

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

THE PURIFICATION

It's only a little blest candle Made from the wax of the bee, But for us 'tis the brightest of beacons To light us o'er life's troubled sea.

YOUR OWN EPITAPH

If you had to write your own epitaph, and the tombstone were big enough, could you truthfully put all this in it? asks Dr. Sheldon:

WISDOM OF CHEERFULNESS

Gladness is health-giving. It prolongs life. We all know the good of cheerfulness in the sick room.

LENTEN THOUGHTS

With the return of the Lenten season, many will be found—even amongst Catholics—who will hesitate to find fault with the Church for prescribing curtailment of pleasures and the penitential regime of fasting.

Lent, but those we have adduced are sufficiently strong to convince us that whatever we do during this coming Lenten season out of a spirit of love for Christ cannot but perform a moral miracle in our lives.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

TO A CHILD ON ST. VALENTINE'S DAY
Wilt thou think of me and mine, When I'm gone, my Valentine? Thou art young and I am old, With our dreams so manifold, How canst thou, sweet child of mine,

From sin's taint, its shame, its tears; Raise thy heart to God above, Centre of all purest love, And, responsive to thy prayer, He will guard thee everywhere.

THE LENTEN SEASON

Lenten tide is the old Anglo-Saxon name for "Spring time," so called, doubtless, because at this particular season of the year, nature divests herself of the shroud of seeming death in which the winter snows have wrapped her, and buds forth into new life and beauty—thus typifying the resurrection of the soul from the death of sin to a new life of grace with Christ.

Of Apostolic origin, the main purpose of its institution was and is to commemorate the forty days' fast of Our Divine Lord in the desert. Now, why did Christ undergo that long, protracted fast, and afterwards suffer Himself to be tried and assailed by the Evil One?

LENT

Enter into yourself this month and study your own soul, Jesus Christ is suffering and dying for you anew. The Passion must be real to you. "He is suffering for me," "He is dying for me," must bring home to you the great lessons of your sins and God's love and must fill you with a hatred for wrongdoing and a resolve to atone with Christ for the sins you have heaped upon Him.

Vested in the purple garb of penance, having laid aside her bright robes of the Christmas festivity, Mother Church invites her children, this opening day of the Lenten season, to a life of mortification, of fasting and prayer.

holy palm, the while she says to each and every one, through the voice of her minister, these simple and significant words of Scripture: "Remember man, that thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return!"

This solemn and awful warning is intended to remind us of our lowly origin and earthly destiny; to impress deeply upon our minds the incontrovertible truth that "our hearts like muffled drums are beating funeral marches to the grave."

The reason is because the Church is our spiritual Mother, and therefore, much more deeply concerned about our souls' eternal welfare than about the temporal and fleeting interests of our bodies. She would have us keep well and constantly in mind that these frail bodies which we are so solicitous to serve are but the dust of the earth and into this dust they must one day return, while our immortal souls will live on forever either in eternal bliss or in unending misery.

ST. VALENTINE, PRIEST AND MARTYR

St. Valentine's Day is a day ever dear to lovers, so, perhaps it will not be out of place to devote a few lines this morning to the patron of that day. The Feast of St. Valentine, priest and martyr, is celebrated annually in the catacombs which bear his name by the college of the Cultores Martyrdum, with great solemnity. This saint suffered under Claudius the Goth and was interred about a mile outside the city on the Flamian Way.

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soul. The Church does not ask much, besides the fast and abstinence, under penalty of sin, but she does ask a great deal under penalty of love of God and atonement for your sins. Do not be found wanting.—St. Anthony Messenger.

SPEAK A GOOD WORD

If you say anything about a neighbor or friend, or even a stranger, say no ill. It is a Christian and brotherly charity to suppress our knowledge of evil of one another, unless the evil have such relation to society that our higher public duty compels us to bear accusing evidence. And if it be true charity to keep our knowledge of such evil to ourselves, how much more should we refuse to spread evil and false reports of one another.

Discreditable as the fact is, it is by far the commonest tendency to suppress the good we know of our neighbors and friends. We act in this matter as though we felt, by pushing our fellows down or back a peg, we were putting ourselves up or forward. We are jealous of commendation unless we get the larger share.

Duty is the grandest of ideas, because it implies the idea of God, of the soul, of liberty, of responsibility, of immortality. It is also the most generous because, independently of it, there is neither pleasure nor interest.

We shall probably discover that we owe a heavier debt of gratitude to God for the trials we have endured than for the comforts we have enjoyed. For how many more are drawn towards Him by sufferings than by consolations.—Cardinal Gibbons.

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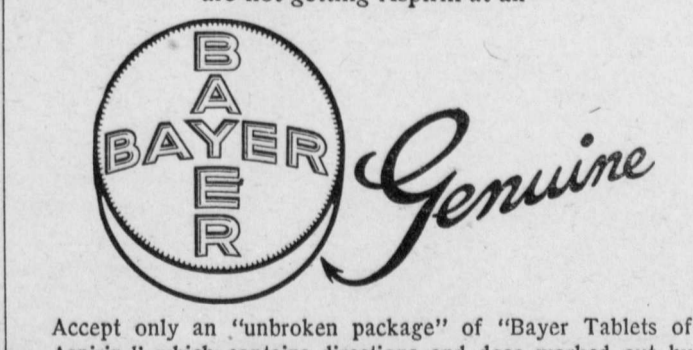
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