FIVE MINUTE SERMON BY REV. M. BOSSAERT

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST AS OUR EXAMPLE

We read in today's Gospel that, after St. John's disciples had gone away, our Lord began to speak to the people about Him. He praised St. John for steadfastness, bis spirit those around Him what they must do if they desired to be His disciples God requires us also to practise the same virtues; let us therefore examine them more closely today and see how we may make them

our own, Lord praised St. John was his stead a reed, shaken to and fro by the wind; he was not a man with one opinion today and another toward. out he was a man of resolute charac ter, with firm principles, a man ready to stand up for his convictions, preferring to languish in prison rather than be false to what he recognized as his duty. It St. John had retracted his words of reproach, about the king's wicked life, he' our Saviour have been able to com-mend him and praise him for his steadlastness?

Steadfastness is a virtue that is nowadays conspicuous by its absence. If men were more steadfast in their good resolutions, if each of us only did a tenth part of the good that we intend to do, sin and injustics would to a great extent be banished from ness, that they make no progress in what is good. They soon grow weary, and a very small obstacle is enough to make them abandon their good

resolutions altogether.

2. Our Lord praised St. John for his spirit of mortification. St. John belonged to a respectable family of priestly rank, and it would have been quite easy for him to supply him. every comfort, and to show them, by his own example, that whoever desired to be the disciple of

Self-conquest and self-mortification are things very distasteful to psople at the present day. They delight in self-indulgence, in avoid many and its concentration in the ing, as far as possible, all difficulties and trials, and in making life as Christ's principles, and they will democracy. certainly never bring us to heaven.
3. Our Lord praised St. John for his loyalty to his calling. St. John

prophet, occupying a very difficult position. It was not a pleas ant business to be a prophet. God sent prophets into the world to tell men their duty towards Him, and to remind them of the truth, if they had gone astray from it. But many people do not like being admonished and reminded, and whoever undertakes this, task exposes himself to violent persecution. Imprisonment and bondage were the reward that St. John received for doing his duty and telling Herod: "It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's the Holy Father warns the world that wife." True to His office of prophet, He called upon His hearers to amend ical, social and moral activity can their way of life, to abandon their sins and vices, and to do penance. be won without religion and spiritproud, haughty Scribes and Pharisees: "Ye offspring of vipers, who hath shewed you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say, 'We have Abraham for our father,'" fancying for that reason that you cannot be lost. writers on social problems. In a Unless you do penance you will all

St. John did his work with generosity and loyalty; nothing could turn for the masses of the people who him aside from what he knew to be his duty. Would that all Christians, the War: and especially all parents and masters, were as faithful and conscientious as St. John in doing their duty towards their children and servants! It is of no avail merely to admire the virtues that our Divine Saviour extolled to St. John; we must imitate them, and acquire perseverance and steadfastness in doing right; abhorrence of evil and fidelity in our daily work. It is thus that we ought to prepare during the holy season of Advent for our Lord's coming, in order that we may find favor in His sight and so be deemed worthy at the last day to be numbered amongst His faithful servants for all eternity. Amen.

NON-CATHOLIC TRIBUTE TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Rev. Dr. Cotter, rector of St. Law rence Church, Ironton, O., recently celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of his ordination. At the banquet in honor of the occasion, one of the speakers was Joseph A. Miller, former

sonal comforts; they spend anxious days and restless nights in study and prayer and struggles with the world, to battle with the hosts of evil and to point the way to life everlasting; shirking no duty, they teach the ignorant: they heal the sick; they cause the blind to see and the dumb to speak; they lead the erring into safe paths; they bind up bleeding wounds and lift up the fallen; and avery at they nerform is to the honof mortification and his loyalty to every act they perform is to the honhis calling; and, in praising him thus or and glory of the blessed Babs our Divine Saviour wished to teach born in Bethlehem and proclaimed upon their wages? This, he added our Saviour, who later suffered the jeangs of death upon the Cross of and economic weakness, but not in Calvary in order that all men who believe in Him might enjoy the glories of an eternity in heaven. All capital, or in concentrating in the hail to the priesthood, and many

### RELIGION'S PLACE IN SOCIAL DEMOCRACY

"All agree that some remedy must be found and found quickly for the misery and wretchedness pressing so which he addressed to King Herod, heavily upon the vast majority of the if he had yielded and said nothing working classes," wrote Pope Leo working classes," wrote Pope Leo XIII. in his Encyclical on the "Conprobably not have been dution of the Working Classes." With oned. But in that case would tender compassion for the multitude, therefore, to bring nations, delirious from centuries of political indulgence back to Christian principles.

The Church has always loved those who suffer. She has always taught that public authority established for the common good must work especour mid-t. It is because most people have no perseverance and steadfast who suffer. Hence Pope Leo's sucwho suffer. Hence Pope Leo's successors on the throne of Peter have raised their voices again and again in behalf of those who toil.

Recently Pope Benedict XV. in a letter to the French bishops welcomed the steadily rising tide of

These great evils are the destruction of true religion and learning, by Jesus Christ, must overcome and compulsion and state secularization of schools; the destruction of the home by bad housing and divorce; hands of the few; and the destruction of freedom by a state of economic pleasant as they can. These are the principles of men, but they are not these evils have been brought in by

Truly effective democracy the Catholic Church has always advanced. Her great theologians like Suarez and Bellarmine have ex-ponded it. Her great thinkers lay and clerical have transmitted it to the world. When Pope Benedict welcomes the rise of democracy be is hoping that true principles will save the world from the dangers and crimes which false theories have brought upon it.

The Holy Father reminds the world that after military victory has been won, victory in the material and moral sphere must be attained. As the Shepherd of Christendom,

### CATHOLIC SOCIAL THINKING

recent lecture he outlined as follows according to the London Universe, the paths that lead to better living

Father Plater said that present day Father Plater said that present day problems need careful, co operative, and democratic thinking out. They should not be left to the experts. Dealing with the subject of "Property for the People," he said that the first truth, that human life was given to us by God, the Creator, certified the sanctity of life, and ought to have a precision hearing on all impredicate. sanctity of life, and ought to have a practical bearing on all immediate social problems. Secondly, life was given to be developed, according to the Creator's plan, on the lines of a healthy body, an active and well-balanced mind, as well as the development of the soul. The third was that the human race was destined to a life hereafter, and the fourth that that the human race was destined to shift hereafter, and the fourth that She formed it. Three months chief the from a life hereafter, and the fourth that human beings were not merely victims of chance, but had the power of choice. Every human being had a right to live by the fact that they had said to her: "Give the names of

Divine descent.

The most valuable thing in the world was personality. It was because it had been subordinate throughout industrial history that many of the great difficulties had been caused, and the truth that man been caused, and the truth that man officer would lower himself to put prayed constantly to Mary our prayed constantly to Mary during an officer would lower himself to put prayed constantly to Mary during the War and with worders leave the substitution of th

manhood to preparation for their work, denying themselves all personal comforts; they spend anxious reach that reasonable standard of life days and restless nights in study and days and restless nights in study and prayer and struggles with the world, and then fully equipped and clothed in armor of heaven, they march forth to battle with the hosts of evil and standard; to have sufficient to develop life, and to marry and bring up a family in reasonable comfort. The claim, therefore, was against the employer; yet it had only been admitted in recent years.

What is the ideal economic system? asked Father Plater. Is it one in which by far the greater portion of hands of a few, the enormous power such opes as we honor today assert that capital gave, nor by transferring their allegiance and pledge of unbroken service during all their years on earth, to the cause of Christ.

If they shall die in such a cause, not have the great bulk of the people without capital, and merely depending on their weekly wage.

### CARDINAL MERCIER

TELLS OF COURAGEOUS SPIRIT OF CHILDREN

In his address at the banquet in his honor in Cincinnati the Cardinal strange that this glorious feast told of the courageous spirit of even should be placed in the sombre the little boys. He said that in the cocupied portions of Belgium the we recall that it was in December, he did not wish to see the evils Germans reserved the sidews ks for against which he inveighed perpetuated through the ages. He tried, to walk in the streets. One day as he was looking out of his window, he saw three small Belgian boys walking arm in arm along the side-walk opposite his residence. While watching them, he noticed several German officers approaching the boys. When they reached the little fellows, they started to brush them aside and into the street, but the brave urchins bristled up and resisted to the best of their ability.

BELGIUM'S BRAVE WOMEN

leaders, who will give the world the example of a common wealth based not only on the people's will better the common wealth based will work for us in Germany fracture. hunger and cold; and you will be constrained to hard labor in Germany

without any salary."

That was the proposition made to our workmen. Well, dear ladies and gentlemen, we had 70,000 men who refused this offer.

" DO NOT SIGN !"

Their wives exhorted them to refuse—not to sign. The motto was:
"Do not sign." Mothers exhorted
their sons not to sign.

I was once witness of a wonderful spectacle. They had arrested some hundred workmen who had refused their signature. The wives and the mothers tried to approach the station where the train was starting for Germany. The military authori-ties prevented the mothers and children from going to the station. What did the mothers and wives do?

They left the vicinity of the station and ran down the railroad track. They mounted the embankments, and at the moment the train passed through, they were all shouting, "Do

not sign. Never sign!"
I was a witness to that.

I saw afterward a great many of those workmen, coming back, physically exhausted, but still proud because they had left to their family, to their sons, a tradition of honor, of honesty, of the spirit of freedom.

The recalling of the enmity and

A TOUCHING STORY

There was the first battle to oppose the German colossus. the German colossus.

This young boy was wounded there.
The girl nursed him; and, when he recovered, she sent him through the ver an enemy so base? Was there electric wires to join our army, tell. ing him: "When you are away, I Was victory ever so crushing, so

our country myself."

She did. She affiliated herself with one of those secret organizations for furnishing information to the

afterward this new group was arrest ed, and she appeared before a court-martial. There a German officer your comrades, and you may go free.
If you refuse, you will be sentenced

her eyes. She refused, saying: " I shall face death."
She had first asked the authorities

to get her wedding garments. Her request was granted, and she died garbed in those wedding garments,

shouting, "Vive la Belgique!"
His Eminence concluded his address by again thanking Cincinnatians for their generosity toward the Belgians, closing with the words, "I thank you; I esteem you; I love you."—Catholic Telegraph.

### MARY IMMACULATE

FEAST DECEMBER 8

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which we celebrate tomorrow, is one of the outstanding feasts in the calendar of the Church. It is a day that should be dear to the heart of every Catholic. We love to honor the Mother of God; we rejoice in her exaltation. On this feast day, we greet her as immaculate, even at the first instant of her conception; we acclaim the singular privilege con-ferred on her by God, a privilege that places her far above all the sons and daughters of Adam. We honor her whom the King has so singularly honored. "Thou art wholly beauti-ful, Oh! Mary, there is no stain in thee. Hail! Full of grace, pray for

us, who have recourse to thee."
At first thought it may seem we recall that it was in December 1854, that the Vatican Council, wi Pope Pivs IX. as its head, with due solemnity and fullness of authority, declared and defined as a dogma of faith that Mary was conceived out the stain of original sin. fitting then that this great event should be commemorated each year at this particular time, that the feast of the Immaculate Conception should be observed on the 8th of December. This solemn definition did not mean the introduction of a new doctrine, nor did it mean any change in the teachings of the Church. It simply meant that a The women, however, are the doctrine which was known and bravest of all, said the Cardinal. In believed by the Catholic Church, even in its earliest ages, was now set forth in definite terms and stamped with the seal of truth by the highest will work for us in Germany freely? Authority on earth, under the inspir-You will get high salaries; your ation and guidance of the Holy setisfy the desires of his heart. Yet he moral law, that is, on the will of her efrained from doing so, because, being our Lord's precursor, he wished not only to preach to men, but to brought home by the Holy Father.

The desires of his heart. Yet the moral law, that is, on the will of families here will be supported by the occupying power. If you refuse, your wife and children will suffer your wife and children will suffer the surface that the occupying power. If you refuse, your wife and children will suffer the surface that the occupying power in the strongest and to will be supported by the occupying power. If you refuse, now placed in the strongest and to will be supported by the occupying power. If you refuse, now placed in the strongest and color that was in the shadow was now placed in the strongest and the occupying power. If you refuse, now placed in the strongest and color that was in the shadow was now placed in the strongest and color that the shadow was now placed in the strongest and color that the shadow was now placed in the strongest and color that the shadow was now placed in the strongest and color that the shadow was now placed in the strongest and color that the shadow was now placed in the strongest and color that the shadow was now placed in the strongest and color that the shadow was now placed in the strongest and color that the shadow was now placed in the strongest and color that the shadow was now placed in the strongest and color that the shadow was now placed in the strongest and color that the shadow was now placed in the strongest and color that the shadow was now placed in the strongest and color that the shadow was now placed in the strongest and color that the shadow was now placed in the s treasure-house of the Church, the deposit of faith, was now placed before the eyes of the Christian world. An old truth was made secure and safe, placed beyond the shadow of doubt or cavil, and what a wonderful truth is thus set forth. Not only is it true that the Infant Jesus was conceived in the womb of Mary without sin or blemish to her fair soul, nor again that Mary, in her whole life, never committed even a venial sin. It goes back much further, and declares that not even in the first instant of her conception in the womb of St. Ann, her mother, was her soul tainted with original sin, the common heritage of every child of Adam. When Mary came into existence, into being, her soul

was clad with a robe of grace. Never for an instant, did she lack grace

never was she even slightly separated from God; never was she, even

momentarily under the power of Satan. God had declared in the Garden of Paradise that He would

place enmity between Satan and the womap, between his seed and her

seed. There could be no alliance. however brief between the woman, Mary, and her seed, Jesus, and their constant enemy, Satan, and his satellites. Mary, through Jesus, was The recalling of the enmity and and the ultimate and complete tri-In conclusion, I would like to give ou an example of the energy, devotion and patriotism of our girls.

umph of Mary, should be most interesting to us at the present time.

We, too, are victors over a base the outbreak of the War nineteen years old. Her name was Gabrielle Fritze. She was engaged years old. Her name was Gabrielle
Fritze. She was engaged.
When the War broke out she sent
her flance to the War, to Liege.
There was the first battle to appear.

We are now looking forward with high hopes to the blessings of a lasting and honorable peace. Consider, then, the circumstances and results. circumstances and results of Mary's triumph. The devil, the evil was epitome of sing him: "When you are away, I shall find means to do my duty in our country myself."

Was victory ever so crushing, so merited? Were the fruits of victory ever so abundant so enduring, so chief aim be to distribute the fruits of victory in just propor

the fruits of victory in just propor-tions? Will pride and jealousy and avarice be absent from their peace councils? Will those who turned councils? Will those who turned to God in their hour of distress remain friends of God in their hour of triumph? Let us hope that prayed constantly to Mary during the War, and with wonderful results. speakers was Joseph A. Miller, former internal revenue commissioner, a non-Catholic. Among other things in his eloquent address Mr. Miller paid the following tribute to the Catholic priesthood:

Chosen for their sacred calling, they devote their youth and early

"I would rather be ignorant, but knowledge, on the side of the world. on the side of God, than full of —Madame Swetchine.

# KIDNEY TROUBLE

After Three Years of Suffering, "FRUIT-A-TIVES" Brought Relief



MADAME HORMIDAS FOISY

624 Champlain St., Montreal.

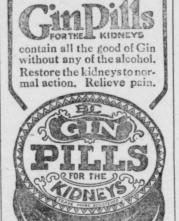
"For three years, I was ill and exhausted and I suffered constantly from Kidney Trouble and Liver Disease. My health was miserable and nothing in the way of medicine did me any good. Then I started to use 'Fruit-a-tives' and the effect was remarkable.

I began to improve immediately and this wonderful fruit medicine entirely restored me to health. All the old pains, headaches, indigestion and constipation were relieved and once more I was well.

To all who suffer from Indigestion, Constipation, Rheumatic Pains or great Fatigue, I advise the use of 'Fruit-a-tives'."

Madame HORMIDAS FOISY.

50c.a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size 25c. At all dealers or sent postpaid by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa, Ont.



For backache, swollen joints, stone in the bladder, rheumatic pains—They bring health to sufferers. Get a box to-day. At druggists, 50c., sold on money-back guarantee. Free sample on request.

The Mational Drug & Chemical Co. of Canada, Limited, Teronto.

U.S. Address: Ms-Bru-Se., Inc., 202 Main St., Buffalo, M.Y. 262

# FATHER FINN'S LATEST BOOK FACING DANGER



To those who have read "Tom Playfair," "Percy Wynn," and "Harry Dee," the most popular Catholic story books ever writ-ten, there is a delightful surprise in this latest book. Here they will meet an old friend in a new and lovable re-creation.

Talk about excitement and adventure—there's plenty of it

12mo, with frontispiece, \$1.25 postpaid

The Catholic Record LONDON, CANADA

## The Finest Catholic Prayer-Book My Prayer-Book

HAPPINESS IN GOODNESS By Rev. F. X. LASANCE

Happiness! That is the keynote of Father Lasance's theme. He teaches by precept, poetry, and prayer how to secure the happiness which all men seek, but which mistaken search leads so few to find.

Imitation leather, red edges . \$1.25 Imitation leather, gold edges . Amer. Seal, limp, gold edges .

The Catholic Record

ROSS' LIMITED LONDON, ONT.



Does not blister or remove the hair and horse can be worked. Pleasant to use. \$2.50 a bottle, delivered. Describe your case for special instructions and Book 5 R free. ABSORBINE, R., antiseptic liniment for makind, reduces Strain, Palaful, Knotted, Swoline Veins. Concentrated—only a few drops required at an application, Price 81.25 per bottle at dealers of delivered. W. F. YOUNG Inc., 299 Lymans Bldg., Montreal, Can. Absorbine and Absorbine, Ir., are made in Canada.





Canadian National

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

erther Information from Canadian National Ticket Agents, 4
GENERAL PASSENGER DEPARTMENT, TORONTO



thick and soft, the scarf is fashioned in large animal style, poplin lined and silk poplin streamer. Muff to match in barrel shape, poplin cuffs, soft bed, wrist cord and amber ring. Trimmed with natural heads, tails and paws. Very Special.

Price delivered to you M 448 Scarf, \$18.75 M 449 Muff, \$18.75

The above is only one of over 300 genuine fur bargains shown in Hallam's 1920 edition Fur Fashion Book your free copy to-day.

1023 Hallam Building, TORONTO. THE LARGEST IN OUR LINE IN CANADA

Address in full as below.