FIVE MINUTE SERMON THE REV. F. P. HICKEY, O. S.

SIX

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER

EASTER

NEGLECT OF WARNINGS (James 1, 25.)

These words should strike every-body: "Not becoming a forgetful hearer." For let us compare what we have heard, and what we have remembered to do. God's calls and quite warnings from our earliest years have unceasingly been sounding in warnings from our earliest years have unceasingly been sounding in our ears. Some have struck us more forcibly, and we have paid attention to them for a time; others, and, alas. I so many, have fallen on unheeding ears. For instance, is it not common after listening to a sermon for us to say, "Oh, we know all that!" Yes, but have we carried it out? Nay, rather, have we not become habitually "forget-ful hearers?" It is from conscience that we hear

It is from conscience that we hear most frequently and most unmis-takably. We wince under the lash takably. We wince under the lash of a rebuke; we are ashamed at the truth of the complaint of that monitor within us. Ah! yes, at the time it may make us miserable, but only for a time, and very soon, perchance, we become forgetful hearers once again. Do not suppose that this descrip-tion applies only to bad and very tion applies only to bad end very tion applies only to bad back to be the the truth of the sins of the taken the soull in explation of the sins of the mankind. He had finished the work the father had given Him to do. He had founded His Church, He had ordained His Vicar, and now He was about to return to His Father and to send to them the Paraelete; and the Apostles, seeing the glory of

perchance, we become forgetful hearers once again. Do not suppose that this descrip-tion applies only to bad and very careless people. They have become so callous, that they refuse to obey. They sneer at the idea of fearing conscience, though in sickness or in danger they do fear it, and for a little while are most cowardly. They seldom hear a sermon or read They seldom hear a sermon or read a good book, and have forgotten the wise and holy lessons of their youth-ful days. They so seldom hear anyful days. thing that is good, that they may be said to be past the stage of for-

thing that is good, that they may be said to be past the stage of for-getting. No, it is our own selves, ordinary good Catholics, who have to take heed of this warning, "Not becom-ing a forgetful hearer." It is a danger and an evil to forget God's calls and warnings, and why do we so often find ourselves guilty of it? It is, first, because we ourselves are weak and fickle, and prone to evil; that we are too selfish to really try to do our best, and are easily dis-mayed and lose heart at our failures. It is, again, because we are in the world, surrounded by the world, and filed with the spirit of the world. We have not learned to keep ourselves "unspotted from this world." We grow enamoured of the world, of its ease and com-forts. We are so taken up with the pleasant things of life. This is the danger. The world is an enemy of danger. The world is an enemy of God. And at last we are so en-thralled and fascinated by this worldliness, that we have no will-

regarding mere matters of careless-ness or negligence. If it had been a question of grave moment, of urgent necessity, of positive danger, we should have remembered and promptly obeyed. It is just in this kind of excuse that so many make a dreadful mistake. The word of God in the Scriptures and experi-Yes, self can be so taken up with the pleasures and comfort of life,

THE CATHOLIC RECORD

On the surface there is no reason

for this movement away from the Church. The priests live in the same poor conditions as the people. In these times of dis-tress and sickness the Catho

parts of the country. Their Samar-itan activities reach the whole pop-ulation without distinctions of class or political affiliations. The "Daugh-ters of the Divine Love" from their headquarters on the Kaiserstrasse, Vienna, send out truck-loads of

and at the foot of which, under the Shadow of the trees of Gethsemane He had suffered the crucifixion of His soul in explation of the sins of marking. the Apostles, seeing the glory of the beatific vision which overflowed His soul and transfigured His body,

the Apostles, seeing the beatific vision which overflower a and themselves aglow with a joy and themselves aglow with a joy that was the foretaste of Heaven the to Israel?" But not for them was the visit was to be may prophecies; their mission was to be no surface explanations of this movement toward apostacy, the the earth. And when He had given the them this, His last mandate, lifting them this agared the are dis-tunda He blessed them, and His sacred with weir known masonic organiza-tions. The speakers who are fing-ing their calumnies against the Church at Socialist meetings and who are organizing desertions to the ranks of undenominationalism comment of the speakers who are fing-the decade, some orders even losing men. The India and Ceylon. The European missionaries have shown very little increase during the decade, some orders even losing priests increased by 15%.

our work is to follow in the path He has made for us, carrying our unremitting propaganda of the Socialist press. The methods which cross, if needs be, even to the summit of Calvary. But we are not like those who have no hope, for we have His promise, that if we are in the clergy has been able to use so combat this ignorance and prewarnings of the Almighty, let alone to make a strenuous endeavor to be "a doer of the word." Many will object: I can well believe and own that it is true that we have been forgetful hearers many and many a time, but it was

MASONS JOIN HANDS WITH SOCIALISTS

THE ASCENSION

When the forty days of the Risen

Yess self can be so taken up with
the pleasures and comfort of life,
that there is utter forgetfulness
and neglect of endeavoring to save
our soul. Conscience is powerless,
the grace of God unheeded ; yea, if
an angel came and took us by the
hand to lead us, we should be
unwilling to believe his warning,
unwilling to believe his warning,
in all nationalist parties. Events, in
addition there has developed a
in all nationalist parties. Events, in
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in all nationalist parties. Events, in
in all nationalist parties. Events, in
in all nationalist parties. Events, in
in all nationalist parties, in and particular, where Fascism
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the bus the faithful Abraham, "a justVienta, March 19.—European
the bus the faithful Abraham, "a justInduct the faithful Abraham, "a justVienta, March 19.—European
to stop wholesale admissions and to
to Italy, in particular, where Fascism has placed a ban on the lodges, and in Germany and Hungary where Facist leagues have been estab-lished, have filled Masonry with alarm and are impelling it to move bag and baggage into the Socialist camp. All Masonic power and energy in Europe today are centered upon the development of Socialism which has become the incarnation of the hatred against the Catholic Church MANY LED INTO APOSTACY In the ostensible programs of the Socialist party in Central Europe the Marxian principle that "Relig-ion is a private matter" is still and rebuilt. ion is a private matter" is still allowed to stand as a promise that the religious convictions of an individual are not to be intrigued upon. In practice, of course, this has been abandoned long ago, but never before has Socialism been so much the scapegoat of atheism as it is now. In Czecho-Slovakia violent Socialist propaganda lod buched Socialist propaganda led hundreds Christian Peoples Party has become so marked during the past few of thousands into apostacy from their Church and into an undenomimonths that the latter party can be regarded as practically a thing of the past. Particularly in the Rhine-land and in the district around Aixnational heathenism, while in Austria a storm is now being caused by the efforts of the Socialists to separate the masses of the Socialist la-Chapelle has this drift back to the Center been noticeable. Many workers from the Church. For several weeks, Socialist propaganda urging the people to abandon the Catholic Church and openly declare their non-adherence to any Church, has been increasing daily. During these few weeks it is estimated that in Vienna alone over 10 000 percents have cold the

"a forgetful hearer :" and, says the Scripture. "His wife, looking behind her, was turned into a statue of salt " (Gen. xix. 19). Let us not be "forgetful hear-ers," but be ready and obedient to flee from sin and the evil one, and give ourselves to God. We are all like Lot or Lot's wife! Very nearly lost, but, thank God, not quite ; or, alas! very nearly saved, but not quite !

3,000,000 LISTED AS CATHOLICS

NEED OF MORE CLERGY FOR FAITHFUL OF INDIA AND CEYLON

The Catholic population of India and Ceylon numbers now more than 3,000,000 souls according to the Catholic Directory of India, Burma and Ceylon for 1923, which features an excellent article by the Rev. J. C. Houpert, S. J., in which he sketches the progress of the church

in the last three decades. Father Houpert contrasts the strength of Catholicity in 1901, 1911 and 1921 and points out that in the

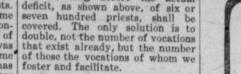
last decade the church fared worse than in the three preceding decades Holland. No inquiry is made as to the religious or political affiliations of any applicant for relief. Never were more works of charity being done in Austria by the Catholic Church, and yet hatred for the Church has not disappeared. On the contrary, it seems as though the amore brilliantly. Bethlehem's the more brilliantly. Bethlehem's

PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE

forty years and the prospects for the future, Father Houpert says :

"In the decade ending with 1880, the number of Catholics grew by the Church, its doctrines, its priests 297,000 and that of priests by 274; and its institutions, because of the whereas in the last decade the respective numbers are 337,000 and 240, and so with other decades;

isus," founded a few years ago, provides funds for the training of does. "The growth of the Missions obeys priests who are unable to pay for their own training. Just now there certain laws : "1. At first there is the stimulus of novelty and conquest, the dash are 450 students receiving aid from EFFECTED APOSTACY AMONG THE WORKING CLASSES— CATHOLICS PLAN TO By Dr. Frederick Funder Vienna, March 19.—European Masonry is apparently centering is



foster and facilitate. "Another suggestion is to fire the laity with the Apostolic spirit. One of them writes: 'In the glori-ous task-of converting India it is meet that the laymen, hitherto neglectful—and neglected by an overworked clergy—should assert themselves as also instruments of God in building up the Church. Without an active and cooperating laity the ministry of the priest is handicapped on every side." The Directory, published this year

The Directory, published this year for the 73rd time, records the death of Monsignor Tessier, the Bishop of Mysore and the succession of Monsignor Despatures to that see. It also chronicles the consecration of Monsignor Perrichon, as coadju-tor of Malaaca tor of Malacca

CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE TAUGHT THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE

Helena, Mont., April 13.—The use of correspondence courses for instruction in Christian Doctrine is increasing with remarkable rapid-ity, according to Msgr. Victor Day, Vicar-general of the diocese of Helena. Besides extensive use in the Helena diocese, he says, the First Communion correspondence course is now in use in the following course is now in use in the following States : Oregon, Nebraska, Illinois, Arkansas, West Virginia, Idaho, Iowa, Oklahoma, California, Wis-consin, Washington, North Dakota, Colorado, Wyoming, New York, Virginia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Alabama, Ohio, South Dakota, Louisiana, Rhode Island, Missouri, Maryland, Minnesota, Texas and the Territory of Alaska.

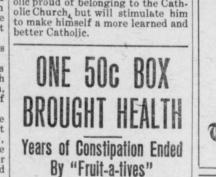
The courses have also been intro-duced in British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan in Canada.

SCIENTIFIC POSERS

The danger to Catholic students, said Archbishop McIntyre of Bir-mingham, addressing the Glasgow Catholic Institute, is not from the real men of science, but from those Regarding the growth of the Church in India during the past science

> That being so, said the Arch-bishop, what the Catholic Church wants is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

He urged on his hearers the need for the study of history, particular-ly the history of the Church. A faithful study of the history of the past, and particularly of the past of European civilization, said His Grace, will not only make the Cath-olic proud of belonging to the Catholic Church, but will stimulate him to make himself a more learned and better Catholic.



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MAY 5, 1928

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Recall the example. Lot, the nephew of the faithful Abraham, "a just man," as St. Peter calls him (2 Pet. ii. 7), chose to live in the country near the Jordan, because the locality was as beautiful "as the paradise of the Lord," says the Scripture (Gen. xiii. 10), though it was near the infamous city of Sodom. He and his wife, however, chose to live there in spite of all. They were "forgetful hearers," for they knew well that they should flee from iniquity and avoid and dread the contamination of the wicked

And when the Lord decreed to destroy the city of Sodom and the country around, through Abraham's prayers, angels were sent to deliver them. Lot was warned by them and commanded to flee. He knew the anger of the Lord was justified, for his soul had been vexed with the wickedness around him, yet he was loth to go! Life was so pleasant there; the earth so rich and fertile; he had all that man could want. The pleasures of life so enthralled his wife and himself that the fear of the threatened judgment of the Lord could not move him. The angels had to "press him. And as he lingered, they took his hand and the hand of his wife and two daughters, because the Lord spared him. And they brought him forth and said; 'Save thy life; look not back lest thou also be consumed.' They had to hasten him; he was reluc-tant and lingered; and much more tant and ingered; and much more his wife. She lingers and hesitates; and the angels cry-: 'Make haste, and be saved; look not back.'" She could even be deaf to the warning voices of the angels. Love of her home, grief at leaving it, made her

conferences on religious science out-side of the churches, modeled after similar institutions in England and "And how does it stand with us in India? One point is clear : the America. It is also planned to extend the apostolate of the laity. All of these questions will be con-sidered at the General Austrian Catholic Meeting which is to be held in Vienna in June. Austrian Catholics are coming the coming clergy has not even kept pace with the people, far from it. In the last sixty years the church has passed from 1,171,000 in 1860, to 2,970,000, an increase of 154 per cent. At this same time the number of clergy Catholics are coming to a realiza-tion that the efforts being made to

should have passed from 1,504 to 3,820. In 1920 it stood at 3,145 only. We face a shortage of 675 priests. Add to this that our numbers the Federal Chancellor, will be in vain, unless the moral character of the people, threatened by irreligion include all priests alive, the aged and the infirm, as well as those who moral corruption, can

will spend their lives in schools, colleges and seminaries, or in directing nuns. The mere practice of more frequent confession, which

CATHOLICS RETURN CENTRIST now grows stronger in certain quarters, calls for one priest more PARTY

By Rey, Dr. Wilhelm Baron von Capitain Cologne, March 26.—The return to the Center Party of former mem-bers who had left it to form the

where up to now two sufficed. "It is for us cold comfort to learn from the following figures (1918)

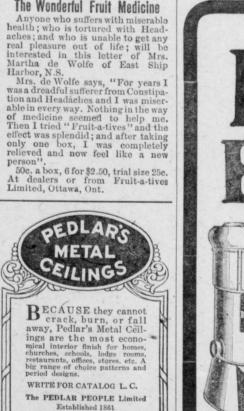
that other missions are not much better off

Mission Fields Baptized and Priests Catechumens

Africa . 2.109 China.....2,423,000 _ 2,344 Japan 171,000 Indo-China1,257,000 271 1,483

prominent members of the Chris-tian Peoples Party have announced "Our conviction is that no mission

tian Peoples Party have announced publicly that they have no connec-tion with the party of Dr. Dorten of Wiesbaden or Dr. Smeets of Bonn, who have been accused of endorsing the plan to set up an independent Rhenish Republic under the protection of France. is estimated that in vienna alone over 10,000 persons have sold them-selves to this modern heathenism. On March 3, in the Tenth District of Vienna 356 persons announced their separation from the Church,



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