

FIVE MINUTE SERMON

Rev. J. P. Hickey, O. S. B. OBSTACLES TO A GOOD LIFE: THE ENEMY

"An enemy hath done this." (Matt. xliii. 28.) The Gospel, my dear brethren, puts before us a picture of a man whose master's house was almost ruined.

So many a time each of us, and all of us, looking back into the field of the past, recalling our good resolutions, our confessions, our Holy Communion, the missions we have attended, the times without end that we have begun again to be good, are distressed and grieved at what we see.

We must not lose heart when we find the enemy's work, so craftily and cunningly done, ruining so much for there is someone else, who sees it, and judges leniently of our sinful, wasted lives for that very reason.

But though it is a plea for pardon, that we have an enemy, it is no excuse for carelessness and continuance in sin. As we know that we have an enemy, we are bound to be on guard against him.

First prayer: "Our help is in the Name of the Lord." (Ps. cxliii. 8.) The Lord has said: "He shall cry to Me, and I will hear him; I am with him in tribulation; I will deliver him and glorify him." (Ps. xc. 15.)

The other safeguard is to keep out of danger. The devil has been compared to a chained-up dog—watchful, savage, treacherous, but he is only dangerous within the length of his chain.

Many of us, alas! can turn the text in our minds over and over, and have regretfully acknowledged that we ourselves have been helplessly held down from heaven upon Calvary, and He saw there, dying on the cross, His own Son, God made Man!

Oh, yes, our sins—our mortal sins—that was their cruel work! But when we had done it, it was in our blind folly. The enemy had deluded us. We did not realize that our sins would strike the fatal blow at the Victim on the cross.

THE ANGELUS

The Myers Resolution containing the word Angelus is disturbing the Christian Scientists. The Christian Science Monitor reprints in part an article from the California Christian Advocate, which maintains:

"This devout use of the Angelus should be taken out of the resolution and the Record. Harmless as it may be in this country, though offensive to Protestants, who believe that there is but one Mediator between man and God and that is Christ Jesus, yet it will be looked upon in Roman Catholic countries like Italy as an evidence that the Pope dominates America."

President Wilson cannot afford to lend himself consciously or unconsciously to this ruse, which will be used by many for propaganda even if it was not so intended. It is an astounding fact that Congress allows itself to be led by these propagandists, and our public press puts on the soft pedal and does not call the attention of the country to these attempts which point to the destruction of the foundations of our country which are Christian and Protestant.

It is well that Congress has such champions of the "foundations" which are endangered by the insertion of a word that is sacred to at least thirty per cent. of our land forces and more than forty per cent. of our naval forces.—America

GENERAL INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER

RECOMMENDED AND BLESSED BY HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XV.

THE CONVERSION OF NON-CATHOLICS

In no way does the vitality of the Catholic Church display itself more strikingly than in the work of conversion among the Protestant sects. Yielding to the evidences of truth that she presents to them, converts are continually streaming in in large numbers. Every year tens of thousands of men and women of all ages and conditions are recognizing her infallible authority and accepting as true the dogmas that she teaches.

The work of conversion is going on quietly and steadily chiefly among those serious minds who feel the need of a definite creed.

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SPANISH INFLUENZA RAGES IN CANADA

Thousands of Cases Reported With Many Deaths.

THOSE WHO ARE MOST SUSCEPTIBLE TO IT

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prejudice takes the place of logic when we are concerned. The fact is, the mental attitude of Protestants is quite in keeping with that of Catholics because it is impossible for us to experience personally the intensity of their religious prejudices, nor do we realize how strongly they are impelled not to seek enlightenment about our position. We Catholics possess the truth; we know just what to think about the outside sects; in our security we can afford to sympathize with those who are still groping, and we do sympathize heartily.

CHARITY

I am speaking of charity as applied to all kinds of needs, and I make no exception of needs of the soul. I am speaking of that profound interior charity which seeks itself, in presence of another soul, another mind. "What are its needs? And what can I do to help to satisfy them?" We must love with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind. To love with

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all one's mind is to detect wherever they exist, the hunger and thirst of the intellect, and to fly to their relief. To love with all one's mind is to go to the assistance of mind, wherever it lives, wherever it suffers.

The heart that suffers with resignation sees farther than the mind that reasons.

To lay up treasure in heaven is the object of life. To get ready to be fit companions for the angels is the most essential of duties.

The signs of goodness are courage, moral and physical, a fact which places all really good men and women beyond the reach of ridicule and above the high water mark of contempt.

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