

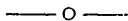


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The Prodigal Son's Departure.



THE most touching and popular of parables is the one in which Our Divine Savior paints so vividly the waywardness of the Prodigal Son, — of the sinner. None answers better the fond prepossessions of Mother Church for the return of her children during the holy time of Lent. One sees in that parable, the great mercy of God, the Father, extolled by Jesus Christ who alone knows its entire depth and width. By reading part of it to-day, we will learn, like the Prodigal, the sinner's folly, and how we may hope for the pardon of our sins.

« *A certain man had two sons.* » In these few words all is foreseen. The two sons represent the just and sinners ; those who keep the commandments of God, their Father, and those who transgress His laws. « *And the younger of them said to his father : « Father, give me the portion of substance that falleth*