

FIVE MINUTE SERMON

REV. F. P. HICKRY, O. S. B. SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE REST OF THE COMMANDMENTS

"Keep the Commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in His way, and fear Him." (Deut. x. 1)

The rest of the Commandments, my dear brethren, are safeguards against our own selves. We are all prone to evil. Our natural inclinations, if not kept under and corrected, would lead us to deadly sin.

As pride leads us to disobey God and refuse honour to our parents, so by anger and envy we break the Fifth and Eighth Commandments; quarrels, murders, lies, and calumny are their children.

Thus, "Thou shalt not kill" forbids also those sins that might lead up to murder. And they likewise can be mortal sins; as anger, hatred, revenge, and their sequels, quarrelling, fighting, and doing injury.

This is how the Fifth Commandment is broken: but to keep it we have to be men of peace, for they "are called the children of God."

We know to what depths of shame the violation of the Sixth Commandment will lead those, who give themselves up to it. With this, especially, it is necessary to resist the beginnings.

There are many, thank God, who never feel tempted to break the Seventh Commandment, "Thou shalt not steal."

But there are many more, whose self complacency will receive a shock, if they will examine all that is included in these words. It is not only pick-pockets and burglars who break this word; there are many others.

But who shall say that he never breaks the Eighth Commandment—"He that sins not in word, the same is a perfect man?"

Do unto others as you would like others to do to you. Then their good name would be safe, and you would bid fair to be a perfect man.

The Ninth and Tenth Commandments probe our very heart's core. Our Blessed Lord has said: "From the heart come forth evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false testimonies, blasphemies."

This is our lifelong work: "Keep the Commandments." Be not faint-hearted. In every command from God there is a promise of help, if we attempt it; a sure reward, if we fulfill it.

TEMPERANCE

From a bulletin issued by the Chicago Health Department:

"You had a glass of beer or three fingers of rye to-day, didn't you? You think that it puts snap into your wits and steam into your cylinders."

"Seventeen shells have fallen on the Archbishop's palace, and the houses round are wrecked and deserted, for the cathedral quarter is more mercilessly shelled than any other in the town."

NATION'S THIRST IS COSTLY Nearly two billion dollars was spent for drink—soft and hard—by the people of the United States within the last three years, according to figures compiled by the American Cereals Association for July 14.

Since 1860 the per capita use of spirit distilled from 2.86 gallons to 1.35 gallons in 1916. For three years the per capita use of spirits has varied from 1.43 gallons in 1914 to 1.25 in 1915 and 1.35 gallons in 1916.

GRAPHIC ACCOUNT OF RHEIMS

SYSTEMATIC AND WANTON DESTRUCTION STILL CONTINUES

A correspondent of the London Times gives the graphic description of the town of Rheims, as it is at the present time. He writes:

"The systematic and wanton destruction of Rheims Cathedral is a tragedy and crime which still continues. When I last visited the town eight months ago the case was thought as bad as it could be. It is infinitely worse now."

"On the streets behind the Cathedral and on each side of it in the open square there are several huge craters, nine I think, all made by 380's, which just missed their mark."

On the west facade, which is protected from direct hits, the weather is gradually flaking away the surface, finishing the ruin begun by flames from a burning scaffold.

the nave, which looks like a rough road thickly strewn with broken and twisted fragments of lead chips, brilliant-colored glass, and masses of stone and mortar among which at regular intervals there are rows of neat little heaps of sifted earth and rubbish, from which the workmen carefully gleaned every atom of debris that can be used to piece together and repair the windows and stone work while the gigantic task of restoration is taken in hand.

FAITH OF THE PEOPLE

"The faith of these Frenchmen is a thing of wonder. Everyone about the place—the old architect who worked in the Cathedral all his life, the caretaker (who can tell the story of each shell, and firmly believes some of which hit the fabric without doing any damage, being stayed by the hand of God), most of all the silver-haired old Cardinal, Archbishop Lucon, who, with the utmost bravery and devotion, has stuck to his post as guardian of the house of God, to father his poor through the whole bombardment, all have the unshakable conviction that whatever ruin the guns of the enemy has done or may yet do to the sacred building, it must be raised again to the glory of God and France."

"But in Rheims they are all brave and all have faith in the destinies of the country. The Mayor and his colleagues, who are forced to hold municipal meetings underground; the workmen and women who carry on as if there were no such things as shells, no less than the spiritual pastor of the town. The city is dead, whole streets are in ruins, scores of houses gutted by fire, and hundreds smashed and splintered. In street after street you see not a living soul—nothing but grass growing. The stones in every wall still standing are pitted with flying fragments. Every day fresh ruins are added to the old piles long ago covered with grass and weeds. Nearly every day one or two more are added to the list of non-combatants, killed for no kind of military purpose."

UNDAUNTED SPIRIT SHOWN

"Yet those left and the whole of France with them, however sadly they cry in their hearts: 'How long, O Lord, how long?' never doubt for a moment that the day of deliverance is as certain as the dawn. Of all fatal and futile mistakes the German nation has made the mad, vain effort to destroy the works as well as the rights of civilization in the bombardment of the Cathedral of Rheims is one of the maddest and last to be forgiven."—The Tablet.

DAILY MASSES FOR DYING SOLDIERS

Rome, Aug. 13.—His Holiness Pope Benedict XV. has written an eloquent letter to Father Pedrini, S. J., director of the Primary Union of St. Joseph, "Pro Agonizzanti." The Holy Father speaks of the numbers now passing through this life and congratulates the Pious Union on its invitation to its priest members, all and several to say Masses in turn for those dying each day.

"Inasmuch," he continued, "as the Roman Pontiff is first among the ministers of the altar we are glad to encourage the excellent initiative and obey the call of duty, applying the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass to this intention on the second, if the first is a feast day."

His Holiness grants to all the priests who follow the initiative many precious privileges, particularly of enriching with indulgence roses and other devotional emblems.

LIBERAL CHRISTIANITY

The great defect of liberal Christianity is that its conception of holiness is a frivolous one, or, what comes to the same thing, its conception of sin is a superficial one. The defects of the baser sort of political liberalism recur in liberal Christianity; it is only one mixed with worldliness. The sincerely pious folk look upon the liberals as persons whose tale is rather profane, and who offend religious feelings by making sacred subjects a theme for rhetorical display.

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The Composition of Coca-Cola and its Relation to Tea Prompted by the desire that the public shall be thoroughly informed as to the composition and dietetic character of Coca-Cola, the Company has issued a booklet giving a detailed analysis of its recipe which is as follows: Water, sterilized by boiling (carbonated); sugar, granulated, first quality; fruit flavoring extracts with caramel; acid flavorings, citric (lemon) and phosphoric; essence of tea—the refreshing principle.

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