim in the adorable Eucharist. . . . I have a burning thirst to be honored and loved by men in the Blessed Sacrament. . . . You at least give Me this consolation of atoning for men's ingratitude to the best of your ability."

It was with this object in view that Our Lord urged his saintly servant to receive Communion on the first Friday of every month. "Make satisfaction in this way to Divine justice," He urged her, "through the merits of the Sacred Heart, by offering Me to God My Eternal Father in expiation for the sins that are committed. . . . I wish that your heart may become a retreat for Me, wherein I may withdraw and there find solace when sinners persecute Me and cast Me out of their hearts."

Members who observe faithfully the practices of the Third Degree will find all the spiritual advantages that are to be found in regularly constituted Eucharistic Leagues. Meanwhile, we should ask God to give success to all forms of Eucharistic worship, and in these days, in obedience to the late Holy Father's wish, pray for the entire success of the international event which takes place in Rome next month. Let our members at the same time pray for the repose of the soul of the great Pontiff who took such an interest in our organization. We are confident that from his place in Heaven he is already enjoying in face to face His whose Presence we in this life must be satisfied with contemplating hidden under the sacramental veil.

E. J. DEVINE, S. J.

There is no life so narrow that it does not hold more of good than we at first think conceivable. If instead of looking with covetous eye on the superior benefits which our own life in our own way we shall be surprised to find that flowers blossom in soil which we thought only productive of weeds. The great secret is to force ourselves into harmony with our surroundings—it is not always easy to do this—and compel them to yield their best product. This resignation is one of the loftiest of virtues and one of the most heroic.—George H. Hepworth.

GET "JOINT EASE" FREE!

A Regular 60c Tube. For Rheumatic Pains, Lumbago, Sciatica, stiff, swollen, aching joints and muscles. Wonderful for Neuritis. Just rub it in and watch the pain and trouble disappear. "JOINT EASE" is better than musky old plasters and liniments that stain and blister. For free consent take kindly one to each family address, with 10c in stamps or coin to help cover mailing costs. J. P. Clearwater, No. 69-71 St. Hallowell, Maine.

SCALE AND RASH ON CHILD'S HEAD

Scalp Sore and Inflamed. Cross and Fretful. Lost Sleep. Cuticura Heals.

"From early infancy my little girl had a scale and rash on her head and her scalp was sore and inflamed. She was cross and fretful and suffered loss of sleep. Her hair would not grow, and her head was disfigured. . . . This trouble lasted for several months and I finally sent for a free sample of Cuticura Soap and Ointment. Then I purchased a cake of Cuticura Soap and a box of Cuticura Ointment and now she is healed." (Signed) Mrs. Lydia E. Kling, 760 Ashland Ave., Ocean Park, Calif. Use Cuticura for all toilet purposes.

Sample Pack Free by Mail. Address: "Eterna, Ltd., 225 St. Paul St., Montreal, Que." Send every-where. Soap 25c. Ointment 5c and 10c. Tubes 25c. "Cuticura" Soap sleeves without mail.

HAS NEVER FELT THE RHEUMATISM

Since Taking "Fruit-a-lives" The Famous Fruit Medicine

P.O. Box 123, PARRISBORO, N.S. "I suffered with rheumatism for five years, having it so badly at times I was unable to get up. . . . I tried medicines I saw advertised, and was treated by doctors but the Rheumatism always came back. In 1916, I saw in an advertisement that "Fruit-a-lives" would stop Rheumatism and took a box, and got relief; then took "Fruit-a-lives" right along for about six months and I have never felt my Rheumatism since." JOHN E. GUILDFERSON. 50c a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size 25c. At dealers or sent postpaid by Fruit-a-lives Limited, Ottawa.



Appetite Good, Gained 20 lbs.

Could Not Feel Better

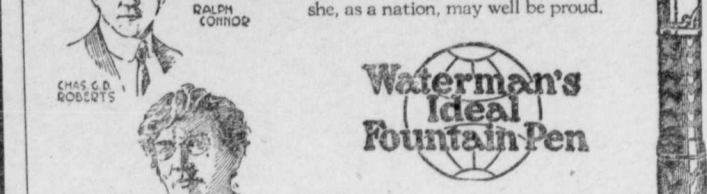
From a nervous wreck this man was restored to health, strength and happiness. He tells his own story in this letter. Mr. Ralph A. Roberts, Loverna, Sask., writes: "In 1917 I had lost all appetite, failed 25 pounds in weight, became very nervous and shaky and in fact given up all hope of recovery. For some time I had suffered from constipation, which kept getting worse, until I was fast becoming a total wreck. Doctors and their drugs were sending me to my grave at the age of 39. . . . Then I read about people being restored by Dr. Chase's Medicines and after three months' use of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food and Kidney-Liver Pills I found that my bowels were restored to normal movement each day and the constipation was no more. I had a good appetite, had gained 20 pounds and could not feel better. I shall always be grateful for these benefits." Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, 50c a box; Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, 25c a box, all dealers or Edmondson, Bates & Co., Ltd., Toronto.

Newfoundland Representative: Gerald S. Doyle, St. John's



Canada's Present in Prose and Poetry

The pen perpetuates the peoples and the problems of all periods of history; for it is by the products of the pen that we gain our conception of the past and present. One of Canada's greatest assets is the richness of her golden mines of poetry and prose. Her authors have won reputations in the world of letters of which she, as a nation, may well be proud.



is the connecting link between thought and printed page. Because of the simplicity, the perfection of the mechanism; its even flow and easy smoothness; it is the chosen pen of the writers of to-day. There are many styles—for character; but only one quality—for satisfaction.

\$2.50 \$4.50 \$5.00 and Up Selection and Service at best stores everywhere. Waterman Company, Limited. 179 St. James Street, Montreal. New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, London, Paris.



All Free!

"IMA WALKER" the Famous Walking Doll and Grand 42-piece Set of Doll's Furniture

Girls - You can walk this lovely walking doll across the floor just as if she were alive and she is so pretty every girl loves her. She's full 18 inches high and a real beauty. With her you get the wonderful 42-piece set of doll's furniture - 8 rooms complete - kitchen, dining room and bedroom. Just look at them - stove, kitchen cabinet, table, chair, refrigerator, and everything necessary to the kitchen; bed, dressing table, chest, toilet, writing desk, chairs and many other pieces for the bedroom; china cabinet, sideboard, table, phonograph, grandfather's clock and silver furniture for the dining room, and two fine lithographed case booklets. This splendid outfit will bring you the heart of every girl who gets out. SEND NO MONEY. Just send your name and address to-day and we'll send you, postpaid, a full size package of "Fairy Berrys," the newest and most delightful collection, and with it just 25 handsome packages to introduce among your friends at only 10c a package. Open your family cupboard and ask all your friends to try a "Fairy Berry." They'll like them so much that everybody will buy a package or two at once. Just one little "Fairy Berry" will sweeten the mouth, perfume the breath and ease the throat. They are so delicious they just melt like hot cakes. Secure our money, only \$5.00, when they are all sold and we'll immediately send you the grand complete doll's furniture outfit and walking doll just as you see them above (over 42 pieces). We pay all delivery charges right to your door. You take no risk as you may return any you cannot use for a full refund. Write for each catalogue for what you desire. THE FAIRY BERRY CO., Dept. F.70 Toronto, Ont. 78

Church Supplies

Try Us For What You Need The Canada Church Goods Co., Limited 149 Church St. TORONTO

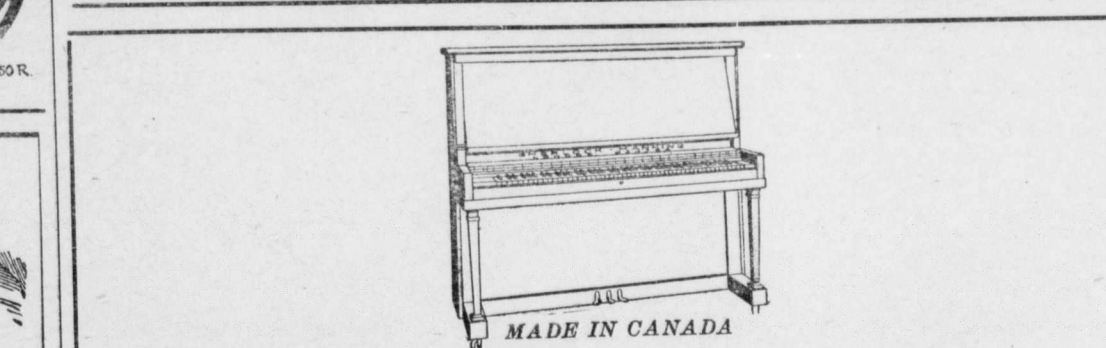
A DANDY FLASHLIGHT! With guaranteed bulb and battery free for selling only \$1.00 worth of paper and other beautiful cards of prints a packet, and Garden Seeds in a packet. Two kinds in one. Send for FREE CATALOGUE. WE TRUST YOU. BEST PREMIUM CO., Dept. F. TORONTO

for sprains

aching muscles or stiffness which soothen follow the exertion of outdoor sports, prompt relief may be had by applying Absorbine, Jr. Stimulating to overtaxed muscles, soothing to aching joints, healing to sprains. Antiseptic, too, eliminating possible infection from cuts or scratches. \$1.25 a bottle at most druggists. J. W. F. YOUNG, Inc. 344 St. Paul St., Montreal.



IMA WALKER



A Piano Makes Its Home With You

It is there for all time to come—it embodies itself into your life, becomes an important fixture in your daily routine.

That's why you should make sure the piano you buy is the best piano you can get for your home.

The Sherlock-Manning, truly a home piano, is "Canada's Biggest Piano Value". It is an instrument true to tone, a piano of faultless construction, a rare piece of beautifully finished furniture—that's why it makes its home with so many lovers of good music.

SHERLOCK-MANNING 20th Century Piano The Piano worthy of your Home

Hear it at your nearest dealers, or write direct to us for prices and handsome Art Catalogue.

Sherlock-Manning Piano Company LONDON, CANADA