SIX

FIVE MINUTE SERMON

REV. J. P. HICKEY, O. S. B. OBSTACLES TO A GOOD LIFE :

THE ENEMY "An enemy hath done this." (Matt. xiii. 28.)

The Gospel, my dear brethren, pute before us a pathetic picture of the master's best endeavours almost ruined. He had had his field cared for, good seed sown : he was looking for, good seed sown : he was looking forward to a good harvest : and how was it that it was a field of weeds, choking the corn ? The master knew at onco, and said, "An enemy hath done this."

So many a time each of us, and all of us, looking back into the field of the past, recalling our good resolu-tions, our confesions, our Holy Communions, 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. What has become of all our good endeavours? We look, and there are our few scrappy prayers, listless attention at Mass, our sel-debness and uncharitableness, our So many a time each of us, and all fishness and uncharitableness, our How is sins and our shortcomings ! " An enemy hath done this."

We must not loose 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. Our Blessed Lord, in his mercy, makes that excuse for our sins when time after time, we return to Con-fession in the same sad state —" An enemy hath done this." He knows that we are no match for the enemy. He knows that the enemy, the devil, only tries to ruin our souls out of spite towards Himself, God the Son made Man. Therefore, is there forgiveness and plentiful mercy for the humble and contrite heart, heart, whenever it returns to its Lord, con-fessing, "I have wandered and stray-ed away from Thee, lured by temptations, following after pleasure, and, O Lord, see my poor soul now."

An enemy hath done this." But though it is a plea for pardon, that we have an enemy, it is no excuse for carelessness and continu-ance in sin. As we know that we have an enemy, we are bound to be on guard against him. The oftener we have bemoaned the ruin he has brought upon us, the more careful, the more earnest, the more watchful, we should be against him. The tepid and careless say, "Oh, we are no match for him" and the faint heart ed, "How often have we fallen! What use in trying more ?" These are coward's words. Can we believe for a moment that our Blessad Lord leaves us at the mercy of the enemy? No; we have two great safeguards to protect us.

to protect us. First, prayer: "Our help is in the Name of the Lord." (Ps. exxiii. 8.) The Lord has said: "He shall cry thought given to dogmatic truth, to Me, and I will hear him; I am with him in tribulation; I will de-liver him and glorify him." (Ps. xc. 15.) "The Lord is my helper and protector; in Him hath my heart where. They see confusion and dis-cord reigning among their own difnfided, and I have been helped." g. xxvii. 7.) He, who neglects (Pg. xxvii. 7.) prayer, betrays his own soul to the enemy ; he, who neglects prayer turns his back upon God's help, and despises it,

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. If we venture within reach, do we deserve pity if we are bitten ? Disobedience. indewithin reach, do we deserve ploy it we are bitten? Disobedience, inde-pendence, evil company, pleasures, bad habits, lead us on; foolishly we venture too near—there is a sudden spring; we are seized. Once more in the power of the devil through mortal sin, and the poor soul cries out again, "An enemy hath done this." No, not altogether. We knew the danger: we ventured, and we

"This adroit use of the Angelus should be taken out of the resolut and the Record. Harmless as it may be in this country, though offen-sive 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 dom-

RAGES IN CANADA "President Wilson cannot afford to lend himself consciously or un-consciously to this ruse, which will be used by many for propaganda even Thousands of Cases Reported With Many Deaths. if it was not so intended.

SPANISH

INFLUENZA

THOSE WHO ARE MOST

SUSCEPTIBLE TO IT

"FRUIT-A-TIVES"-The Wonderful

Fruit Medicine-Gives the Power

The epidemic of Spanish Influenza, which played such havoe in Europe, has reached this continent. Thou-sands of cases of the strange malady have appeared and many deaths are already reported; Surgeon-General Blue of the United States Public Health Service having stated that "Spanish Influenza will probably spread all over the country in six weeks". Practical: Unches our shores from abroad, brings those infected with the disease.

Spanish Influenza affects most

To Resist This Disease

is an astounding fact that Congress allows itself to be led by these pro pagandists, and our public press puts on the soft padal and does not call the attention of the country to these attempts which point to the destruc-tion of the foundations of our country which are Christian and Protestant. It is well that Congress has such champions of the "foundations" champions of the "foundations" which are endangered by the inser-tion 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

disease. Surgeon-General Blue urges that "the individual take all the precau-tions he can against contracting the disease by care and personal hygiene". Plenty of exercise should be taken; the dietshould be regulated, etc. In no way does the vitality of the Catholic Church display itself more strikingly than in the work of conversion among the Pro-testant sects. Yielding to the evitestant sects. Yielding to the evi-dences, 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 author

Spanish Influenza affects most severely elderly persons and others whose powers of resistance are weakened by illness, work or worry, especially those who are "run-down" or "not feeling up to the mark." The really great danger from the disease is not so much in the disease itself, as that it often develops into pneumonia. ity and accepting as true the dogmas that she teaches. Once within her The series of th fold they find a neace and a hanni. pess that they had not experienced in their previous lives. Those thous. ands are coming to us not in numbers at a time but one by one, each with his or her own story of how truth seized their minds and urged their wills to act. The conversion of a non-Catholic to the Church is now so common an occurrence that even the Catholic press rarely gives more than a passing mention to what is,

after all, an important event, namely the safe orientation of a human soul on its way to eternity. and assimilated. Everyone can take ordinary pre-cations, avoid crowded places, and use "Fruit-a-fives" regularly to insure sound digestion, to keep the bowels and kidneys regular and the whole system in the best possible condition. Then we are safe from disease. The work of conversion is going on quietly and steadily chiefly among those serious minds who feel the need of a definite creed. While

disease. disease. "Fruit-a-tives" is sold by dealers overywhere at 50c a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size 25c or sent postpaid on receipt of price by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa, Ont. there are still many among them who know that contradictory doctrines cannot be true and who feel keenly that there is something wrong some-

ferent sects, and realizing the treprejudice takes the place of logic mendous interests that are at stake, they ask in despair, "Where is the Church that Corist founded ?" And when we are concerned. The fact is, the mental attitude of Protestants is when they have reached the limit of their searching after Trath, they ex-claim, "Can it be possible, after all, that the Catholic Caurch is the Church against which the gates of Hell shall not prevail?" It may take months before they hear the answer. Sometimes years pass away before Sometimes years pass away bafore the truth lights up their path fully and they feel that they can active the truth sometimes the truth is the can active the truth lights up their path fully and they feel that they can active the truth is the truth is the can active the truth is the truth is

The Bible and its private interpreta-

tion is sufficient for them. They will allow no one, whether priest or

Pope, to dictate to them what they should believe. Protestants do not

reason as we reason. They form

their judgments about the Catholic Church, her doctrines and practices,

without examining the facts or the

reasons that are essential to a just and impartial verdict. Without

sufficient data to rely on, they decide that we are what they think we are

and not what they think we should

They

are book racks in the vestibules of many of our Canadian churches, and yet how few of the parishioners take

THE CATHOLIC RECORD

an interest in the contents of those racks! How few there are who invest five cents in the purchase of a that reasons.

invest five cents in the purchase of a that reasons. pamphlet ! We cannot hope to dispet of life. To get ready to from the minds of our "separated bretbren" if we fold our arms and sit idly by. We should be willing to spend a dollar now and then to spread the true faith around us. There should be a hord rack in places all really good men and

age, moral and physical, a fact which places all really good men and There should be a book rack in every Catholic Church in Canada kept constantly filled with Catholic women beyond the reach of ridicule and above the high water mark of contempt.

booklets and tracts for popular use. Besides a weekly newspaper should be received by every Catholic family in Canada. How many instances could be cited where the perusal of a Catholic newspaper has been the beginning of a conversion ! A few

books of instruction and controversy should also be found in every Catho-lic home, not exclusively for the benefit of Protestant neighbors but for the instruction of the inmates themselves whose knowledge of their

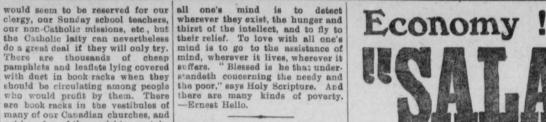
religion is often very elementary. Religion is often a popular topic of discussion with people belonging to the various sects, and as we are mingling daily with them, occasions frequently present themselves when we are called upon to contribute our share of enlighten-ment. What a sorry spectacle a Catholic makes of himself when he is unable to explain a simple point of doctrine to an enquiring Protes-

tant or to give an account of the faith that is in him. Through no merit of ours God has

Church. He has given us the gift of faith, and we should be only too anxious to share both faith and membership with others less favored. And yet what do we witness only too often ? Weak-kneed Catholics who are ashamed of their faith; people who undoubtedly believe, but have not the courage to stand up for their beliefs; people who will allow to pass unchallenged the most atrocicus calumnies against their mother the Church. It may be that, through lack of knowledge, they cannot them. selves refute those calumnies, but they at least have no excuse for not knowing that the printed refutation of them may be had for a few cents in the book rack in their parish church

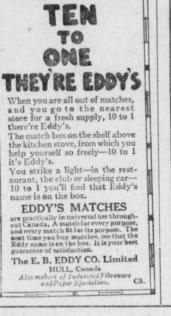
Let us take a lesson from the enemy who fills his pockets with tracts when starting on a journey and brings none home with him. How easy it would be for a zealous Cath-olic to forget a well written five cent booklet in a street car or a railway coach! Who can ever tell what effect the reading of that forgotten booklet may have on its unknown

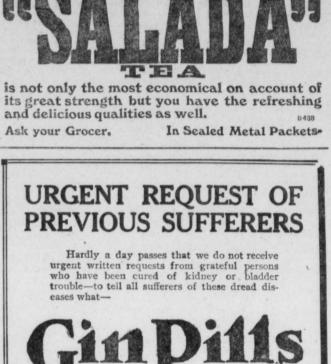
readers ! There are various ways in which our laity may exercise their zeal for the conversion of non-Catholics, but one of the simplest, as outlined here to crush out prejudices among their neighbors by the diffusion of cheap literature. Show our Protest-ant friends in black and white where the truth lies and they will soon surrender to evidence. Even though they do not enter the Churchfor faith is after all, the gift of Godthey must cease to be prejudiced against her. If we supplement this form of activity with fervent prayer and the good example of our lives, we may hope to do something in the work of conversion, a work that is dear to the Heart of our Lord, our Holy Father since he has asked us to pray for the conversion of non-Catholics during the present month. E. J. DEVINE, S. J.



The heart that suffers with resig-nation sees farther than the mind







have done for them, and will do for others,

have done for them, and will do for others. Mr. Arnold McAskell. of Hants, N.S., writes: "I have used Gin Pills and they have been a great blessing to me. For a long time I suffered from a pain in my back and could not move without agony. I failed to get any relief, and I grew worse until finally I was confined to bed. A friend advised me to try Gin Pills, which I did. Before I had used one box I began to feel better, and by the time I had finished two, I was completely cured." Mr. McAskell concludes: "I cannot say too much in favor of these great pills, and would recommend them strongly to anyone suffering from kidney trouble."

There are thousands of persons just like Mr. Mc-Askell, who are so grateful for the relief they obtained that they cannot say enough for Gin Pills. If you are afflicted by that Pain in the Back, Headache, Painful Urination, or Brick Dust Deposit—use Gin Pills.

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NOVEMBER 9, 1918

the danger : we ventured, and we fell. Keep out of the occasions of But the tens of thousands of con-

sin ; be humble enough to be guided sin ; be humble endugn to be guided by parents and priests; be constant in your prayers, and the enemy can-not hurt you. "For though I should walk in the midst of the shadow of death I will fear no evils, for Thou

art with me." (Pe. xxii. 4.) Many of us, alas! can turn the text in our mind once more, and have regretfully to acknowledge that we ourselves have been the enemy, have been God's enemy by our wiltul sins. For once, the Almighty Father They see us going to church more Calvary, and He saw there, dying on the cross, His own Son, God made of our children; they know that we the cross, fils own son, cou made Man! That awful spectacle! The Redeemer nailed to the cross, crown-ed with thorns, His side pierced with a lance! His Father from heaven looked upon Him, and knew "An nemy hath done this." Oh yes, our sins—our mortal sins the motives that impel us to believe enemy hath done this."

when we had done it, it was in our blind folly. The enemy had deluded when we had done it, it was in our blind folly. The enemy had deluded when we had done it, it was in our blind folly. The enemy had deluded when we had done it, it was in our blind folly. The enemy had deluded when we had done it, it was in our blind folly. The enemy had deluded when we had done it, it was in our blind folly. The enemy had deluded when we had done it, it was in our blind folly. The enemy had deluded did not realize that our bow down before images; that we ld strike the fatal blow at purchase pardon for our sins by inus. sins would strike the fatal blow at the Victim on the cross.

May the eyes of our soul be opened, may we have wisdom to see the guile and the craft of the enemy, that he may never again work our ruin. Fear him, but not with a coward's fear. Fear him, and take precau-tions; fear him, and watch him and keep out of reach; fear him, and pray all the more devoutly that God may aid and strengthen us.

testant world they leave behind them. There are millions living around us, but living far from us in belief and practice. Friendly neighbors undoubtedly they are, zealous and pious according to their lights, but, for all that, unconscious victims of ignorance and prejudice when there

verts who enter the Church yearly

are only a fraction of the vast Pro-

be, and our feeling of security irri-tates them. Their habit of mind may be the result of education and environment; it often comes from the study of perverted history; usually it is the result of early train-ing. When children are taught to hate the Church and to despise everything Catholic, the lesso early childhood are not easily for

gotten; it would, in fact, be asking too much from people, after they have reached manhood and woman hoed, to give up without serious reflection the notions received about us from their parents and teachers whom they are bound to respect. dulgences; that we believe the Pope cannot sin; that Rome can bind us to accept any teaching it chooses to im Often their only religious instruction is contained in the very word that differentiates their sects from the pose, etc. This uneasy feeling ends by transforming itself into a certain conviction or habit of mind that This unessy feeling ends true Church. They are "Protest-ants" merely because they have been taught to "protest" against the errors of the Catholic Church, and things must be so; and the natural outcome is a cocksureness all their own and a lofty contempt, mingled with sympathy, for us benighted, superstitious Catholics. Assuredly, they take a certain pride in this attitude

It we go to the bottom of all this if the Catholic Church were what prejudice we shall find that it is based on ignorance, for which the only remedy is enlightenment. But who is going to undertake the task of Protestants think it is, they would be bound in conscience to keep away from it!

The Myers Resolution containing the word Angelus is disturbing the Christian Scientists. The Christian Science Monitor reprints in part an Christian Scientist in part an Christian Scient Christian Scientists. The Christian believe? This would seen and Catechetical instruction are not sticle from the California Christian non Catholic way, because unhappily equipped for a campaign which

CHARITY

I am speaking of charity as ap plied to all kinds of needs, and I make no exception of needs of the soul. I am speaking of that profound interior charity which asks 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



The day will end for you as fresh as it begins - if you take Eno's each morning



THE ANGELUS