FIVE MINUTE SERMON

BY REV. M. BOSSAERT TRINITY SUNDAY

SIX

CHRISTIAN MERCY

Mercy is a most beautiful virtue and in today's Gospel our divine Redeemer teaches vs how essential it is, for He says: "Be ye merciful, as your Father also is merciful." In the Sermon on the Mount He shows us how pleasing mercy is in God's sight, since He tells us that the merciful are blessed, because they shall obtain mercy. That we may be more zealous in practicing this virtue, let us today consider shortly what it is and how it is rewarded.

1. "Be ye merciful, as your Father also is merciful." These words teach us how we ought to practice mercy. God is merciful toward all men, giving them good gifts for both body and soul, and His only motive in so doing is His in-exhaustible love. Our mercy must possess the same characteristics; as far as we can, we must show mercy and do good to all men ; in fact, it is God's will that our mercy and charity of civil anarchism. should extend even to our enemies. Any one who is poor and wretched is our brother, and it is the glory and crown of the Christian virtue of mercy that it does good even to adversaries. Our Lord gave us a wonderful commandment when He Love your enemies. do good said : to them that hate you." By showing mercy we become like our divine Lord, who when dying on the Cross prayed for His enemies, saying : "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." All men, without exception, have a claim upon our mercy, and we must help them both in body and soul, for there are corporal and spiritual works of mercy. How often do opportunities occur to us all of practising them. Perhaps superinduced through the use of the us all of practising them. Perhaps you know some unhappy or sinful person, with whom you, like your with the prelates of the Catholic Father in heaven, sympathize Church in warning the public against heartily, and you are auxious to help the use of this device. Despite these him. If he is sad and depressed, you warnings, the number of crimes and speak him; if he is in need of counsel, you able to the influence of the ouija-advise him and show yourself a true board over those who have attempted friend; or you may supply him with work or money, if he is in want. to communicate with departed spirits through its use has shown an alarm Perhaps some beggar knocks at your door, and you give him food or cloth J. Godfrey Raupert, international neighbor, or take some dainty dish to devoted a considerable portion of his a lonely invalid-all these and many latest book, " The New Black Magic," others also are works of mercy, one to a consideration of the ouija board, to perform daily for the good of your suffering fellow creatures. Every such work, however, should be done who has just arrived in Washington, throad the suffering fellow creatures in the suffering for God's sake, since the Pharisaical has been system of doing good works for one's America for the past four years on own advantage, or to please men different phases of Spiritism, and own advantage, or to please men rather than God, is devoid of all merit in His sight.

they shall obtain mercy." We learn here the reward of mercy. When a man has acquired a large capital, he tends it out at interest, and in due time recovers it with a considerable addition. Now every good work that we do, every alms that we give, is a kind of capital that we lend to God, and in His own good time He will and in His own good time He will repay it with abundant interest. It is true that every kind word is capital lent to God, for our divine Lord says: "Whatsoever you did to one of these My least brethren, you one of these My least brethren, you did it to Me." God will repay this did it to Me." God will repay this capital with interest, as it is written: "He that both by He that hath mercy on the poor. lendeth to the Lord, and He will repay him." What is the interest that we shall receive from God? If you are merciful, you may hope that even in this life He will have mercy Seven hundred dollars in bills had even in this life He will have mercy upon you, that it may be well with you, that you may be spared disaster the spirits of departed relatives. and misery and that your business may prosper. Should, however, may prosper. Should, however, trouble come upon you, the Lord will, in return for the mercy that will, in return to others, shorten to other, shorten to other, shorten to the California Lunacy Commis-tion, "but the latter holds front to any the to others, shorten you have shown to others, shorten the time of tribulation, fill you with when a merciful man comes to die that he really begins to reap what he has sown, for then he gathere the has sown, for then he gathers the fruits of his mercy, and receives his full reward; then he experiences the meaning of the promise: "Blessed meaning of the promise: "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy." If you are merciful, your soul will be filled with holy confidence that God in return for your so baneful in its consequences, is mercy will not forsake you, but will traced by many authorities to the forgive you your sins and have mercy upon you. You will not hope in vain. St. John Chrysostom writes : Never have I heard that anyone who delighted during his lifetime in doing works of mercy, died an un-happy death; for such an one hath highest importance. many advocates, and it is impossible that God should not grant their prayer." Yes, heaven itself is the

ingly weakening influence upon the ately events taking place at a dis proper obedience to civil authority. The so-called Reformation rebelled against the authority of the Church ; it set up private, individual judg-ment as the rule and guide in refigimind are subconscious and that ous matters. Present conditions in every impression and every emotion the church world show the deplora-of our lives is retained by this subble estate, to which Protestantism has brought the original seceding an abnormal state that we become sects. These have been dividing and subdividing until eventual total disintegration seems to be only a matter of time, especially when we note that "When the

sect after sect has been abandoning tenet after tenet of the body of docera of the Reformation. Does it require any stretch of the

ism during the last four centuries and the development of social Radicalism during the last four years ? Protestantism rebelled against religious authority, and has been disin-tegrating and degenerating into W.ism and Sovietism, forerunners

-Catholic Telegraph. beings.-

DANGERS OF THE OUIJA BOARD

GODFREY RAUPERT DECLARES EVIL INFLUENCES SURROUND OCCULT PRACTICES

By N. C. W. C. News Service

Alienists of national reputation and members of State lunacy boards throughout America, aroused by the planchette or ouija board, are joining words of encouragement to mental breakdowns directly traceor you go to visit a sick friend or authority on Spiritism and who has or more of which you can and ought issued a sharp warning against its lecturing throughout never before, he declares, has been such a sweep of insanity, not only in

"Blessed are the merciful, for America, but throughout Europe, nall obtain mercy." We learn due to dabbling with the preternatural LUNACY BOARD'S WARNING

> One of the most recent pronouncenents warning against the practice is that of the State of California Commission, following an Lunacy affair at El Cerrito, which caused the

Five children, with their heads shaved to "drive away evil spirits," been burned, she declared, to please "There are other fads that have surpassed the ouija-board to proplace today. We have had many commitments to state asylums durrecently confined to the asylum be-cause of insanity induced, doctors declared, by "dabbling with the ouija-board," and another case was reported from Oakland. The ouija mania, already become

THE CATHOLIC RECORD

tance is not hard to explain. Recent psychological researches have established that a very great an abnormal state that we become fully aware of the variety and com-

plexity of these subconscious posses When the normal mind becomes lethargic, then it is that the subconscious mind gains the ascendency trine carried away from the Mother and operates most actively. In the Church of Christendom during the condition of sleep the holdings of the subconscious mind come forth in the shape of dreams and in states induced

imagination, to see a resemblance by hypnotism, or, when under the between the working of Protestant influence of the ouija board, they may be easily pried into. Experiments have shown that when this passive state of the mind is cultivated a door is opened through which gradually it is possible for evil spirits, for so they have been identireligious anarchism : Social Radical-ism has rebelled against civil author-to gain access to the storehouse of ity, and has been disintegrating and the subconscious and read it like an degenerating into Plumbism, I. W. open book. The statement of one of these spirits, who after having suc-cessfully deceived his auditors for Similar causes produce similar a long while was finally trapped into a facts; and men are imitative a manifest falsehood, was this : 'I obtained all the needed infor-

> You sit there like a set of boxes. fools, in a passive state of mind, by which I am able to read your minds as you read the New Testament.' The ludicrous and fantastic mes sages which are usually first obtained

from the use of the ouija-board are explained by the fact that the subconscious mind is only partly awakened and the normal mind is still functioning. As long as the messages contain no information that may not be known by the experimenter himself, there is no valid reason to assume an outside intelligence

'But, usually, as the experimenter becomes more and more accustomed to the use of the device, it is found succumbs to its influence and more capidly passes into the lethargic state in which the subconscious flourishes. Gradually it has been observed that the character of the messages changes and that from the trivial and fantastic note that is usually found at the outset there flash forth astonishing communications which suggest the presence of a critical and observant mind other than that of the experimenter." VICTIMS TAKEN UNAWARES

It has been found that the weaker the mind that tampers with the chief danger is in the first step taken, when curiosity is aroused. The descent from what is apparently harmless to what is vicious and dangerous is so abrupt that, as in many of the cases recently investigated by lunacy commissioners, the victims are taken unawares. Chil-dren, as indicated by the California

case, are just as susceptible as their elders to derangement and disorders.

THE CATHOLIC IDEAL OF WOMANHOOD By Rev. Albert Muntsch

The thirty first chapter of the Book of Proverbs sings in language of splendid power and charm the praises of the wise and valiant woman. No work of classic antiquity can rival this portrait of the saintly woman-



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not the high and proud stations in society. But they were bent on doing God's work in the home, and for husband, and children and dependents. And so doing, they led noble lives and achieved distinction. They wrought in the spirit of the valiant woman of Proverbs, and now, her children have risen up, "and called her blessed." Such a woman leaves an inspiring example of virtue and well-doing, of courage and loyalty to duty, to the people of the land.

"LA PERFECTA CASADA"

And say not that this is only the opinion of those who are caught in the narrow ruts of lazy conservatism, and who dare not aspire to the light and glory of the new age of freedom. No, the greatest minds of all ages have found in Proverbs the perfect to the use of the device, it is found image of the noble woman, whose that the normal mind more readily presence in the household spells peace and gladness, and whose absence means gloom and corrow. Fray Luis de Leon, an illustrious Catholic poet of Spain, who died in 1591, is celebrated in the history of Spanish Literature as the author of a work entitled "La Perfecta Casada," "The Perfect Married Woman." Concern ing this work a historian of Spanish literature writes : "With the excep-tion of his poetical works, the book by which he (Luis de Leon) is best known is his "Perfecta Casada" '(Per. fect Wife), in which, taking for his text the thirty-first chapter of the Book of Proverbe, he sketches in grave ouija board the more readily is the influence of the instrument or the severe but admirably pure conception spirits it summons manifested. The of the strong woman. So true is his picture, and so accurately did he gauge the feelings of his countrymen in this respect that a Spanish auth-oress of real talent (Emilia Pardo Bazan) has lately expressed an opin ion that his book still represents the national idea of the "Perfect Wife." (Clarke, Spanish Literature.)

A LASTING IDEAL

The judgment of this great Spanish writer as to the excellence of the ideal of the "perfect woman" in the work of Fray Luis de Leon, holds good today. For even the woman of our time can find no better example of the virtues that should adorn her sex than those enumerated in "Proverbs," and that have been practiced in so eminent a degree by thousands of women who drew their strength and grace and inspiration from the teach ings and spiritual armory of the Catholic Church.

ancient Lombard Kings, used by the Monastery of Argenteuil near Napoleon I. at his coronation. Another is in the Church of Notre Dame at Paris, while at Monza, near Milan, is a nail, the authenticity of which The largest piece of the Winding is a nail, the authenticity of which Benedict XV. is reported to have

Sheet is at Turin, while the Church of Cadonin, Department of Dordogne,

Rome in the Basilica of St. John Lateran, while the point of the lance onica wiped Our Lord's face. Lateran, while the point of the lafe is at Paris and the rest at Rome. The Robe was given to the Church of Treves by St. Helene, and is known as the Holy Coat. Charlemagne is reported to have given the Tunic to Sanulabre. The upper portion of the Pillar of the Scourging has been in the Church of St. Praxedes at Rome since 1223, and the other part is at Jerusalem in the Church of the Holy reported to have given the Tunic to Sepulchre .-- The Pilot.

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Paris, where his sister was a nun. The Church of Argenteuil has this

France, is reported to have the cloth with which the Head was wrapped. Rome has the linen with which Ver

All you can hold in your dead hand is what you have given away.

MAY 29, 1920



-Anon.

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follow God's example in doing good to all men, both in body and soul, and in doing it for His sake. It is better to lay up treasures in heaven than on earth; when we die we shall have to leave everything; our good works alone will follow us. Let us then be merciful, and we shall obtain mercy. Amen.

*

THINK IT OVER !

When searching for the origin of the prevailing unrest and, especially, for the cause of the tendency toward for the cause of the fendency toward the disregard of civil authority, it might be well to ascertain whether the revolt against religious author-ity, which broke out in the sixteenth the subject's own mind and century, has not had a correspond. to comment upon and report accur-

influence of men of the type of Sir Oliver Lodge and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who recently came forward with statements that they have established communication with the dead and claiming revelations of the

EVIL SPIRITS, SAY EXPERTS

" Explanations of the manner in With such a reward in view, it is not difficult for us to be merciful, to follow God's example in doing mod

"While many hold there is a natural explanation for the messages which the board gives, and that this natural explanation eventually will be discovered, others who have in-vestigated the phenomena deeply are convinced that a natural explana-tion does not-cover all the facts

in the case, but that an independent mind of some kind must be admitted to have part in the transmission of messages. In many cases there is little doubt that the mind is that of

some sinister spirit.

The manner in which evil spirits

of the wife and mother who measures up to all the requirements of her position. No later writer has im-proved upon the picture, or found it lacking in essential detail, or pre-sented the world with a better and nobler idea of womanhood. The Church uses portions of this

eloquent tribute to the "wise woman' in her liturgy for the commemoration of women saints who attained to the stature of heroic holiness, though they possess neither the glory of martyrdom, nor the crown of virginity. The Church has, therefore, set the stamp of approval upon that matchless poem of the singer of Ancient Israel.

OLD AND NEW IDEALS

In these days of "emancipation" and of "woman's rights," of "femininism" and the " new freedom," other ideals of the truly great and noble woman have been placed before the sex. These ideals spring from an entirely different concept of woman's sphere and duty than those that guided the inspired writer of the Book

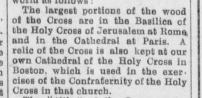
shall be praised," the later prophets of a new order, like Ibsen and Suder-

man and Ellen Key and Elinor Glyn, man and klien Key and Einor Giyn, praise the woman who follows her own caprice, and knows no other duty but that of "developing her individuality." This last phrase is the key of Sudermann's "Magda," a character, that some (emancipated) spirits proclaim the true type for the woman of today.

ILLUSTRIOUS WIVES AND MOTHERS Fortunately, common sense tells us

where to look for the ideals of woman-hood and where we can find their realization. The Catholic Church points to the illustrious wives and the crown, which was present it by St. Louis through his I Alphonso, Count of Toulouse. One of the Nails, a coord

RELICS OF THE HOLY PASSION TRADITION LOCATES MANY OF MATERIAL MEMORIALS OF HISTORIC EVENTS OF REDEMPTION The present whereabouts of the refices of the Holy Passion of Our Lord is a subject of great interest to Catholics and students of the physi-cal memorials of the historic events of the Redemption of man. Tradi-tion has placed the following relice of the Passion in various parts of the world as follows :



Cross in that church. The "title" of the Cross, or the tablet on which is the well known inscription "I. N. R. I."—"Jesus Nazarenus, Rex Judaeorum," "Jesus of Proverbs. Whereas the poet of the Old Law speaks of industry and devotion to household duty, and says that "the woman that feareth the Lord, she Cross of Jerusalem at Rome.

CROWN OF THORNS

The Crown of Thorns forms part of the treasure of Our Lady of Paris. but is lacking in the thorns, which have been distributed to a number of have been distributed to a number of churches. This relic, with frag-ments of the Cross, is borne in triumph by twelve Canons or Cures of Paris in a solemu procession held at 8 o'clock on Good Friday night in Notre Dame. The Church of St. Serin in Toulouse has a fragment of the Crown which was presented to

the Crown, which was presented to it by St. Louis through his brother

points to the illustrious wives and mothers who were "not learned, save in gracious household ways," who mided their addition of the additatic for the purpose of guided their children in the path of virtue, who speak no evil and sought be in the noted iron crown of the



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