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, puts 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: ne was loanny forward to a good harvest: and how was it that it was a field of weeds, choking the corn? The master knew at once, 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 resolutions, 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 selfshness and unpharitableness. our So many a time each of us, and all fishness and uncharitableness, our 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 sateguards

to protect us. to Me, and I will hear him; I am with him in tribulation; I will deliver him and glorify him." (Ps. xc. 15.) "The Lord is my helper and protector; in Him hath my heart nflded, and I have been helped." s. xxvii. 7.) He, who neglects prayer, betrays his own soul to the enemy; he, who neglects prayer turns his back upon God's help, and

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. indethe danger: we ventured, and we fell. Keep out of the occasions of sin; be humble enough 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 weourselves have been the enemy, have been God's enemy by our wilful eins. For once, the Almighty Father They see us going to church more looked down from heaven upon Calvary, and He saw there, dying on the cross, His own Son, God made of our children; they know that we Man! That awful spectacle! The Redeemer nailed to the cross, crowned with thorns, His side pierced with a lance! His Father from heaven looked upon Him, and knew "An for instance; but the majority of enemy hath done this."

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.

THE ANGELUS

"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 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 dom-

inates 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. is an astounding fact that Congress allows itself to be led by these pro pagandists, 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 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 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 evitestant 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 author ity and accepting as true the dogmas that she teaches. Once within her fold they find a neace and a hanniness that they had not experienced in their previous lives. Those thousands 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.

The work of conversion is going on quietly and steadily chiefly among those serious minds who feel the need of a definite creed. While 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, there are still many among them who know that contradictory doctrines cannot be true and who feel keenly that there is something wrong somewhere. They see confusion and discord reigning among their own different sects, and realizing the tremendous interests that are at stake, they ask in despair, "Where is the Church that Carist founded?" And when they have reached the limit of their searching after Truth, they exclaim, "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 the truth light of their religious prejudices, nor do we realize how strongly they are impelled not to seek enlighteument about our position. We Catholice

But the tens of thousands of converts who enter the Church yearly are only a fraction of the vast Protestant 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 memy hath done this."

Oh yes, our sins—our mortal sins

them know absolutely nothing about the motives that impel us to believe that was their cruel work! But when we had done it, it was in our blind folly. The enemy had deluded ship Mary and the sainte; that we did not realize that our ld strike the fatal blow at purchase pardon for our sins by indulgences; that we believe the Pope cannot sin; that Rome can bind us to accept any teaching it chooses to im pose, etc. This uneasy feeling ends by transforming itself into a certain conviction or habit of mind that This unessy feeling ends 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, if the Catholic Church were what Protestants think it is, they would be bound in conscience to keep away

The Myers Resolution containing the word Angelus is disturbing the Christian Scientists. The Christian believe? This would seem the believe? This would seem the categories of the way of acting, but it is not the categories are not categories. Christian Scientists. The Christian Science Monitor reprints in part an Science Monitor reprints in part an science Monitor California Christian article from the California Christian article from the California Christian non-Catholic way, because unhappily equipped for a campaign which

RAGES IN CANADA

Thousands of Cases Reported With Many Deaths.

THOSE WHO ARE MOST SUSCEPTIBLE TO IT

"FRUIT-A-TIVES"-The Wonderful Fruit Medicine-Gives the Power To Resist This Disease

The epidemic of Spanish Influenza which played such havoe in Europe, has reached this continent. Thousands 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".

Practically every ship which touches our shores from abroad, brings those infected with the disease.

disease.

Surgeon-General Blue urges that "the individual take all the precautions he can against contracting the disease by care and personal hygiene". Plenty of exercise should be taken; the dietshould be regulated, Spanish Influenza affects most

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."

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prejudice takes the place of logic

when we are concerned. The fact is, the mental attitude of Protestants is

Sometimes years pass away before the truth lights up their path fully and they feel that they can add they feel they can add they can we are bitten? Disobedience, independence, evil company, pleasures, bad habits, lead us on; foolishly we wenture 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 the danger: we ventured, and we the danger: we ventured, and we the fall from their eyes, and then, aven at the price of tears and sacrifices, they resolutely take the decisive step.

The Bille and its private interpreta-The Bible and its private interpretation is sufficient for them. They will allow no one, whether priest or They 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 be, and our feeling of security irritates 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 training. 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. Often their only religious instruction is contained in the very word that differentiates their sects from the true Church. They are "Protest-ants" merely because they have been taught to "protest" against the errors of the Catholic Church, and they take a certain pride in this atti-

It we go to the bottom of all this 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

are book racks in the vestibules of many of our Canadian churches, and yet how few of the parishioners take an interest in the contents of those racks! How few there are who invest five cents in the purchase of a | that reasons. pamphlet! We cannot hope to dispel ignorance or banish prejudice from the minds of our "separated brethren" 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. These should be a beet reak in the reasons.

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

The sinews of goodness are courage, 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 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 Main 7215

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 Protestant or to give an account of the faith that is in him.

Through no merit of ours God has made us members of His true 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 atrocious calumnies against their mother the Church. It may be that, through lack of knowledge, they cannot themselves 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

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 Catholic 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

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 Protestant friends in black and white where the truth lies and they will soon surrender to evidence. Even though they do not enter the Church for 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.

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 We must love with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind. To love with



would seem to be reserved for our clergy, our Sunday school teachers, our non-Catholic missions, etc., but thirst of the intellect, and to fly to the Catholic laity can nevertheless their relief. To love with all one's do a great deal if they will only try. There are thousands of cheep pamphlets and leaflets lying covered with dust in book racks when they should be circulating among people who would profit by them. There are book racks in the vestibules of the poor, says Holy Scripture. And there are many kinds of poverty, are book racks in the vestibules of

The heart that suffers with resignation sees farther than the mind

age, 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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