

GENERAL INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER

RECOMMENDED AND BLESSED BY HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XV.

CHILDREN AND HOLY COMMUNION

The Holy Eucharist remains the eminent gift of Our Blessed Lord to the world, which He offered for all times as the nourishment of souls. "Take ye and eat," were the words He addressed to the Apostles, and through them and their successors to the multitudes who were to live and labor and save their souls in future ages. The source of spiritual life in all men is the Body and Blood of Christ, and souls may reckon their advancement in grace and holiness in the measure with which they nourish themselves with this Divine Food. It was for the purpose of urging the frequency of holy Communion among the faithful that the Sovereign Pontiff, Pius X., in 1905, issued his decree *Sacrosanctam Eucharistiam*, a solemn invitation to go often to holy Communion, the only conditions required being a state of grace and a right intention.

Desiring to extend similar benefits to the souls of children, the same Pontiff published, five years later, a decree which still continues to arouse the interest of the Catholic world. It is to this decree, *Quam Singulari*, and the obligations arising therefrom, that Benedict XV., wishing to direct the attention of our members during the present month, The Holy Father desires millions of little ones to go to Communion often, for not merely is he seeking in their piety and prayers a remedy for the present ills of mankind, but he hopes that frequent Communion will form a generation of Catholic men and women which will be a powerful bulwark for the Church, amid the social and religious uncertainties of the future. His attitude may be summed up in the words of a recent writer: "What is needed is to form generations of young people, living in the grace of God not for a few days, or at intervals, but for months and years."

The conditions laid down for the Communion of children in the decree *Quam Singulari* may be resumed as follows: "The age of discernment is attained by children when they begin to use the reasoning faculty, that is, about the seventh year, sometimes before, sometimes after. From that moment begins also for them the obligation of observing the double precept of Confession and Communion." This direction has since been confirmed, and more light has been thrown upon it, by the publication of the new Code of Canon Law. While Canon 88 declares that at the age of seven years a child is presumed, in the mind of the Church, to have attained the age of reason, Canon 12 informs us that before that age, unless in special cases, where the Code provides otherwise, a child, even enjoying the use of reason, is not bound by ecclesiastical laws, such as abstinence and Mass on Sundays. On the other hand, in Canon 859, we read that "all the faithful of both sexes who have arrived at the age of reason must, once a year, at least at Easter, receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist, unless on the advice of one's priest or for other reasonable motive, one desires to abstain for a time."

The question naturally suggests itself: Are children therefore obliged to make their Easter duty, even before the seventh year, if they enjoy the use of reason? The age of the dawn of reason varies with every child. Some will be ready for Communion before the seventh year, some will be ready only after; and because of this discrepancy it would seem impossible to fix an age when the obligation is due. It would seem that the intellectual precocity of certain children required further precision in legislation which would banish doubt in such a grave matter, as, for instance, the Easter duty, and at the same time assure obedience to the wishes of the Church. The decree *Quam Singulari* foresaw this and defined the situation in a way that leaves no room for doubt or hesitation. We gather from this document that as soon as "the age of discretion has arrived, whether before or after the completion of the seventh year, at that moment begins the obligation of observing the double precept of Confession and Communion."

This information suffices; the wish of the Church is clear; no reason for waiting until the seventh year is attained; in fact, to do so would be to put a false interpretation on Canon 859 and on the decree *Quam Singulari*. Even before the seventh year, therefore, provided the age of reason has been attained, children are bound to make their Easter Communion, and it is the duty of those who are in authority over them to instruct and prepare them to fulfil this precept.

The obligation becomes more evident from the fact that the ecclesiastical law which enforces it is only the expression of a higher law which no power here below can modify. Benedict XIV. taught that as soon as a child enjoys the use of reason he falls under the prescription of the Divine law. Cardinal Gasparri, in reply to a letter to the Bishop of Valleyfield, in January 1918, taught the same doctrine. To the question whether or no children

who had not completed their seventh year, but who had been admitted to Holy Communion because they enjoyed the use of reason, were really held to the Easter duty, the Cardinal replied that they were held. The eminent President of the Commission of Interpretation of the Code of Canon Law was not expressing a mere personal opinion; his was an authentic decision as to the meaning which must be given to a decree in order to bring it into conformity with the mind of the Church.

All this legislation regarding the Communion of children is also perfectly conformable to reason. Our Lord affirmed that "except ye eat of the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you shall not have life in you." The life of the soul postulates the life of grace, and since it is a strict duty for everyone, even a child, to have and to keep grace, the duty is also strict to partake of the Food of the soul. Besides, should not the Eucharist be normally given to children from the moment that the spiritual life they receive in baptism runs the danger of perishing? In olden times, it was the custom to give children holy Communion immediately after baptism, for the Church was not satisfied with offering souls to God in the sacrament of regeneration, which is the beginning of union with Him, but she wished also by the Eucharist to prepare and assure that union with Him which would be completed in heaven. If for grave reasons the Church has modified this custom, which she never blamed, she never loses sight of the fact that the innocence and candor of little children must be preserved, and that it is the early reception of the Body and Blood of Christ which will effect such preservation in their souls.

Even ignorance is no obstacle to children in regard to so solemn an act. The Church asserts that they possess all the knowledge necessary to receive holy Communion with fruit, and for the purpose of helping any indecision that might arise, Canon 854 of the new Code distinguishes between a child in danger of death and a child in health. All that is required from a child in danger of death, in order to receive Communion worthily, is that it distinguish the Eucharist from ordinary food and reverently adore it. From a child in health something more is required, but always in proportion to the capacity of its immature mind and to the dispositions of heart which a little child is capable of manifesting. For such a one it suffices to know that God exists, One in three Persons, that He became Man, that He redeemed us, that He rewards the good and punishes the wicked, that in the Holy Eucharist He gives Himself to the pure of heart. This and nothing more. The memory of a child need not be hurried beyond its years. Suffice that it know truths in the measure of its receptiveness, and assent to them with a naturally docile will. Its little heart will speak instinctively to God in the language of love.

On whom does the obligation rest of carrying out the stipulations of the decree *Quam Singulari*? "On the father of the child, or those who take his place, and on the confessor," affirms the decree. Canon 860 of the new Code is more explicit, for it answers, "the obligation of the precept of Communion for children falls especially on those who have charge of them, that is, parents, teachers, confessors and parish priests." The Church apparently makes no distinction between the obligation which is imposed on children and that which is imposed on parents. It is one and the same strict obligation which they are under who, by state or by authority, supplement the weakness of children.

Naturally this doctrine is presented in a purely objective way. There may be considerations which modify the obligation, but it is well to know that an obligation exists, and lest some people might be tempted to escape the fulfilling of it, through plea of ignorance, or false ideas, or usage, or family tradition. How plain and uncompromising are these words approved by Pius X. in July 1906: "When preparing children for first Communion, parents and teachers will take special pains to implant in their pure hearts a keen desire for daily Communion, and to banish all their vain scruples concerning this holy practice. They will see to it that they make their first Communion as soon as they are ready, and that they renew it every day if possible. Every effort should be made to urge frequent and daily Communion in Catholic educational institutions."

In promoting Communion among children, members of the League of the Sacred Heart have a consoling apostolate carved out for them. One of the main objects of our organization is to spread the practice of holy Communion among the faithful. Our First Fridays, General Communion days, and the Monthly Leaflets, to which plenary indulgences are attached, all show the trend of our work among souls. The latest favor of the Holy See—mentioned in last month's Messenger, namely, a plenary indulgence for each Communion of Atonement—is a proof that the Church is seconding our movement. Let us therefore intensify our efforts; let the Eucharistic crusade among children be carried on; speak to

them of the profit and consolation derived from frequent Communion; excite in them a desire to go frequently; urge parents to send their children. The example of the little ones will not be lost on lukewarm parents, and grace will enter many homes that need it badly. E. J. DEVINE, S. J.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND ITS REMEDIES

The problem of unemployment at the present moment looms overshadowingly large; it has become a national concern and menace. The number of men out of work is very considerable. The approximate figures can easily be found in the various daily papers and need not be repeated here. In general, business has not recovered from the severe depression under which it has labored since the War. The stabilization of the unsettled economic conditions has proved a difficult task for statesmen and industrial leaders. How serious the matter is appears from the fact that a national conference on unemployment has been called, which is now in session in Washington.

What unemployment means to the workingman can be visualized without any great effort by any one who realizes how much the laborer depends on his daily wage. In many cases, unemployment after a few days confronts the wage-earner and his family with the sad fact of an empty larder and the utter inability to replenish the exhausted supplies. The spectre of unemployment casts dark shadows over the homes of the working population.

Unemployment of large sections of the country constitutes a great menace to society, and therefore is not an individual concern, but a matter of vital interest for the whole nation. Inasmuch as employment brings destitution for many, and consequent underfeeding, it has a deleterious effect upon the health and physical well-being of the nation. It prepares the soil for epidemics; for these arise whenever the physical resistance to germs of disease and infection has been undermined.

But the moral effects are of far greater importance. The man who is without work and sees his family subject to many privations does not look with a kindly eye upon a social order which makes such conditions possible and that does very little to remedy them. The first seeds of discontent are sown in his heart. He is likely to adopt the viewpoint of the enemy of the social order. The arguments of the social agitator, to which, so far, he has turned a deaf ear, assume a new plausibility and speciousness in his eyes; they come to him now with a convincing force never possessed before. Such times, therefore, offer unusual opportunities for the advocates of revolution and the preachers of anarchy.

This being so, society in sheer self-protection ought to devise means against the evils of unemployment. No doubt this consideration has prompted the calling of the unemployment conference in Washington. This conference, if it will do anything, at best will offer some palliatives for the present situation. A fundamental remedy we cannot expect from its deliberations, which are concerned with the practical issues of the moment. It is the hope of the country that something may be achieved; that the spreading of unemployment may be checked, and that the existing distress may be alleviated.

The rhythmically recurring periods of economic depression more than anything else are an indication that there is something basically wrong with our industrial system. The social world is not governed by iron laws as the physical world. It is of our own making. Its disturbance and disorders are caused by moral factors which could be avoided. Against a meteoric disturbance, against a tidal wave which exerts a heavy toll of human life, or against a destructive earthquake there is no remedy, because they result from unchangeable cosmic laws over which man has no control. But economic disorders may be prevented, because man has control over the laws that govern the economic life. There really is no need for periods of unemployment in a properly organized industry. Except in case of social catastrophes, the needs of men are uniform; industry could go evenly and without interruption to supply them. Unemployment comes when there has been misdirected production. It follows upon periods of false expansion. Over-expansion in an industry is due to wild speculation, to a desire for more profits, or, in a less elegant phase, to greed. As long as greed dominates our industrial order, unemployment is inevitable, and all remedies suggested and all measures adopted will only bring temporary relief.

There is one remedy that will strike at the root of the evil, and though there is no hope that it will be applied just yet, it is well to mention it. If industry were organized along the lines of service instead of profit and private gain, unemployment would be, if not entirely abolished, at least reduced to a minimum and alternating periods of inflation and depression would be avoided.—Catholic Standard and Times.

The biggest interest man has to pay on a loan is on borrowed trouble.

UNABLE TO WALK FOR A YEAR

Paralysis Entirely Relieved by "Fruit-a-tives"

The Wonderful Fruit Medicine

Paralysis is a break-down of the Nervous System and affects the victim in various ways. Sometimes, *nervousness makes itself known by hysteria, insomnia, constant headaches, or it may be so bad that one is partially or completely helpless in some part of the body, just as Mrs. Heacock was.*

SAULT STE MARIE, ONT.
"When I was twenty-eight years of age, my doctor advised me to have an operation, which I did and it proved very serious, leaving me weak and unable to walk for a year. Seeing your 'Fruit-a-tives' advertised in the papers, I decided to try them. I continued to use them regularly, and today I am able to go about my home duties and care for my family."

MRS. J. W. HEACOCK.
Any form of Nervousness is often caused by, and is always aggravated by, Constipation, which poisons the blood, irritates the kidneys and inflames the nerves. "Fruit-a-tives" stimulates the action of liver and bowels, kidneys and skin—tones and sweetens the stomach—keeps the blood pure, and builds up the entire nervous system.

In a word, "Fruit-a-tives" has proved that it is the most scientific and effective remedy in the world for Nervousness or a disordered condition of the nervous system. 50c a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size, 25c. At dealers or sent postpaid by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa, Ont.

DIAMONDS—CASH OR CREDIT
The sure and sure way to get your stock of Diamonds. We guarantee to save you money.
JACOBS BROS.
18 Toronto Arcade



You Never Tire Of Cuticura Soap

Because of its absolute purity and refreshing fragrance, it is ideal for every-day toilet purposes. Always include the Cuticura Calcium in your toilet preparations.

50c 25c, Ointment 25c and 50c, Talcum 25c. Sold throughout the Dominion. Canadian Depot: Lyons, Limited, 344 St. Paul St., W., Montreal. Cuticura Soap shaves without mug.

LOUIS SANDY



GORDON MILLS

Habit Materials and Veilings

SPECIALLY PRODUCED FOR THE USE OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES
BLACK, WHITE, AND COLOURED
SERGES AND CLOTHS, VEILINGS
CASHMERE, ETC.

Stocked in a large variety of widths and qualities
Samples forwarded on application

LOUIS SANDY
GORDON MILLS, STAFFORD, ENGLAND

Telegram—Louisandi, Stafford. Phone No. 104

87 YONGE ST., TORONTO

Phone Main 4030

Hennessey

"Something More Than a Drug Store"

DRUGS CUT FLOWERS
PERFUMES CANDIES

Order by Phone—we Deliver

Painting and Decorating

of Churches, Altars, Statues, etc

JOHN UYEN

39 BRISCOE ST., LONDON, ONT. Phone 5763-J

St. Jerome's College

Founded 1864 KITCHENER, ONT.

Excellent Business College Department, Excellent High School or Academic Department, Excellent College and Philosophical Department. Address: REV. W. A. BENINGER, C.R., President.

Chi-Namel

The Varnish Everybody Likes

For Floors, Doors and All Woodwork

It is Heel, Hammer and Waterproof

ENGLISH CUTLERY

We have a Splendid Assortment of Table Cutlery, including

- Stainless Steel Pearing Knives
- Stainless Steel Dessert and Table Knives
- Stainless Steel Carving Sets etc.

We solicit your inspection

The Eureka Vacuum Cleaner

ELECTRIC

Has 275,000 Satisfied Users

testify to its efficiency, its durability and its simplicity. We absolutely with confidence recommend it.

Price Only \$56.50

The Purdom Hardware

124 Dundas Street, London

EDUCATIONAL RECREATIONAL HEALTHFUL

A Luxurious Cruise of the Mediterranean

Combining a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Rome and Lourdes, and Tour of Europe

LEAVING NEW YORK FEB. 18th

By the magnificent S. S. Adriatic of the White Star Line

Visiting: Madeira, Gibraltar, Algiers, Monaco, Genoa, Naples, Alexandria, Cairo, Palestine, ROME, Florence, Nice, Monte Carlo, Toulouse, Lourdes, Bordeaux, Paris, London. (Germany and Ireland optional).

SPECIAL FEATURES

Audience with the Holy Father. Easter Week in Rome

Personally Conducted Throughout by
MR. F. M. BECCARI
MR. J. D. TRACY, Asst.

PARTY LIMITED BOOK NOW

BECCARI CATHOLIC TOURS, INC.

1010 TIMES BLDG. NEW YORK

The most comprehensive and Best Managed Tour Ever Offered

GALL STONES

"MARLATT'S SPECIFIC"

A never failing remedy for Appendicitis, Indigestion, Stomach Disorders, Appendicitis and Kidney Stones are often caused by Gall Stones, and mislead people until those bad attacks of Gall Stone Colic appear. Not one in ten Gall Stone Sufferers knows what is the trouble. Marlatt's Specific will relieve without pain or operation.

For Sale at All Drug Stores

J. W. Marlatt & Company, Dept. L. 211 GERRARD ST. EAST TORONTO, ONT.

Place Your Orders For Mission Goods WITH US

We have supplied Mission Goods from Coast to Coast, and we have always been found to give satisfaction.

Some of Our Articles Generally Furnished at Missions

Prayer Books	Scapular Medals
English and French	Scapular Locketts
Mission Books	Gold and Silver
Books of Devotion	Scapular Chains
Meditation, etc.	Religious Jewelry
Holy Water Fonts	Of All Descriptions
Crucifixes	Pocket Statues
Hanging and Standing	Rosaries
Candlesticks	Nickel Bound Crosses
Pictures for Framing	Medallions, etc.

When Ordering, Please Mention:

- Date of opening of Mission.
- How long it will last.
- Community of Missionary Fathers conducting services.
- Number of families in parish (please mention if mixed).

Write Us for Particulars

Serre-Grenier

121 Rideau Street Ottawa, Ont.

Western School
Corner of Richmond and Fullerton Sts.
A Business College of Strength and Character

THE health of your skin is too important for you to be careless about the bath soap you use. Keep the skin clear and smooth and prevent skin troubles by using

LIFEBUOY HEALTH SOAP

It is the best of all soaps—yet it is more than a cleanser. It disinfects too.

The carbolic odor in Lifebuoy is a sign of its protective qualities—vanishing quickly after use.

Lever Brothers Limited, Toronto

PUZZLE SANTA CLAUS

1st Prize—Bicycle (Ladies or Gents).
2nd Prize—Local Photography.
3rd Prize—Moving Picture Machine.
4th Prize—Frid Watch.
5th Prize—Camera.

Hundreds of Other Prizes.

To enter this contest you must find Santa Claus, mark the place with an X and send it to us with your name and address. We will then send you a BIG PRIZE LIST of the dandy prizes we are offering and particulars of our simple conditions that we ask you to fulfill. This condition is ever so easy, and need not cost you one cent of your money to fulfill. The prizes are bigger and better than ever, so send your answer right away NOW.

SELF-STAR SPECIALTY
Desk 21 TORONTO

Gu-Solvo Dissolves GOITRE

Write for free Booklet 2, which tells how a Monk's Famous Medicine will dissolve your goitre at home. Taken internally, it acts through the blood. Operations unnecessary. One bottle shown remarkable results. Write to-day.

THE MONK CHEMICAL CO., Ltd.
43 Scott Street, Toronto, Canada
Phone Main 548

PILE'S

Do not suffer with itching, bleeding, or protruding Piles. No surgical operation required. Dr. Chase's Ointment will relieve you at once and afford lasting benefit. 60c a box; all dealers, or Edmonson, Bates & Co., Limited, Toronto. Sample box free if you mention this paper and enclose 2c. stamp for postage.

Newfoundland Representative: Gerald S. Doyle, St. John's.

F. E. LUKE

OPTOMETRIST AND OPTICIAN

167 YONGE ST., TORONTO
(Upstairs Opp. Simpson's)
Eyes Examined and Glass Eyes Fitted

LONDON OPTICAL CO.

Have Your Eyes Examined

Dominion Savings Building
Richmond St. Phone 6180

FREE Amethyst Rosary

This Rosary is made of Rolled Gold with lovely Amethyst Beads, and it will delight the heart of any one of our Catholic Boys and Girls, and you can get it free by selling only \$3.00 worth of our beautiful Xmas Cards, etc., at 10 cts. a packet. Just send your name and address and we will send you the Cards to sell. When sold send us the money and we will send you this lovely Rosary by return. Send now.

"Best" Premium Co. Dept. X.R.
533 Queen St. E. Toronto