#### FIVE MINUTE SERMON

REV. F. P. HICKEY, O. S. B. FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE CALLING OF THE LABORERS "And Jesus saith to timon: Fear no'; from hence(o, th thou shalt catch men. And having brought their ships to land, leaving all things, they followed Him." (Luke V. 10, 11.)

Of all the dignities of earth, that of the chosen one of God is the most sublime. A vocation is above an avocation; it is greater than a profession. This calling is something that can not be said to be innate in man, but comes to him when God, who is its Author, chooses. It is a privilege, for it is not given to all—nay, it is given to but a few—and it elevates man to the highest point obtainable in life, when he lives up to it faithfully. It praces man in the closest connection possible with his Maker, and records the will of God to be made known to other men. God works, in other words, through His chosen ones for the salvation of man's soul. To co-operate with God in this, the greatest of all works, can not fail to be most mer-

It is well that God chooses those whom He desires to be laborers in His vineyard. Did man make the choice himself, his works to that end would be in vain, for a power necessary for success in this work.

Man is saved through grace. He can not be urged on effectively to salvation by any other means. He is incited to this pursuit by him who is incited to this pursuit by him who has an abundance of God's grace and a certain likeness to his Master abiding in him, and manifested by his words and works. God will not give the power to work in men's souls except to him whom He Him-self calls. It is for this reason that the prevaricators and deceivers who work themselves into God's ministry attain no lasting success and, sooner or later, show their true colors. Sometimes, because of people's good faith, God may use them as a means through which to exercise His beneficence toward man, but this does not help them personally. They are instruments, perhaps; but, being rational beings, it depends of exultation literally running upon themselves what kind of instruments they become. We never overlook the fact that man has a free will, and though God may for a while work through him, he is not thereby necessarily in God's favor, living in the state of grace. Since God calls His own, them alone does He adorn with His awe. them alone does He adorn with His special graces, and to them only does He give the power to bring souls to Him. He sometimes may lead souls to Himself through others; but whether the souls of these others also will be brought to these others also will be brought to the souls of the company of the souls of the company of the souls of the company of the souls of the s

own, and only the purest and brighest are God's possession. The Postulation of the cause of Saint Teresa has the publication in live in constant communication with God. The delight that words can not speak is theirs in abundance, and a sad heart never beats in their when He considered the hardened sinner. The divine in Christ, which ever gave Him happiness and made Him dwell in bliss, may be said to exist, in a certain sense, in God's chosen ministers who are faithfully doing His will and laboring for of the "Little Flower's" holiness: Him, even amidst sufferings. In them this is not a nature, as in Christ, but it is a sort of presence of the Almighty, and is a reward even in life for their labors.

God would choose greater num-

rule, act sgainst nature. He rather acts in accord with it. It is nature that He finds worthy or unworthy of His love. This does not mean Well, I hope He will reward me that He finds worthy or unworthy of His love. This does not mean nature itself, but nature as we have made it, or as we make it. Where human nature is made an object worthy of God's love, the highest spiritual blessings will be given it, and among the principal, nay, the chief of these, is a call to work in His cause. Of course, God does not expect to find us as worthy of His love and esteem as He will make us.

He according to His works. . .

"I would like to be sent to Carmel in Hanoi (Cochin China) to suffer so much for the good God. If I should be cured. I would like to go there to remain alone, to have no consolation, no joy on earth. I know the good God has but little need of our me, and whom I shall know only in Heaven!

"Yes, a little spark can produce the great lights in the whole Church, like the doctors, the martyrs who will be in Heaven good God has but little need of our work, and I am sure that I could link that their glory will not also hot render Him any service there.

But I could suffer and "In Heaven we shall not meet" This would not be possible for us. ... But I could suffer and However, He wishes to find fit subjects for what He is desirous of From May 21 to 27: making of us. There always has been a certain disposition to an end but when? Oh, how death delays which God called one to attain. Sometimes it was hidden, not through one's own fault, but because of wrong rearing, faulty education and false teaching. Some have thought, as no doubt did St. Paul before his conversion, the acts they were engaged in to be lawful with the sound one of the conversion, the acts they were engaged in to be lawful with the sound one of the conversion, the acts they were engaged in to be lawful with the sound one of the conversion, the acts they were engaged in to be lawful with the sound one of the conversion. The files greatly torment her, but she did not want them to be killed. have thought, as no doubt did St. Paul before his conversion, the acts they were engaged in, to be lawful and even meritorious. But God lifted the veil from their eyes, and they then applied all their faculties and powers to a noble cause. So it is yet that many, once in good faith enemies of God's one religion, are called to His service and become indefatigable laborers in His vineyard. But we do not intend to speak of these exceptions. It is

among God's own that He should find the greatest number of subjects properly disposed to hear His call. He has acted thus since the foundation of His Church. He always has selected His workers from among those who were the most faithful in the restinct of their religion. practice of their religion. His call has been, too, as a reward to those who nobly have kept the faith

He will do more.

It is in the Christian home that
the future priest of the Church the future priest of the Church any light at all; well, that is my should be disposed for God's invitajoy." tion to become a co-operator with June 5 Him in the salvation of souls. Prayer brings much in this direction. To no one more directly than to parents is it said. "Pray ye, therefore the Lord that He send laborers into His vineyard." Encouragement to children, an effort to have them love the things of God, often sow the seeds of a vocation. It will not generally come in the home where religion holds a secondary place, where bishop and priest are criticized, or spoken of irreverently. Children should be told repeatedly, also, the true story of life. To how many the brightest and the most worldly hopes are pictured without suffi-cient foundation, and which, if realspiritual, but both impartially por-trayed. If this were done, the number that would adopt the spir-itual career, would be much larger than it is today. May the day come when this will be so, for the harvest is great and the laborers few.

### "LITTLE FLOWER'S" LAST HOURS

By Mgr. Enrico Pucci na Correspondent, N. C. W. C.) A thin little volume of pious round the world.

It is the sequel to the autobiography of the "Little Flower." Perhaps it is the humblest of books. It contains chiefly the sim-

Him, depends upon themselves.

The beauty of the life of those called by God and actively and meritoriously engaged in His works, can not be surpassed the surpassed translated into virtually every language. A world army of devotees demanded it. Since then, it is estimated that 44,000,000 pieces of literature have been published concerning the "Little Flower."

Where stains exist, God is absent, or is not present in any intimate degree. The dwelling-places of God are those of His chosen souls. In body they must live on earth, work, toil, and suffer; but in spirit and in their bigher and nobler life they may 15 to September 30, 1897. May 15 to September 30, 1897. Notably, it contains a vivid, min-utely-detailed account of Sister Teresa's death.

Through the kindness of the Posbreasts, except such as was Christ's tulation, this correspondent of the when He considered the hardened N. C. W. C. News Service has been able personally to see the diary some time before its publication.

EXTRACTS FROM DIARY

May 15:
"I am so happy to go soon to
Heaven; but when I think of these
words of God: 'I will soon come bers of ministers, no doubt, were the necessary dispositions found in parents and in the subjects. We must never forget that God does not, as a never forget that God does not, as a shalf never heads to give each one according to his works,' I think that the Lord will find Himself never forget that God does not, as a shalf necessary I have no work

his valor, and knowing that he is not a bad man, ends by being ashamed of such compliments and

those who nobly have kept the faith and courageously fought His cause. To perfect what has been shaped by chisel and hammer, God has applied the finishing touch, by a gentle process of calling. It is rare that pure suffering, and the sky is sometimes dark so that I cannot discover the action humble life.

"The chaplain has also said: 'Are you resigned to die?' And I answered him: 'Father, I think I want resignation to live.' Oh! how happy I would be to die!"

OVERCOME BY GOD'S LOVE

June Pauline writes: "She had taken a short walk in the garden, with my assistance. When we were about to return, she stopped and looked at a little white hen which was hiding its chickens under its wings. Her eyes were full of tears, so I asked her: 'Are you crying?' Then, covher: 'Are you crying?' Then, covering her eyes with her hands and crying still more sorrowfully, she replied: 'I cannot tell you why I

am so moved.'
"A little later, she said to me with a heavenly expression: 'I cried thinking that Jesus, in order to show us His tenderness, took the hen for example. And He has done so with me all my life; He has hidden me entirely under His wings.

And then I could not bear it any longer because my heart heat so longer here were heart heat so longer because my heart heat so longer for the dying. When she so with me all my life; He has hidden me entirely under His wings. And then I could not bear it any longer, because my heart beat so with gratitude and love."

Beauline read the office of St. Michael the Archangel, and the prayers for the dying. When she spoke of demons, Teresa made a with gratitude and love.

June 9:
"I am like a little child who waits at the station for its Father waits at the station for its Father smiling, "Oh!" in such a tone as if she wanted to say, "I have no June 9: the train. But the train starts, and fear, they do not come! However, there are others, and I will certainly

July 12: Teresa looked at her thin hands and said: "I have already become a skeleton. Oh, how that pleases

When I shall see God, I am sure I will cry. . . . In Heaven one ought not to cry . . . but yes, one cries because He has said: 'I'll wipe the tear from every eye.''

"This evening, a distant music reached my ears, and I immediately thought that I shall soon hear incomparable melodies; but this sentiment of joy has been transient."

"If I had been rich, it would have been impossible for me to see a poor man hungry without giving him something of mine. So when I gain some spiritual treasure, knowing at the same time some souls are in danger of falling into hell, I give them what I possess, so much so that I have not yet found a moment when I can say: 'Now I am going to work for myself.'''

SYMBOL OF LITTLE LAMP

"Sister Mary of the Eucharist wanted to light candles for the procession. However, she had no matches, and seeing the little lamp which burns before the relics, she went to it and found it almost my Mother, what strength I have today! No, I am not about to die. I will have still some months. I do not believe any more in death for me. I believe in nothing but sufferwhen burns belove the relation, sate when to it and found it almost spent. There only remained a weak thread of light on the smoking wick. Notwithstanding she succeeded in lighting her candle, and with that candle all the others of the Community. Therefore, it was the little already half-spent lamp which produced these beautiful where no me. I believe any more in death for me. I believe in nothing but suffering. And tomorrow still worse. Well!so much the better! My God! I love God! O, my good Holy Virgin, help me! If this is the agony, what is death? My Mother, I assure you the chalice is overful. "Yes, my God, all that you will, but have nity on me! which produced these beautiful flames which in their turn will be able to light an infinite number, even to burning the whole world. And it is always that the first cause of the fire should be attributed to the little lamp. So the big flames could boast of having produced a fire, even though they were lighted by a humble little half-spent flame.

'So in the Communion of Saints; without knowing it, the grace and light which we receive are due to an unknown soul, because the good God wishes the saints reciprocally to communicate graces by means of prayer, so that in Heaven we are loved with a great love, a love much greater than that of our earthly family, even of the ideal family. How many times have I thought that perhaps I owe all the graces I

"In Heaven we shall not meet indifferent glances, because all the elect will recognize each other, being reciprocally debtors of the graces by which they merited their

HER HUMILITY

Some one had told her she was a saint. Teresa replied: "No, I am not a saint; I have never performed the actions of the Saints. I am a humble little soul whom the good God has filled with grace. This is the truth; you will see it in Heaven.

September 2: I want Heaven! My God, tear off the veil which hides you from

September 14:
They brought her a rose. She pulled it to pieces over the Crucifix, and taking the petals one by one, she covered the wounds of her Lord and said: "In the month of Sep-tember, little Teresa still takes off the petals of the spring roses of

September 28: 'I lack the air of the earth; when will God give me the air of heaven?"

September 29 (eve of her death): From the morning she seemed in agony. She found it difficult to breathe. At noon she asked the Mother Prioress: "My Mother, is this the agony? What do I do to

gesture of infantile simplicity, almost threatening. She cried.

After the doctor's visit she asked the Prioress: "Is it today, then, is it today . . . my mother?" Pauline continues:

The Mother Prioress replied in the affirmative, and added: "The good God is very good today. . ."

"And she almost cried: 'And I!
And I! If I could die at once!
What happiness!'

In the afternoon, she said: "I cannot any longer! Pray for me!

Oh, if you knew! After the matins, she folded her hands, and in a sweet and pitiful tone, said: "Yes, my God, I want

She asked to be left alone in the ight, but the Mother Prioress night. would not consent. Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart and Sister Genoveffa stayed with her.

THE DAY OF HER PRECIOUS DEATH September 80: Pauline writes : "In the morning

during Mass, I looked at her. did not speak; she was tired and weak. Her sufferings were inexpressible

'All day, without a moment's pause, she was in torment. Her strength seemed exhausted, but to our surprise she suddenly recovered and sat up in bed, and said: 'See, my Mother, what strength I have today! No, I am not about to die.

but have pity on me! little sisters! . . . My little sisters, pray for me!
"'My God! My God! You Who
are so good! Yes, You are good!

arms. The Mother Prioress put a picture of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on her knees. She looked at it for an instant: My Mother, present me quickly to the Holy Virgin! Prepare me to die well!

The Mother Prioress told her that as she always practiced humility, her preparation was made. She reflected for an instant, then humbly pronounced these words: 'Yes, it seems to me that I have sought nothing but the truth. Yes, I have understood the humility of

"And she still repeated: 'I do not repent of having offered myself to love!'
"With yet more strength, she

said: 'Oh, no, I do not repent of having consecrated myself to love .. on the contrary!...'
"A little later, she said: 'I never would have believed it possible to suffer so much. Never! Never!

Only my desire to save souls can explain this to me.' ECSTASY AT END "At 7 o'clock seeing that the Mother Prioress sent away the Community, she smiled: 'My

Mother Prioress sent away the Community, she smiled: 'My Mother, but is it not now? Am I not about to die?'
"'Yes, it is the agony,' said the Mother Prioress, 'but perhaps the Lord wishes to prolong it.'



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