

## FIVE MINUTE SERMON

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

THE STANDARD OF THE CROSS

"Enemies of the Cross of Christ." (Phil. III, 18)

If anything should stop us in a sinful course of life, my dear brethren, it is to find ourselves branded as "enemies of the Cross of Christ." St. Paul is not afraid to speak out, and thus he stigmatizes men who, within living memory of the Death on the Cross, so far forget themselves as to bring this rebuke upon themselves—"enemies of the Cross of Christ." If there were men, even in those early days, within thirty years of the Crucifixion, who deserved this title, how likely that now there are many—perhaps who little think it—who deserve the same for their crimes and misdeeds.

What a foul and treacherous thing it is to be the enemy of that by which we have been saved! It is not of those who knew no better—of heathens or pagans—that St. Paul speaks, but of those who have been redeemed by the Death on the Cross. There, then, is the rebellion, the malice of such men. Let us examine who they may be, what has led them astray, left us too, contaminated by evil, should find ourselves among them.

Who are they, then? St. Paul tells us: "For many walk, of whom I have told you often (and now tell you weeping) that they are enemies of the Cross of Christ; whose end is destruction; whose God is their belly; and whose glory is in their shame; who mind earthly things." They have perverted their mind, their glory, even their God, whose end is destruction. The Apostle seems to account for their wickedness by their minding earthly things.

Their mind, which had been purified from sin, illuminated by faith, trained to look up to Heaven by blessed hope, now seeking content with, grovelling amongst earthly things. Luxury and drunkenness usurp the place of God, and to indulge their impure passions is their boast, making their shame their glory. Such a life soon wrecks a body and soul; their end is destruction. Even nations cannot stand when their people indulge in such a life, and great cities once the pride of the world, for such crimes are now obliterated by the sands of time.

How common is it in our own day, alas! for men who have been baptized, instructed, have made their first Communion, have been confirmed, to get carried away on the tide of worldliness. They lose their hold of God, and the things of God. They begin only to mind earthly things, to be engrossed by them, to be misled by them. There are they who, in a spirit of independence and self-sufficiency, have contracted a mixed marriage; in hopes of a legacy have let a child or two be christened in some other faith; have loose views of dogmas and doctrines, speak lightly of the Church and its rulers, of priests and nuns; who, as long as they are outwardly respectable, think nothing of neglecting their duties, of curbing their pleasures, their appetites, their sinful desires; who are out of the Church, for their Easter Communion may not have been made for years—these are the modern specimens whom St. Paul would call "enemies of the Cross of Christ." How much more, do you think he deserves worse punishment, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath offered an affront to the Spirit of Grace?" (Heb. x, 29)

Let us should be led astray by such as these, listen to the lesson of the Cross, to the words of Him Who died for us on that Cross. "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself." (Matt. xvi, 24) Self-denial! what a contradiction to the spirit of this world! Instead of minding earthly things, we have to despise them, deny ourselves of anything that savours of sin—yes, and to obtain the power over ourselves of doing that, we have to practise self-denial even in things that are no harm.

"Let him take up his cross" (ibid.) submission and obedience demanded of us. We do not choose our cross, but we have to take up and carry the one that is given us. And we cannot do as we like, we are not Christ's unless we obey, for He says, "And he that taketh not up his cross, is not worthy of Me." (Matt. x, 38)

Cut off from the world by self-denial, loaded with our cross, whether shall we turn? The third word is "and follow Me." No fear, no doubt, no hesitation need be ours in following the footsteps of Jesus Christ. It is the sure path to Heaven. It is well worn now, for how many thousands have bravely followed after Him. And it is weary and long we cannot, should not complain, for He went first. Our Lord had a heavier cross, for He bore the sins of us all. With a good heart, my dear brethren, let us follow our Lord and Master. We want not to be of the spirit of this world, but to be like Him. To grow like unto Him we must often think of Him, visit Him, see Him near, and study His blessed words and deeds and ways; ponder over how He suffered, and why He suffered. Having learned this lesson, we shall despise earthly things, we shall glory in the lessons of the Cross of Christ, cheerfully denying ourselves, obediently taking up our cross, and lovingly following our Lord.

Most of us, alas! in looking back, must own that we have wasted perhaps years of our lifetime. We could not bring ourselves to break com-

## SUFFERED TERRIBLE AGONY

"Fruit-a-lives" Alone Gave Him Quick Relief

Buckingham, Que., May 8th, 1915.

"For seven years, I suffered terribly from Severe Headaches and Indigestion. I had belching gas from the stomach, and I had chronic Constipation. I tried many remedies but nothing did me good. Finally, a friend advised 'Fruit-a-lives'. I took this grand fruit medicine and it made me well. To everyone who has miserable health with Constipation and Indigestion and Bad Stomach, I say take 'Fruit-a-lives', and you will get well."

ALBERT VARNER.

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

pletely with earthly things and to be all for Jesus. But, fearing now to become enemies of the Cross of Christ, let us give ourselves wholly and manfully to the service of God, denying ourselves, taking up our cross and following our Lord. In earnest zeal let us say with St. Paul, "But one thing I do: forgetting the things that are behind, and stretching forth myself to those that are before, I press towards the mark, the prize of the supernatural vocation of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. III, 13, 14)

## APROPOS OF MARCH TWENTY-FIFTH

Tuesday, March twenty-fifth, is the Feast of the Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Mariolatry is the Protestant's description of our veneration of Christ's mother. To a non-Catholic, devotion to the Virgin Mary seems to be given a very undue prominence in Catholic worship; witness the feasts of Mary and the frequent devotions to Mary. Besides, it is said, there is little or nothing to distinguish this homage from a real worship of one of God's creatures.

To this objection M. J. Hill, S. J., responds: The truth is that devotion to Mary, however prominent in the services of the Church, plays an essentially subordinate part in the entire system of Catholic devotion; and, what is more to the purpose, it is an essentially different thing from the worship paid to God, as being the supreme Lord of the universe, is adored; Mary is only venerated—not adored or worshipped—as the Mother of the Son of God made man. Mary is revered, but only as the most powerful intercessor before the throne of God. Between the worship of God and the veneration of Mary there is a gulf as wide as the one between God and His creatures—between the infinite and the finite.

And yet, God Himself has designed to associate Mary so intimately with Himself in the work of the Redemption that no Christian can realize what is told us in the Gospels without giving a prominence in his thoughts to the human instrument employed by the Almighty for the accomplishment of His designs. Think of the essential dignity of the Mother of the Incarnate Word. Think of the praises lavished upon her by the inspired voices of angels and men. "Hail, full of grace," or, if you will, "Hail, thou who art so highly favored"—"The Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women"; these are the words of the Angel Gabriel, who added: "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee. And therefore also the Holy One that shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." (Luke i, 28-35).—"And it came to pass that when Elizabeth heard the salutation of Mary the infant leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost. And she cried out with a loud voice and said: Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke i, 41-43). When angels and saints unite in sounding the praises of Mary, the Church of God cannot be silent.

The recognition of her dignity and of her personal merits was one of the most prominent features of the devotion of the early Church. . . . Open the works of the Fathers and testimonies multiply as you turn the page. The writings of St. Irenaeus, St. Gregory Nazianzen, St. Gregory of Nyssa, St. Ephrem (Syria), St. Augustine, St. Jerome, St. Peter Chrysologus, St. Proclus, St. Basil of Seleucia, contain passages relating to Mary that are worded like any typical passages that may be taken from Catholic writings of our own day.

"Through her," says St. Proclus, "all women are blessed. . . . Eve is healed. . . . Mary is venerated as becomes the Mother, the handmaid, the cloud, the bride-chamber, the Ark of the Lord. . . . Therefore, we say, Blessed art thou amongst women, who alone has found a remedy for Eve's sorrow, hast alone wiped away the tears of that mourner, hast carried the price of the world's redemption, hast received the treasure of the pearl in trust."

A few days ago a notable gathering assembled in the great hall of the Waldorf Hotel, The Secretary of War, the Major-General in command of the air forces of the United States, members of the Congress, a former United States Ambassador, and many officers of the Army and Navy assembled to do honor to the great American ace, Captain Edward Rickenbacker.

The speakers of the evening outdid each other in their toasts to the returned hero. At the close of the meal Captain Rickenbacker was called upon to respond. He rose to his feet, and looking towards the gallery of the hall, into the face of a little woman whose tear dimmed eyes looked out through gold-rimmed spectacles, the great hero of many thrilling adventures, brought his hands to salute and said—"My Mother." The great ace was no longer the guest of honor. He abdicated his place to her to whom he rightfully gave all the credit for what he had done. The little woman was forced to rise in recognition of the tumultuous cheering and as she stood, generals, officers of every rank stood in salute.

We have been accustomed to look upon Eddie Rickenbacker as a care-

less dare devil, one who faced death in peace as well as in war. His action at this banquet showed that back of all there is the heart of a man. There is no man worthy of the name that may not say with Abraham Lincoln, as did Eddie Rickenbacker, "All that I am and all that I hope to be, I owe to my angel mother."—Syracuse Catholic Sun.

Not only praise and veneration were bestowed on Mary by the Father; they also invoked her intercession. One among several instances is found in the Sacramentary of Pope Gelasius: "We beseech Thee, O Almighty God, that the glorious intercession of the blessed and ever glorious Virgin Mary, Mother of God, may protect us and bring us to eternal life."

This was the doctrine and practice of an age which our separated brethren generally regard as an age of pure worship.

The Blessed Virgin is honored as the most highly favored of God's creatures, but only as such. She is prayed to only as one who can pray for us. This, which is the genuine Catholic doctrine, is taught in all our children's catechisms. If in Catholic devotions there occur any expressions that seem to non-Catholics to attribute to Mary anything more than intercessory power, these expressions are very rare and are never intended to mean more than that she obtains from God everything she asks. Catholics do not ordinarily pray as though they were conscious of the presence of hostile critics, but they have no doubt about the meaning of their own words. Some of our popular treatises before, I press towards the mark, the prize of the supernatural vocation of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. III, 13, 14)

But one thing I do: forgetting the things that are behind, and stretching forth myself to those that are before, I press towards the mark, the prize of the supernatural vocation of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. III, 13, 14)

Such an object may have dropped into a Catholic Church in the evening and heard the sodality singing the Litany of the Blessed Virgin or the preacher descending on one of her virtues (a most Christian act); but let him get up in the morning earlier than usual and betake himself to the nearest parish church, any day in the week. There he will find a number of silent worshippers absorbed in something that is taking place at the altar. At the ringing of a little bell the silence is solemn and all heads are bowed in adoration. Some minutes later a number of persons approach, the altar rail to receive the Bread of Heaven. Here is the central act of Catholic worship in comparison with which all things else are insignificant, or rather, it is through this that all things else have any value. The week-day scene just described is repeated on Sunday, only with more solemnity. On that day the churches are thronged, and are filled again and again in successive hours, whilst the churches of other denominations are often half empty. Evidently devotion to the Blessed Virgin does not draw us away from Christ.

But its effect in this regard is not merely negative; it positively draws us nearer to Christ. The feast of the Blessed Virgin mark a general increase of fervor. The faithful are present at the holy sacrifice of the Mass, and very many receive Communion after confessing their sins with humble and sincere contrition. Innumerable converts to the Church, who now see the Church from within known from experience that true and sincere worship of God is promoted by devotion to the Mother of the Incarnate Son of God.—New World.

## DUE TO MOTHER

A few days ago a notable gathering assembled in the great hall of the Waldorf Hotel, The Secretary of War, the Major-General in command of the air forces of the United States, members of the Congress, a former United States Ambassador, and many officers of the Army and Navy assembled to do honor to the great American ace, Captain Edward Rickenbacker.

The speakers of the evening outdid each other in their toasts to the returned hero. At the close of the meal Captain Rickenbacker was called upon to respond. He rose to his feet, and looking towards the gallery of the hall, into the face of a little woman whose tear dimmed eyes looked out through gold-rimmed spectacles, the great hero of many thrilling adventures, brought his hands to salute and said—"My Mother." The great ace was no longer the guest of honor. He abdicated his place to her to whom he rightfully gave all the credit for what he had done. The little woman was forced to rise in recognition of the tumultuous cheering and as she stood, generals, officers of every rank stood in salute.

We have been accustomed to look upon Eddie Rickenbacker as a care-

less dare devil, one who faced death in peace as well as in war. His action at this banquet showed that back of all there is the heart of a man. There is no man worthy of the name that may not say with Abraham Lincoln, as did Eddie Rickenbacker, "All that I am and all that I hope to be, I owe to my angel mother."—Syracuse Catholic Sun.

## THE HONOR ROLL OF FRENCH JESUITS

"Will the splendid patriotism of these exile priests who returned freely to serve and die for the country whose Government has outlawed

them, have any weight towards winning the rights of citizenship again when peace is declared?" is the question asked by F. Woodcock, S. J. C. F., in the London Tablet, to which he communicates the following interesting statistics:

French Jesuits engaged in the war up to armistice day: 841 were mobilized. Of these, 98 were officers, 2 commanders, one Lieutenant commander, 11 captains, 4 naval lieutenants, 24 lieutenants, 50 second lieutenants, 1 naval ensign, 5 officers in the service of the sick and wounded; 39 received the Legion of Honor, 26 received the Military Medal, 303 received the Croix de Guerre, 4 received the Médaille des Epidémies,

received the Medal of Morocco or Tunis, 3 gained English decorations, 11 gained other foreign decorations, 619 were mentioned in the Order of the Day, 154 were killed. These include 23 chaplains, 29 officers, 86 sous-officers, 16 corporals, 50 privates.

If the statistics of other Religious Orders and of the French secular clergy were available, Father Woodcock is convinced that they would reveal the same heroic spirit.—America.

Work and worry are not on speaking terms.

He who knows his incapacity knows something.

## An Army of Smokers

has had this experience with La Preferencia Cigars:

First—Pleased  
Second—Contented  
Third—Enthusiastic

Ask at your Cigar store for this aristocrat of smokes, sold at a moderate price

Sales over 1,500,000 a Month

La Preferencia Cigar

Vallens & Co., Limited  
London, Canada

BRANCHES

Windsor Winnipeg Vancouver

## The Big Leak Is In The Roof

Leaky roofs cost a lot of money. Each year time and dollars are spent to repair the damage done by frost, snow, ice, rain, sun and wind.

Figure the amounts paid for repairing materials alone and you will find it runs into big figures.

Save yourself future roofing troubles and expenses by putting on a real roof, now.

PAROID A NEPONSET ROOF

pays—because it lasts and protects.

Every building on the farm should be roofed with Neponset Paroid Roofing, from the big barn to the smallest outhouse. It defies snow, rain, sleet or sun. It is fire-resisting and proves its economy by giving perfect satisfaction and years of wear.

Roof with Neponset Paroid and save money.

Neponset Paroid Roofing is made in three colors, red, green, and slate grey.

Sold by Hardware and Lumber Dealers.

BIRD & SON, LIMITED HAMILTON, ONT.

Branches: Hamilton, Ont.; Port Hope, Que.

Warehouses: Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, St. John.



## Advertisement Writers Wanted

Equal demand for men and women. Salaries are inviting. Our courses were compiled by

6 Experts

We have had several requests for our graduates recently. You learn at home in a few months. Get particulars. Address:

SHAW CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL  
TORONTO, CANADA (Dept. C. R.)

## Put Vim in Jaded Muscles

by stimulating and arousing the circulation with light applications of Absorbine, Jr., rubbed in thoroughly. This invigorating liniment acts quickly and surely. It is fragrant and pleasant to use—leaves no greasy residue on the skin.

As Absorbine, Jr., is a powerful germicide as well as a liniment, it is effective for prophylactic and aseptic uses; it destroys the germs in cuts and sores; it may be diluted and used successively as an antiseptic and germicide for the mouth and throat.

Athletes will find it efficient for limbering sore, stiff muscles. A good formula for a rub-down is one ounce of Absorbine, Jr. to a quart of water or witch hazel.

It is composed of vegetable extracts and essential oils and is positively harmless. Get a bottle today and keep it in your desk, in your traveling bag, in your medicine cabinet or in the side pocket of your automobile. It is health insurance of a high type.

At most druggists or sent prepaid upon receipt of \$1.25. Trial bottle for 10c. in stamps.

W. F. YOUNG, P. D. F.,  
239 Lyman Bldg. Montreal, Can.

STAMMERING  
or stuttering overcome positively. Our natural methods permanently restore natural speech. Graduate pupils everywhere. Free advice and literature.  
THE ARNOTT INSTITUTE  
KITCHENER, CANADA

ASTHMA  
INSTANTLY RELIEVED WITH  
ASTHMADOR  
OR MONEY REFUNDED. ASK ANY DRUGGIST  
or write Lyman-Knox Co., Montreal, P.Q. Price 60c.

ASTHMA COUGHS  
WHOPPING COUGH SPASMODIC CROUP  
BRONCHITIS CATARRH COLDS  
Vapo-Cresolene  
Est. 1879  
A simple, safe and effective treatment avoiding drugs. Used with success for 35 years. The air carrying the antiseptic vapor, inhaled with every breath, makes breathing easy, soothes the sore throat, and stops the cough, ensuring restful nights. Cresolene is invaluable to mothers with young children and a boon to sufferers from Asthma. Send us postal for descriptive booklet. VAPOR-CRESOLENE CO. 1000 Leaning Tower Bldg. Montreal

## Able to Start Work Again

Trouble Was Easily Removed

Don't be discouraged if you find that you have Kidney or Bladder troubles, and don't imagine your case is hopeless or that you will be crippled and suffer all the rest of your life.

Here is good news: Gin Pills have restored thousands of sufferers to health and strength. What they have done for others they will do for you.

Read what Mr. J. Harrop says: "I have been crippled up so completely that I could not stand. Work was out of the question. A few doses of Gin Pills put me right. I cannot praise Gin Pills too much, and every home should have a box."

Mr. Harrop's experience with Gin Pills has been the same as thousands of others, in all parts of this continent.

Take the case of Mr. B. Milford, Galetta, Ont. Mr. Milford had been troubled with backache and kidney trouble for so long that his wife determined to find a remedy for his affliction. Having become convinced that Gin Pills were what he needed, she persuaded him to commence treatment with this well-known remedy. He did so, and surprising results were obtained almost immediately.

This is an extract from Mrs. Milford's letter:—"After one dose of Gin Pills my husband found them to be exactly what he needed, and after taking two boxes he was completely cured."

Cases like these prove the value of Gin Pills. Try them. 50c a box at all dealers.

DR. McTAGGART'S VEGETABLE REMEDIES for these habits are safe, inexpensive home treatments. No hypodermic injections, no loss of time from business, and positive cures. Literatures sent in plain, sealed packages. Address or consult Dr. McTaggart's Remedies, 309 Stair Bldg., Toronto, Canada.