#### FIVE MINUTE SERMON

BY REV. WILLIAM DEMOUY, D. D.

QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY

THE PRACTICE OF CHARITY

The opportunities for performing acts of charity today, as in St. Paul's time, are unlimited; and therefore the occasions for practising the virtue of charity are numberless. This virtue—we take it here in its comprehensive sense—means love, and what follows from true and pure love. It means the giving of help where it is needed for body or soul; it means also abstention from any word or deed injurious to man in his person, right, or character. we consider the multitude of ways in which the virtue of charity may practised, we also should realize from existing conditions, that there are a vast number of opportunities for its practical application. It is lamentable to hear people sometimes protesting that they know not where to direct their charity. Not a day dawns but the crying need of some individual — nay, of hundreds — is ringing in our ears. Few of us need go in search of the needy. They are at our doors; they are filling our cars with their supplications; they should be touching our hearts also by the occasion they give us, to say no more, of exercising the great virtue of charity, under the head of

help to the needy. Nor is it only by supplying real and personal needs that our charity can be daily practised. There are special opportunities of bringing it human tongue wields a great influence in this world. It well may be doubted whether the written word, so extensively spread in modern times, surpasses it in molding the opinions of people. What comes from the lips so often seems to produce impressions that are unceas is spread about a certain person, his reputation is certain to be enhanced; while on the other hand, if the report is to his disfavor, he is likely to be ruined. When our character is attacked, the number of our defenders is small indeed, whereas our enemies seem to be indefinitely multiplied. Men are more ready to help with their physical ti-m and the Lord's Supper, strength than with the power of again are not carefully defined. their tongue. As a rule, man is more willing to risk his life to save fellow being from some physical danger than he is to use a few kind words to protect his character. He will in a flash recognize danger to body and almost instinctively will exert his utmost strength to rescue the exposed one, while he will remain unconcerned, to say the least, when a person's good name is

being destroyed before him. That more misery and suffering is primarily caused by words than by deeds seems to be a truth that can not be denied. It would be diffi-cult to conceive anything that could ultimately produce more energy than that which words have been the means of putting into action. Of providing, for example, that where course, we can not and do not deny a priest of one of the bodies repreof good and will continue to do so; exaggeration and abuse. The one the representative of the other, real antidote to the evil they pro. Such a "concordat" would mean duce is charity. In the case of many, the practice of this virtue has been the dawn of a new day, when it seemed that light would never return.

Such a Concordate would mean a concordate with the mean of Anglican Orders and would virtually unite the contracting bodies. It is reported that such an agreement was actually signed by seemed that light would never return.

It has been the means of many a Bishop Darlington and Bishop Harzog of the office and very high opinion thought of another war, it must be gossip, brightening up and resuming its primal beauty. The sting of the serpent is soothed by its balm and ghastly ghost of ruin expelled. Charity can work wonders even where all else fails. Upon it is built the beauty of the heavens and whatever good is found upon earth. Upon its wings alone can man fly to God and rest in the peace of heaven.

No day should be allowed to pass on which charity is not practised in some way and in some degree. It is the principal stepping stone before us to perfection. In fact, it is the foundation for all else that helps us to arrive at the end for which we were created. Since it is so frequently disregarded, we are doing a twofold work in practising it—a ment of the necessity of searemental work of duty and a work of reparation. By it we build, and by it we Secrements, and the seven scurrenrebuild what others have torn down. ical councils, a concrete platform is It alone bridges the gulf separating established upon which we may God, in all His infinite perfection, debate minor questions, which should from us in our lamentable lowliness. be very easy of solution. But once it has spanned this abyes, we stend united to God by the closest of ties. We are His friends, His children, the heirs to a share in His eternal kingdom. The path which ordinarily is difficult to follow is, by we stand united to God by the closest simple. We naturally accept these charity, made a straight road from their entire epi-copate, or at least of which we never can deviate so long as we hold it as our guide. The beauty of the lives of the saints, on which we love to think and to admire, was begun and consummated in playity. Nay, the glory that has in charity. Nay, the glory that has episcopate of the Anglican Church come to any soul both in life and there is hardly any question that after death, is but the crown of charity. It reaches from earth to heaven, and returns laden with the sweetness of God's love to pour it desirous for such an approach from upon those whom it adorns.

of the times demands, these wor- finds itself, and we in turn are con-

witch, to charm, to impress, the 'Overtures have been made to us youth of the present are spending that we should set forth a regula-Their parents no doubt are doing there be no priest of our Church or their share, but why should not the young be taught that charity is also recommended to seek their spiritual. required of them? Parents should lities from the nearest Anglican. remember that a child growing up. This we could easily do were we with no inclination to the practice assured that the nearest Anglican of this virtue is preparing itself for would be of the mind that is so well a future where selfehness is the reigning god. The beauty of charity should be seen emanating from every Christian, young and old, for each is the temple of the Holy Ghost and the tabernacle of the Lord, He Who is Charity itself. is Charity itself.

#### THE REUNION OF CHRISTENDOM

The past year has been notable in the efforts which have been put forth looking towards the reunion Christendom, and equally remarkable in the small amount of real advance in this direction. I have tried to keep the readers of America informed as to the progress of these events, and of their significance from a Catholic point of view, showing as far as I could the flaw in all these schemes, and foreshadowing in some measure the failure to which I have just referred.

A year ago in October the General Convention of the Protestant Epis-copal Church drew up a tentative concordat" whereby Congregational ministers might by the acceptance of certain conditions, receive ordina tion in the Protestant Episcopal Church, and yet, at the same time, into action, to protect and defend continue their ministry in Congrethe character of our neighbors. The gational churches. The doctrinal requirements were very meager, so eager in fact, that many churchmen felt them to be u terly inadequate, and were not a little concerned when so staunch a High Churchman as Dr. Manning of Trinity, New York, espoused the cause of this "concordat." By these ingly reproduced. The natural result terms they required merely the of this is that, if a favorable report acceptance of the Apostles' and Nicene creeds, with no statement as to what constituted an adequate belief in these formularies : the Holy Scriptures as the rule of faith; the episcopate (which their application for admission would seem to include, though without any statement as to what this involved in a doctrinal sense); and the Sacraments of Bap; ti-m and the Lord's Supper, which

A little later Bishop Darlington of Harrisburg, Pa., was sent as an official delegate to work for reunion with the Old Catholics and with the various schismatic Eastern Churches. The terms that the Protestant Episcopal Church offered in these instances were very different. They involved a belief in the seven Sacraments as defined by Catholic theology; they accepted the first seven ecumenical councils whose decree contain many things not easily recon-ciled with the Phirty nine Articles or with the ordinary Anglicanism of today, and they set forth statements repudiating the "reformation" in no uncertain terms. They also offered certain terms of inter-communion, that words have done a vast amount sented was not to be had, its communicants might be entitled to rewe are now speaking of their ceive the Sacraments at the hands of beautiful flower, heavy and drooping of the Old Catholics in Switzerland. of his office and whose intention to beautiful flower, heavy and drooping of the Old Catholics in Switzerland. confer Catholic Orders must certainly life worse evila than war, or peating the atmosphere of calumny and This action does not commit the backet most daubted. whole Protestant Episcopal Church | be held most doubtful. in the United States, however, much

quarters. tious, and while professing the of Michigan, who is receiving him, have done much to destroy family greatest friendship refused to commit and of the Bishop of Massachusetts integrity. Congested districts, im themselves without further examina

"From our side the matter is very the Anglican body. Nothing would the Anglican body. Nothing would please us more than to realize that or people are not more fervent in the practice of this virtue. It is left, to a great extent, to the elders. The young are selfish today because the Unfortunately we realize the diffi. Grenfell type, and the men whom he world is selfish. We atever the spirit culties in which the Anglican Church has gathered about him and with appeal to the peoples of the world.

'Overtures have been made to us unable to do that which we would like to do and accept the hospitable invitation so generously accorded

Which amounts to a very polite way of saying, "We would like to come into communion with you, but you haven't proved that we can do it

without betraying our principles."

The Greek Churches had represen tatives at the Geneva Conference in August, where some eighty different religious bodies were gathered in an attempt to find a basis for union, and these kept their eyes and ears open. They were not misled by fine rhatoric or empty phrases about "our essential oneness." They were fully aware that before, they could feel that Anglicanism holds the teachings of this proposed concordat, the pro posal must be "sent unanimously from the episcopate of the Anglican Church." How absurdly simple, yet how impossible! Even the attenuated Lambeth appeal was not sent cut unanimously. Bishop Hall of Vermont has recently made public the fact that he voted against it, together with his reasons for so doing. It is true his objection is based on "Catholic" grounds, and because he felt the Lambeth resolutions were, to put it plainly, too Protestant, but it goes to show that proposition can secure the vote of all Anglican bishops, and certainly no really Catholic statement could command so large a vote as did the resolutions actually passed. Of this there is no doubt in the minds of any

Bishop Hall feels that putting into say, with the prophet of old, "How practice the Lambeth resolutions long halt ye between two opinions? ould, as he expresses it :

not satisfy the needs of persons outside our communion, while it challenge rings clear once more would distress and upset many of as it rang long ago on Carmel. our most earnest people, and at the same time set up a fresh barrier bs or says, never mind what you have tween ourselves and both the Latin taught or held in the past, this is a and Greek Churches, which would be crisis and you must meet it as our abandonment of belief in Holy Orders as really sacramental, con-ferring Divine grace, and not merely are, but if this is impossible, then human appointment of ministers.

action has been taken in accordance Up to date, these results as far as I am aware, are two. First there was the consecration of a Faith, and perhaps an ancestry for Swedish Lutheran "bishop," in which ceremony two English bishops took part at the invitation of the Swedish Church, actuated by the Swedish Church, actuated by the directions. As the angels wonderence. Setting saids the question as ingly and reverently gazed on the to the succession in Sweden, this Sacrifice of the Son of God. so do to the succession in Sweden, this "regularizing" of their orders from an Anglican point of view adds noth. ing to the sateguarding of the doctrine or Orders or of the Catholic Faith generally. It is certain that the Swedes do not hold the Catholic theory of Orders, and these "Anglo Swedish" bishops do not feel them-selves to be more "Catholic" than their fellows whose consecration was not aided by the presence of two gentlemen "in scarlet convocation

This seems to have taken place The Greeks were a little more cau. merely by the consent of the Bishop who confirmed him, without any con-

> ters have in the past become Epis-copalians, but most of them were obliged to take at least part of the seminary course, and all of them were put through the caronical examinations, serving their period as candidates for Holy Orders, as pre-scribed by the laws of the Church, before ordination, but in this instance there seems to be none of this. In fact, while the reverend gentleman was confirmed by Bishop Lawrence, he has not yet received episcopal ordination and has only ideals of family life.

be edifying. He says: which Congregationalism has strug-gled and for which it stands. Nor concerned about this evil that he whom I shall work, recognize that, There in the family presided over by

shipers of the material gladly grant. fronted with the same difficulties in by accepting episcopal ordination, I St. Joseph, mothered by Mary, and am in no sense to be taken as repudicance, to be. am in no sense to be taken as repudisancified by the presence of the ating my former ministry or yielding Christ Child are the ideas which to any new conviction. . . . Doc will restore to modern societ trinally, I can see no difference— lost ideals of home and fireside. there is one Lord, one faith, one bap-tism, one God and Father of all, one ever noble their standards of living

for reunion which work out in such ways? How can Catholic minded ways? How can Catholic minded holy Father pointed out, we go first to Joseph then through him to Mary,

point of view of an Anglican who parents and children is not a work holds even a modicum of their of mere social uplift. It is a vital ancient tradition and practice. And how can the Anglican Church escape to attain even a mediocre position the charge of insincerity and duplicity, however well meaning be its Other nations have given us the members, it it continues to send lesson. Modern life must be restored forth appeals based on the accept to its pristine purity by the ideals ance of one set of terms as being of the Holy Family if we are to pertrue in one direction and another set severe as a Christian nation.—The in another? How can two squal seven? And it amounts to just that ments for Greeks and Old Catholics and the Sacraments recognized as true means of grace, centering round and radiating from the great Sacra ment of the Eucharist—the very Body and Blood of the Immaculate Lamb of God, who was slain from the foundation of the world. Two Sacraments for Congregationalists and other Protestants, and these Sacraments mere badges of an empty cere mony of initiation in the one case, and of the last act of an absent teacher in the second. "No fountain

is tried. I have no appeal to make to those who are satisfied with Protestantism. It is incomprehensible to me that it should satisfy anyone, but it seems to do so; but to those who hold that the Catholic religion is true, believe that Our Lord Jesus Christ founded a Church, who consider themselves as Catholics and so as bound to obey that Church, to such I

giveth out at the same place both

If the Lord be God, fellow Him. but if Baal, then follow him ! onfirmed in their suspicions as to real men meet crises; by facing the come where your beliefs compel you And so they have, so far as any in conscience to come. You will

never regret the step. And to my Catholic friends, those who have a life long heritage of the generations back of them who have had that happy privilege, I say, you know little of what it means to you with wonder behold the threes of a soul endeavoring to find its way out of the darkness into light. Even though you may not comprehend the struggles, you can aid by continual prayer to God to send His Holy Spirit rightly to guide into all truth, those who so earnestly seek it. And may God bless both you and them through your prayers

#### HOME AND FIRESIDE

confessed that there are in modern lence, or famine, that cause them too The other event, which seems to little concern. The breakdown of less the Anglican Church throughout be the outgrowth of Lambeth and of the world, to the matters contained the Oncordat in this country, centres of population is one of therein, for it has never been ratified though without waiting for the by any authoritative body among formal acceptance of either of them, Anglicans anywhere so far as I am aware. But it is an indication of how things are tending in those

This seems to have taken place to the false sevis. War and other great disasters may kill the body, but false here to a position on the staff of how things are tending in those

The seems to have taken place the spiritual growth of untold millions, and lead strong nations to dissolution and decay.

The conditions of modern life have done much to destroy family "MY CANADA" themselves without the following states the canons of the Protestant Episseummed up in the following states the canons of the Protestant Episseummed up in the following states the canons of the Protestant Episseummed up in the following states the canons of the Protestant Episseummed up in the following states the canons of the Protestant Episseum to certain formularies, and various of family life. The family is the other formulaties, of those who would be admitted to ber Orders, are would be admitted to ber Orders, are substitution in religion and mortality that fire them to be abadient children of God and leyal proper housing, and the stern economic necessity that forces women and obtideren into industrial subjects of the tate.

Where that rudimentary training is lacking children can be neither the one nor the other. Religion and patriotism suffer and a generation of juvenile delinquents is apt to follow. The great ou break of crime that has swept over this country may be due to war, to lack of religious instruction, or to all false standards of education, or to all these causes, but primarily it can be attributed to the breaking down of the old

just resigned his Congregational Publiciets and educators who hope pastorate. His own statement as to to better the condition of the people how he looks upon the change may who are sincerly trying to cope with the divorce evil, the crime evil, the

Doc- will restore to modern society its

body in Christ, many varying gifts, can ever bring to men and women so pure an ideal, so noble a conception Is it any wonder that Rome does of the duties and obligations of the duties are duties of the duties and obligations of the duties are duties of the duties and obligations of the duties are duties of the duties and obligations of the duties are duties are duties of the duties are duties are duties are duties of the duties are duties are duties of the duties are duties ar

to such things? For if this kind of "reunion" goes on, it will be utterly impossible to tell what is what or is who and this not only from a cementing the marriage bond, cementing the relations between necessity for any nation that hopes or to endure more than a few years.

#### THE HIGH TIDE OF CRIME

Under the above beading the Rev. J. Rothensteiner discusses, in the Fortnightly Review of January 1, the causes that underlie the present high tide of crime in this country.

He first knocks at the doors of our courts of justice, and inquires there | gence?" whether they are guilty of remissness in the performance of their duty. The administration of justice, though by a partisan use of the pardoning power, does not give him a sufficient sweet water and bitter," yet here it explanation. For, after all, criminals are prior to courts, and the

question is. Why have we criminals? Next he goes to the family and analyzes the methods of education. While the foolish pampering of children naturally breeds a spirit of dis-obedience and self-will and thus fosters the growth of criminal inclinations, "this failing," our spokeeman "is not sufficient to account for the manifest perversion of so many of the youth of our land. What then is the cause?

We find it in our much-lauded modern educational system, in our secular schools. Not as though they taught disregard of the moral or civi law, or intentionally promoted it yet, I believe, thoughtful men will agree with me when I say that absence of any teaching on God, the Master of the Universe and Supreme Law giver, on the wonders of nature as the work of His band, or the moral beauty and grandeur of a virtuous life, on the mysteries of death, resurrection, and the life to come on the sacred and eternal truths of religion, must have a materialistic influence on the youthful mind and We believe that this awful neglect of religious education in the youth just now emerging into manhood and womanhood is the deep seated cause of the prevalence

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of lawlessness and crime in our Where there is no respect for God and His law, there can be but little respect for the laws made by man. Fear of the penalties of the law is growing less and less. What then should restrain the seeker after quick gains and consequent indul-

In the light of this disquisition. which we think correct, it would appear that the enemies of religious cometimes lax and paralyzed, besides schools are the enemies of the by a partisan use of the pardoning country, a conclusion which we have emphasized more than once before. For if our country can no lorger guarantee to us the quiet "pursuit of life, liberty and happiness," it has failed of its mission and must come to an early end What God forbid !- S. in The Guard ian.

> A sound mind in a sound body is the most useful instrument wherewith to serve God .- St. Ignatius

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