

## FIVE MINUTE SERMON

BY THE REV. F. P. HICKEY, O. S. B.

## THE DESIRE FOR HOLY COMMUNION

("Thou hast given him his heart's desire," Ps. xx. 2.)

Frequent—yea, daily—Communion is for those who desire to obey the will of God, who desire to be more closely united to Him, who desire to use the Divine medicine of the Holy Eucharist as a remedy for passion and frailty. This constitutes the right and pious disposition required by the decree of our Holy Father, Pius X., on frequent Communion.

The Sacraments, though they work their spiritual effects by their own power, are more efficacious in proportion to the good disposition of the recipient. Our desire, then, for Holy Communion depends in so great a degree the result, the blessing, the graces, the transformation of soul, which our Blessed Lord loves to work in the heart of the communicant.

Communion is so easy, we are so imperfect and frail, and frequentation has the tendency to lessen reverence and preparation, that the holy desire may grow fainter and fainter. Is the desire keen and earnest when we let ourselves glide into daily and numerous imperfections? If our conscience has to reproach us that we are lazy and unpunctual, distracted, perfunctory at our prayers, that we are sensual at our meals, untruthful in little things, selfish, unkind, disobedient, too fond of ease, too fond of money and the luxuries that money obtains? Is our desire such as it should be, considering the blessed results of Holy Communion? "When Christ liveth in us, our thoughts, our senses, our impulses, our will, and our activity assume a resemblance to the hidden life of the Eucharistic Saviour, and become Divine" (Pope Urban IV.). Is ours the desire that is expected and looked for the Sacred Heart of our Lord? Is it a desire with which we dare approach Him Whose desire for our souls brought Him to the manger, filled His Heart at the Last Supper, when He said, "With desire have I desired to eat this Pasch with you"—the desire that animated Him through the Agony, the Scourging, the three hours on the Cross?

Naturally some may be afraid that there is a danger in too frequently communicating of becoming thereby wanting in reverence and earnestness, and that therefore it would be better for them to receive only seldom and at long intervals. But would they be more desirous then of giving themselves wholly to God? And they forget, too, the urgency of frequently received Holy Communion, the object of which is "that the faithful, by union with God, may receive strength to overcome concupiscence, to expiate the lighter faults of daily occurrence, and to avoid grave sins." We know our disposition—selfish and frail; we know our worldly surroundings; alas! we know too well the temptations that assail us, and how easily, how cowardly we fall. How, then, can we hope for security without the frequent, and perhaps daily, help of Holy Communion?

And the food of our soul is especially to be longed for at the hour of our death—that hour when weakness is so great and temptation so strong. And can we make sure of a Holy Communion then better than by having frequented Holy Communion in life, with a longing, urgent desire, which should be intensified and inflamed by constant reception? At death it is to be hoped that all these blessed desires of long ago may return laden with graces and consolations. "My soul hath desired Thee in the night; yea, and my spirit within me in the morning; early will I watch to Thee. . . . Lord, Thou wilt give us peace, for Thou hast wrought all our works for us" (Isa. xxvi. 9-12).

In the lives of the Saints God has shown us what desire—holy desire—can bring to pass. First, let us learn from a little child, the youngest Saint, not a Martyr, recognized by the Church. In the year 1333, in the Dominican Convent at Bologna, Imelda, a child of rich parents, was noted above all for piety and devotion to Jesus in the sacrament of the Altar. She was consumed with a longing for the day of her First Communion. Repeatedly she begged the Sisters and her confessor to be allowed the privilege of receiving the Holy Eucharist. At that time in Bologna it was the custom for the First Communion to be deferred till children were of the age of fourteen, and Imelda was only eleven. Three long years to wait, and her heart melting for love of her Divine Saviour! Day after day she prayed and longed—for, "Hail all my salvation and all my desire" (2 Kings xxiii. 5).

"Superiors and confessors might refuse, but there was One Whose Heart could not! He Who had said 'Suffer little children to come unto Me' could not prolong that grievous disappointment. With desire He Himself had desired, and He took pity on the desire of the heart of that child. During Mass on the vigil of the Ascension, the Sisters approached the altar rails and in her place in the chapel knelt Imelda, praying and weeping that she could not share their happiness. And when the community had re-

ceived and were returning to their places, a heavenly fragrance filled the church, and a luminous Host shone radiantly over the head of the child. Devout was the awe and wonder, and word was taken to the priest as he finished the Mass. He returned, and, reverently kneeling, held up the paten, and the Host gently descended upon it. The priest understood what His Lord would have him do, Imelda made her First Communion! The Lord "will do the will, the desire, of them that fear Him; He will hear their prayer, and save them" (Ps. cxliv. 19). The transport of joy and love was too great for the tender bodily frame, and the happy child closed her eyes, and in "the kiss of the Lord" breathed forth her pure soul to go and render an eternal thanksgiving in heaven!

We find a second example, just seven years after this, in Florence, of how devout Communion during life intensify the desire of the soul to such a degree that God could not refuse a miracle to satisfy the dying. St. Juliana of Falconieri, worn out by fasting and austerities, was dying in her old age in the convent. Painful maladies she bore with patience and even joy, but there was one affliction—the most cruel of all. She was deprived of Holy Communion by reason of the weakness of her stomach, which rejected all food. How often had she prayed for this last consolation! How had she pictured it to herself, and longed with languishing desire for this "token of future glory" to be her solace and her strength at the end! At length it was granted to the dying nun that the Blessed Sacrament should be brought to her cell, that she might adore it and die in its Presence. Still more she craved; she prayed that it might be laid upon her breast! It was so. The Sacred Host disappeared, and Juliana breathed forth her soul in peace. "Thou hast given her her heart's desire." After her death the figure of the Host was found imprinted over her heart.

Let us cherish, then, the desire for the frequent reception of Holy Communion. Let us endeavor to intensify it time after time. We know not which may be our last Communion; but how we shall rejoice for all eternity, if at the end our desire is blessed by the reception of that dear Lord and Saviour, Who came "for us and for our salvation!"

## BRUSH YOUR TEETH ON BOTH SIDES

Care and cleanliness of the teeth is absolutely essential, therefore secure a perfect tooth brush marked "Nobility."

Each brush is guaranteed to last at least six months and is manufactured of the finest bristles possible to secure. No matter how severe you use the "Nobility" Tooth Brush it will not injure the teeth in any way. Not one case of pyorrhea has ever been reported when the "Nobility" Tooth Brush is used. Ask for the "Nobility" Tooth Brush which are guaranteed at all drug stores.

## PRAISES CATHOLIC IDEALS

## VISITOR TO FRANCE AMAZED AT VISIBLE EVIDENCES OF GENUINE PIETY

An Anglican tourist who recently spent some time in France pays a high tribute to Catholics of parts of France, in an article which has appeared in the Church Times.

The writer noted the splendid faith of the French Catholic peasant and the fruits that it bears in their lives. He spent a period at the old monastery of Selignac in Eastern France. The monks of this establishment were expelled and the building seized in 1905, but it was purchased from the Government and given to the Diocese of Belley.

In the summer it is used as a centre where poor boys from the schools and factories of Lyons are given a country holiday under the care of priests and students from the Seminary.

The tourist was much impressed by the life that he saw there. The day began with Mass, and in the evening there were Vespers and Benediction. He seemed especially impressed with the way in which the Catholic life of the place was the source of its cheerful brightness.

"What struck me most about the religion of Selignac," he wrote, "was an extraordinary love attached to the Person of Our Lord, coupled with devotion to His Blessed Mother. This more than anything else impressed me. If some of our more old-fashioned Evangelicals at home could get over their rooted prejudices they would be happy at Selignac. The Sacraments were sought as a means of approach to Him, that we might love and serve Him more faithfully."

The tourist visited neighboring villages, in a district which was evidently a Catholic stronghold, for he wrote:

"There is much I could write of the wonderful generosity and faith of the Catholic French peasant (too often accused by ignorant persons of avarice), who has subscribed and supported the Church schools so liberally that the State schoolmaster has often had to leave through lack of pupils."

He expressed the highest admiration for the devoted labors of the French priests, which came especially under his notice.

## WHAT CAN BE DONE IN A MINUTE

What can be done in a minute? It takes no more than a minute to speak a few kind words to somebody who will be made happier by hearing them. It takes no more than a minute to give a sweet smile to some poor, forlorn little child who is carrying a burden too heavy for its tender heart. It takes no more than a minute to make up a quarrel.

Life hovers over death like a frail bark on the sea, ever threatened by dangers from above, below, and round about.—Ruckert.

Wise men have found that by learning, which old men should know by experience, that in life there is nothing sweet, in death nothing sour.—Lyly.

## A WOUND IS AN OPEN DOOR

Absorbine Jr. enables you to shut the door quickly.

The skin is Nature's own protection against germs. When it is bruised, broken or cut, that protection is withdrawn. The door is open. As quickly as possible Nature closes it by forming what we call a scab and renders you comparatively safe against infection. But this scab sometimes takes days to form and until it has fully sealed the wound, even until the wound has thoroughly healed again you must furnish the required protection yourself. A few drops of Absorbine Jr. in the water will give you an antiseptic wash that will kill all possibility of infection and help nature to heal the wound. As well as being a very powerful germicide, Absorbine Jr. will draw out the inflammation and bring instant relief. Absorbine Jr. is antiseptic, germicide and liniment in one container—handy to keep always in the house; easy to carry around if you are out.

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# I'll Pay You

## for Your Spare Hours at Home

Do you want to earn some extra money without leaving your home, without neglecting your other duties?

Would you like to turn those wasted hours and half-hours into dollars for the things you have always wanted?

Here's how! Sell me your spare time. Let me pay you, on the basis of one of the highest wage rates ever offered by this organization, for every hour of your time you can spare. You can work when you like and precisely as much as you like. You are entirely your own boss. You select your own hours. The amount of your paycheck depends entirely upon you.

Let me tell you all about it. You have probably heard about Auto Knitting. It is an established, recognized, national industry. It is enabling thousands of men and women all over the country to turn their spare time into extra money. It offers you a wonderful opportunity to solve your money problems, to become financially independent, to earn little extra luxuries—without leaving your home or neglecting your other duties.

### Thousands Now Earning from \$5 to \$20 a Week



"I have two small children to look after and my own house-work to do, but during the last six months I have averaged \$65 a month Auto Knitting in my spare time."  
—Mrs. H. E. Stevens



"I am seventy-one years of age and can heartily recommend Auto Knitting to anyone requiring a sure money-maker and yet a comfortable work to do. Like many elderly people I wanted to be self-supporting. I am my own boss now—can work when I like and as long as I want to."  
—Mr. D. S. Treadwell



"I never knew what it was to have money all my own before. It certainly makes one feel pretty independent. I easily earn from \$2.50 to \$3.00 daily Auto Knitting in my spare time."  
—Miss Harriet Puahe



"I began Auto Knitting in my spare time. During the first five months I made \$275.30. We are all a happier family since we know that we can depend upon Auto Knitting for any extra money we need."  
—Mrs. Hewson

How much do you want to earn in your spare time at home? Do you want to earn \$5, \$10 or \$15?

Auto Knitting is pleasant, dignified. It is just exactly what you want—what you have been waiting for. It is a tested, dependable way to turn spare time into extra money. I want to send you complete details. I want you to know all about it. There is no cost or obligation whatever. If you will just write to me, or send me the coupon, I will be delighted to send you full information.

### Read What My Workers Say

In the panel to the left are photographs of a few of my Auto Knitter home workers, and what they say about Auto Knitting. There are many, many others. All are delighted with Auto Knitting and the opportunity it offers them.

Miss Ella Holtz of Alberta, one of my most industrious workers, writes "Altogether I knit 5000 pairs of socks at a profit of 30 cents a pair, which amounted to \$1,500.00. With this \$1,500.00 I earned at home, we are buying a fine farm with nice buildings on it. I am so interested in the work."

The Auto Knitter machine is proving a Godsend to thousands of men and women who need extra money. I want to add your name to my payroll. May I?



### Guarantee

I guarantee that thousands of men and women have learned Auto Knitting in their spare time at home—and through Auto Knitting have earned extra dollars for the things they needed—I guarantee to pay you a fixed wage-rate for every pair of standard socks you knit at home for us. No matter how few or how many pairs of socks you knit you will receive your paycheck promptly.

T. W. Chadburn

### How Clever Women Are Increasing Their Auto Knitter Earnings

Many of the workers on my payroll are Auto Knitting at home other garments besides the socks which I buy from them at a regular wage rate. One woman sent me recently a photograph of a delightful knitted frock which she made in her spare time. Another woman is making wonderful little baby things, of pink and white wool, which she sells to the local dealers at an excellent profit. Many are making mittens, golf hose, sweaters, caps, etc., which sell readily and bring a good profit. A regular business of your very own! And think of it—in your spare time!

Let me send you full details at once. I know you want to read all about this wonderful plan that makes your spare time so valuable. I know you want to add your name to my payroll. Won't you let me hear from you—today?

### Full Information Free

Just drop me a line. Better still, use the coupon. I will send you at once all details concerning Auto Knitting and tell you about the remarkable offer I am now making.

I shall be watching for your request for information. Why not send the coupon off today, NOW, while you are thinking of it? Just address me at the Auto Knitter Hosiery (Canada) Co., Ltd. Dept. 411, 1870 Davenport Rd., West Toronto, Ont.

T. W. Chadburn

The Auto Knitter Hosiery (Canada) Co., Ltd. Dept. 411, 1870 Davenport Rd., West Toronto, Ont.

I am interested in turning my spare hours at home into extra dollars. Please send me full particulars regarding Auto Knitting. I understand that this does not obligate me in any way. I am enclosing a 3c stamp to cover cost of mailing information to me.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_