### FIVE MINUTE SERMON

BY REV. WILLIAM DEMOUY, D. D. SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY

THE CHURCH OUR GUIDE "The seed is the word of God; and they by the wayside are they that hear; then the devi-cometh and taketh the word out of their heart lest believing they should be saved." (Luke viil., 1), 12.)

Today the Church puts before the people for their edification, Christ's parable of the sower and the seed. Our Saviour made this parable embrace all classes of men, and it truthfully depicts to us how have been and are affected spiritually. It has nothing to do with their temporal welfare, but relates solely to the good of their souls and their forthcoming reward. This kind of a Gospel is needed in our times. We are living in an age when men's minds are turned more toward temporals than spirituals—or, at least, when they are loath to sacrifice the things of body for the benefits of In many the material has supplanted the spiritual; nay, many have never known either the spiritual or its demands. The offspring of the many practical pagans of the present time are in most cases pagans themselves through life. Nay, it is even difficult to hold many who have been born and reared more fortun ately. The lure of the pleasures of this life claims many of them. They consider the Church's voice gruff and her commands foolish. The enemy of their salvation has many means at his command by which he can lead them away-"he cometh and taketh the word out of their heart, lest believing they should be saved."

For Christians, therefore, the work of conservation-or, as it is commonly cailed, perseverance to the endshould be one of the foremost things in their minds and one of the principal ends of their spiritual endeavors. And, needless to say, it requires a rational effort on the part of man. He should not blindly and vainly expect to be given this all important The work of salvation in a person who has the use of reason re quires the most fixed and firm intention as well as meritorious acts. must not perform our spiritual duties forgetfully or mechanically. They must be guided by our intention, as the modern vehicle is guided by hand that steers it. God's desire is that we fully realize why He has put us upon earth, and how we must attain our end. We must naver lose sight of this fact. If we do, we soon shall flud that we are groping in darkness, like the traveler by night crowning and completing the union who has wandered from the path of wax and wick, typifies the divine that would lead him to his destina-

No matter how fervent the Christian, nor how strong his faith, this truth of the necessity of perseverance ever should be before him. Many have fallen, who once were pure and good and faithful, because they had become careless about their salva-Some have thought that it would be easy to return, but alas! they are still far away. Sin blights, it weakens, it blinds. It inflicts, moreover, a wound on the soul from which it is difficult to recover. He who plays with Satan has ever afterwards a strong inclination to return There are some plants to his hovel. in the world which, if we touch, poison us to such an extent that we scarcely ever completely recover from the effects. Satan and grievous ain are at that moment burning before the poisonous spiritual growths the Blessed Sacrament, taking the which, if we place ourselves in con place of our hearts, silently, pusely tect with them, will often poison us for life, or at least leave us so weakened that a relapse is easy. People often seem to forget that some things n effects that are inevitable, or so nearly inevitable that only a special intervention on the part of God could prevent them. Fire is sure to burn, for it is its nature to do so. No one can deprive it of this quality. Sin has effects that will inevitably follow; the more serious the sin the more terrible the effect. He who is seriously burned has but a slight chance for life; and in like manner he who has sinned grievously finds it difficult to free himself from the effects of his act. The words of Holy Writ, "he who loves the danger shall perish in it," express the truth concisely for us.

When Catholics consider this truth they necessarily must see that they must not expose themselves to all the temptation that is rampant in the world. Satan is dancing at, many a scene that a shameless element furthers and a lax society permits. If Catholics do all that civil laws permit, there is no chance for their salvation. Yet there are many who believe they are justified in doing devil. He who thinks that he can indulge in certain things which the law tolerates is placing his salvation at stake. The Church alone is the Catholic's guide. He who is deaf to her commands and exhortations, even when she forbide things that other churches permit, will never be among those in whose hearts the

word of God takes deep root. The Church's vigilance over her children and the interests she manifests in their spiritual welfare are fold seek the help of this Armenian made known in the commands she gives and in the prohibitions she establishes. Behind them all is not only the wisdom of an experienced guardian, but also the light of the guardian, but also the light of the Holy Ghost and the infallible truth of God. Christ's words, "he who hears you, hears Me," are as true today regarding the Christian's adherence to the Church as they were of the earlier brethren's complete submission to the apostles and their teachings. The Church's laws are all made for her children's safety

and welfare. Without them, they agents could conceive or administer, would be thrown continually into dangers that would in time bring about their complete spiritual destruction. As it was the star of Bethlehem, and no other, that guided the Wise Men to the manger of Christ, so it is only the Church that directs (Cathelice to the haven of Christ, so it is only the Church that Catholics to the haven of eternal safety.

### CANDLEMAS DAY

On February 2nd we again cele-brate the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In common speech we call it Candlemas, because on this day the candles prescribed for divine service are blessed. The not made of this material. The very word "candia" (Latin Candela), in the language of the Church, always signifies a caudle made of bees wax. Twelve Tallow, sperm, paraffice, patent wax,

to be used for divine service.
It is an ancient and praiseworthy custom for Catholics to procure at least one wax candle for this and after it has been blessed, to take it home to use it at the bed of the dying, or during a storm, or for any other proper and as the Church wishes. Good Catholics, we know, are not catisfied with this alone; they offer one or more candles for the service of the alter, thus following the example of Mary, who, though not subject to the law, offered a sac-

rifice in the temple.

In a book entitled "The Sacramentals of the Holy Catholic Church," we find the following beautiful remarks

in negard to this custom : The Church calls us to the temple for the Parification, that our eyes, too, may see this glorious Light, recognizing it in its symbol, blessed candle, that our hands, too, may hold the Intant Saviour in holding the waxen taper which represents Him.

How full of meaning are all the

Not by chance has the Church chosen the wax candle as a type of her Lord and Masker. St. Ansalm of The wax product of the virginal body; the wick enclosed in the wax, and forming one with it, images His human soul, whilst the ruddy flame, nature, subsisting inconfusedly with human nature in one divine person."

Let us then make, on receiving our blessed candle, an act of faith in Christ the light of the world, enlightening every man coming into the world. Les us remember we are the children of light, that as such we ought to shed around us the light of good example. Oh, dear readers! if our lives were as they should be, we would be as so many torches placed upon the pathway of truth to show our poor erring countrymen the way to the glorious city of God, the Holy Roman Catholic Church.

We should make on this festival an offering of candles for the service of the altar. Oh! what a consoling thought of us, when we are at our daily work, that perhaps our candles Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Nor should we forget ourselves. candle especially for our own private lordly faculty. use to take to our houses to burn before a crucifix or an image of the Blessed Virgin to remind us that our souls, like it, ought to be consuming the dross of earthly affection in the

We must put our confidence in these holy candies, for the prayers of the Church have ascended to God that "He would bless and sanctify them for the service of men and for the good of their bodies and souls in all places. Pious Catholics light them during thunderstorms, that God, in consideration of Christ Whom they represent, may reign to protect His sarvants. Let us light them whenever we are threatened with calamity, and, if we do so in a spirit of faith we will experience signal proof of God's fatherly care for us. But above all, let the holy candle burn by the badeide of the sick and dying, dispelling, by its blessed light, the shades of trouble and despair which the prince of darkness strives to cast around the Christian soul at whatever the State permits. But the hour of its dissolution and illuminating the dark road through the valley whose light is God.—Catholic Bul-

ST. BLASE

FEAST FEBRUARY 3

The blessing of St. Blase must certainly have wrought wonders in curing sore throats, since every year the afflicted members of Christ's fold seek the help of this Armenian

Bishop and martyr.

The priest in giving the benedic-

what a rebuke is he to our want of Crucified as a proof of His memory of up. - Catholic Columbian.

#### THE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

(By Rev. E. F. Garesche, S. J.)

There is something disconcerting and unexpected in the coming of New Year for the man or woman candles must be made of bees wax. who is sincerely bent on making the This is so imperative that the Church has preferred to have even her most life. The days slip off so nimbly sacred rites performed without lights and seem to leave behind so little of rather than have those used that are real achievement that when the pausing and accounting time comes suddenly on us we gasp to think that another year has really got away. Twelve months! Three hundred and sixty-five whole days since last or any other than bees wax candles we sat, on New Year's eve, and cannot be blessed, and are forbidden soberly considered what should be soberly considered what should be our New Year's resolutions! How have the hours all stolen by, and what have we done with them?

The comical contrast between the great things we meant to do, when the year was new, and our actual achievements has made a jest of New Year's resolutions. The comic papers, which move in well-worn grooves and have long ago exhausted the possible sources of their inspiration, will probably continue to poke fun at them as long as ink drips presses have to be fed with thirsty paper. But for all that, he is no wise man who gives up making his New Year's resolutions.

Our human nature is singularly made. We partake of the limitations time and seed time, the world about us must put forth a thousand seeds for every one that is to take root and The sea teems with the flourish. innumerable spawn of fish, of which -it would be closer to the truth to

her Lord and Master. St. Anselm of ning after beginning. And so, Canterbury, tells us the reasons: to pass by a thousand other obvious instances, to achieve any bee represents Christ's most spotless thing worthy and noble in his life a man must make and break and make again many, many resolutious But it is a very silly thing to think that even the resolutions that we make and break are of no account and do not belp us forward to batter living. It is the man who makes no particularly the laboring class as Bethlehem, in Egypresolutions who is a pathetic or a that of St. Joseph, the patron of the It grew because funny spectacle, just as you choose to laugh at or weep over him. For the Christian family, which has been he has compromised with life, has urged so sloquently by Pope Banedict

given up sowing, and is content, or in his Motu Proprio last May. despairing, in his own poor level of achievement. It is a folly to give up making good resolutions merely

lordly faculty.

When you say to yourself with sincerity: "I will serve God better this year, will be more helpful to my neighbor, and more loyal and active to my service to the Church," this resolve of yours is in itself a meritaging antion in God's sight. ways in which you mean to carry out this good purpose, and make specific and detailed resolutions, God is still more pleased at your good will, and enough to keep the good resolve or not. The making of is is in itself an action of great and special merit, and the fact that we afterward leave off trying to do the good thing we planned does not detract from our merit at the time we made the good resolution—it merely shows, perhaps, that we did not make our resolution strong enough to stand the wear of Church and enjoyed his feast to be life nor foresee the difficulties that would rise up in the way. But whether we keep them or not, God is extremely pleased to see us make good resolutions, because it is a proof of our will to serve Him more faithfully. Besides, the making of

tics of making good resolves, and surrender ignosty to tepidity and

leave over trying, give up the prac-

included in this saying. They should Nazareth.
begin again to make sedulous resolution Nazareth.

mud of tepidity and sloth. The masters of the spiritual life people. have all realized and asserted many Leger times and in many ways the importance of making and renewing good resolutions, and their systems of inspiration furnished by the thought asceticism, which means the gymnas. of Joseph toiling away at his carmeasure on this principle, that we making and renewing of resolutions particular and the general examen, once in these pages and which are is lost by his parents. among the most potent aids to sanctity. And the reason is excessively simple. The will, like every other faculty, is strengthened with proportion as our resolve is stronger and preach His gospel. and more definite, the value of this exercise to the will is greater.

Hence the reasonableness and the will and formulating particular resolves at the great feasis and at the turning points of the year. For it is natural in us at these times to feel a and west of St. Peter's there stands stirring of the will and to desire to a church that is dedicated as the turn over a new leaf to match the Church of All Nations. Over one of our resolves are apt to be the more

this time honored and most profitable practice, in honor both with only one in ten thousand will mature to hope and resolve is slowly dyingceased resolving is to be already

#### THE PATRON OF THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

By the Rev. R. A. McGowan Few devotions in the Caurch today have become so universal or have Universal Church and the patron of

urged so aloquently by Pope Banedict conditions in the world which make God it so necessary, has every mark of fulfilment, and second, the training when unholy alliances are too often N. C. W. C. Service. and discipline of the will, by which the good resolve ennobles and when felse prophets have arisen who dignifies, strengthens and trains that would destroy practically all the ties of marriage and family union, it is to

this resolve of yours is in itself and pleases His fatherly heart. When you then go on to specify in your good resolve the particular ways in which you mean to carry out this good purpose. of steadfastness to faith usually took the form of physical tortures, that inspiration should be furnished by more pleased at your good will, and gives you the precise degree of sanctifying grace which that good intention merits, whether He foresees that you will actually be strong fire and sword. It was not until the fitsenth century that the feast of fitsenth to keep the good resolve St. Joseph was introduced into the group of the strong fitself. Roman calendar, to ba celabrated March 19th. Pope Benedict XIII. in 1726 inserted the name of St. Joseph

in the Litany of the Saints. Pope Pius IX. displayed great devotion to St. Joseph, and in 1870 solemnly leclared the Patriarch Joseph the patron of the Universal Church and enjoyed his feast to be

Little is known of the life of St. Joseph. There is no doubt that he was of royal blood, a descendant of Dayid, and it is believed that he was born in Bethlehem, the city of David. A few months before the Annuncia-

new resolutions is a sure sign that tion we find him settled at Nazareth. we have not surrendered utterly to Joseph was truly the head of the Holy Family, the strong arm that protected Jesus and Mary in time of

ward with longing eyes at the heights had died and that all was safe, St. of the saints, would do well to gearch Joseph returned to Palestine with their hearts to see whether they are Jesus and Mary and settled in Jesus and Mary and settled in

in Nazareth St. Joseph made the tions, to warm and strengthen their home of Christ and the Blessed heart with good resolves, and use some diligence to climb out of the place of exile, but no doubt a happy exile even in the midst of a strange

Legend had woven about the home life of the Holy Family many a fond Christian artists have felt the story. tics of holiness, are all built in great | penter's craft while the gentle Mary attended to the household duties and must often make new resolves and the boy Jesus grew in strength and recall the old ones, if we would in wisdom. Only once does the advance in the service of God. The gospel narrative interrupt this pic-That is on the occasion when is a chief part of the practice of the at the age of twelve, Jesus is brought to Jerusalem for the feast of the which we have explained more than Passover and on the return journey

St. Joseph, according to Christian belief, died in the arms of Jesus and Mary. His death must have occurred during the hidden life of Christ and exercise. When we make a good before our Saviour left the family resolve we exercise our will, and in abode for the last time to go forth

St. Joseph's death was a death such as we all night wish to die :- in the midst of those he loved the best. It efficacy of making special efforts of has been the inspiration of artists. One of the most vivid representations new and hopsful season. Therefore its alters in a side chapel hangs a frasco done by a modern artist. Here reader, the making of your Naw
Year's resolutions. Het neither the
grin of the cyaic per your grin of the cyaic nor your own sloth the mourning wife, the Mother of and weariness discourage you from God, from his sorrowing fester son, Christ Our Lord. It is the ideal death of the father, the head of the of the material things around us. In God and men. For New Year's family. He had cared for the Blessed order to keep its course of spring-resolutions are the cure of evil Virgin when Christ had been con-Virgin when Christ had been con-ceived in her womb, he had watched an antidote of that old age of the soul which deadens hope and resolution. For the soul that her the crowded village when Christ was born, he had snatched the Child from the fate of all male children ordered indeed and in truth, to have quite to be slain by Herod, he had guarded thom in the flight to Egypt and cared for them during their exile, and he had made their home for them in Nazareth. And when he came to die it was in that humble home, in the presence of those for whom he had spant his life.

That home stands today as the example of the Christian home of all time. We call Joseph, the carpenter of Nazareth, St. Joseph, because the appealed so forcibly to the Holy Ghost called him a "just man. hear's of Christian people and His justice and sanctity increased a His justice and sanctity increased at Bethlehem, in Egypt and at Nazareth. he fulfilled his duties as the head of the family in the way God has ordained. It grew because he lived his life with the Immaculate Virgin, the Mother of This devotion, because of the God, and with Christ, the Son of

St. Joseph is the patron of the because we have not kept our good resolves of the past. Those who do so betray their lack of knowledge of the soul of man. For the value of the soul of man. For the value of the soul of man, and women whose lives have the courage in the past to countless the past to countless of the soul of man. For the value of the soul of man, and the past to countless of the soul of man, and the past to countless of the past to the past to countless of the and efficacy of a good resolution is not merely in the actual accomplish ment, in the immediate good actions has an inexhaustible treasury from help and inspiration that the sencitiv which follow the resolution. Besides which she may draw whatever gems of the family be not destroyed, for if this immediate accomplishment there are most needed to stimulate Christour homes are rained our hopes are are two extremely precious fruits tian virtues and to furnish noble blasted. Pope Benedict would have which follow upon every sincers and holy resolution; first, the mexit which one gains by making the resolution itself, independently of its resolution itself, independently of its training in the condition in the condition is the condition of the condition in the condition is the condition of the condition in the condition is the condition of the condition in the condition is the condition of the condition in the condition is the condition of the condition in the condition is the condition of the condition in the condition is the condition of the condition in the condition is the condition of the condition in the condition is the condition of the condition in the condition is the condition of the condition in the condition is the condition of the condition of the condition is the condition of the condition of the condition is the condition of t

### CATHOLICS ALONE CONSTRUCTIVE

By N. C. W. C. News Service

London, Dac. 30 .- In the midst of attempts and rumors of attempts to bring an understanding about between the Government and the Irish Republicans, it is apparent that little that is positive and constructive has come from other than purely Catholic quarters.

The proposal of the Archbishop of Tuam for a truce of God was an entirely constructive document. The manifesto addressed to the Prime Minister by the British Catholic Committee for Reconciliation and which called for an immediate cessation of reprisals with the recognition of Ireland as an equal partner with an equal voice in defining the terms of partnership, was also constructive. The pleas of Cardinal Bourne for the withdrawal of the armed forces of the Crown and for placing in the hands of the legitimate and responsible republicans the task of main-taining public peacs in Ireland was extremely practical.

Above the voice of the politicians

and political interests, who will see to it, as far as they are able, that there shall not be a satisfactory set tlement, and above the clamor of the growing mass of public opinion that may be said to be sympathetic even may be said to be sympatistic even if it is in a condition of abysmal ignorance as far as the real facts about Ireland are concerned, the Catholic voice emerges clear, definite, constructive. The Bishops speak from the administrative experience protected Jesus and Mary In state danger, the supporter of the humble danger, the supporter of the humble home of Nazareth. As such he received the Divine Manifestations of the administrative experience of those things that are for national warning him of his perils that beset warning him of his perils that beset and political salvation. It is hoping and political salvation. The priest in giving the benefit:

tion of this great saint uses the words: "May the Lord through the intercession of St. Blass, Bishop and markyr, free and preserve you from who thus surrender. "I would," word that all the children in Bethle.

warning in Merry, recognizing his too much to think that the politicians them, and Mary, recognizing his too much to think that the politicians them, obeyed him and followed his guidancs. When Herod sent no sound reason why they should word that all the children in Bethle. will listen to them. There is indeed no sound reason why they should come forward to help Sir Hamar Greenwood out of a tight corner. But since he has publicly, in the House of Commons, as much as said that the Bishops are the only persons who can rescue him from his dilemma, he might do worse than heed their suggestions.

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