

FIVE-MINUTE SERMONS FOR EARLY MASSES

By the Rev. Father, Paul the Apostle, Fifth Avenue, New York.

These words of Christ have been put forth by non-Catholics as an objection to the honor paid to the Blessed Virgin.

You are perfectly correct in your statement regarding My Mother; she is blessed because her womb was the temple of heaven and throne of the glorious Son of God.

There is another and higher blessedness which is open to all, one which springs from another source and is more fruitful in its results.

The blessedness that belongs to the faithful keeping of God's will is greater because the end of it is the eternal enjoyment of God in heaven.

But did Our Lady in having the blessedness that was connected with the Divine maternity fail to possess the nobler blessedness which the humblest of us can gain?

No. It was necessary for her to be a sharer in the common inheritance of man before she should be worthy of a singular dignity.

Who are you? You are God's child, and it is because she had kept it in so excellent a manner, in a way never observed before or after, that she merited the incomparable distinction of being the Mother of God.

Not "Smart." Of all forms of bad breeding, the pert, smart manner affected by boys and girls of a certain age is the most offensive and impertinent.

He's out, said the boy, without looking up from the paper he was reading. "Do you know where he is?"

"When will he be in?" "But nine o'clock."

"I've nearly that now, isn't it? I haven't Western time."

"Yes," was the reply. "I would like to know the name of such a smart boy as you are."

The boy felt flattered by the word smart and wishing to show the full extent of his smartness replied:

"I'm one of John Thompson's kids. William by name, and I answer to the call of 'Billy.'"

"The 'boss' came in; and, seeing the stranger, cried out: 'Why, Mr. Smith, how do you do? I'm delighted to see you.'"

But John Thompson's "kid" heard no more. He was looking for his hat. Mr. Smith was president of the road, and Billy heard from him later to his sorrow.

During two whole days of the past week the Queen of Greece was not to be seen. The 'Queen of the Poor,' as she has been called, devoted these two days to visiting some of the chief charitable institutions of which Paris is so proud.

Her Majesty singled out for special sympathy Albert, a poor boy of seven, blind, pallid, scarcely alive, and attached with a kind of veneration to Father Gaetan.

CHILDREN'S CORNER.

Little Madie. "Hand me some water, Buddy, won't you?"

"In a minute, Madie." And Madie's fevered cheeks were pressed again to the pillow; and little Harry's hands went on as busily as ever with the trap he was making, and at length he entirely forgot the request.

"Please get it now, Buddy," he at length heard, and scattering knife, nails and string in his haste, he was soon holding a cup to her crimsoned lips.

"Not this please, but some fresh and cold from the well," she said. "Oh, don't be so particular, Madie, this is fresh, and I'm so busy I can't go now; now this do!"

Sue no longer refused, but quietly took the cup which he offered; and it was the last, last time she ever called on her brother for an act of kindness; ere another day had passed she stood beside the river of life and drank of its cool water, never to thirst again.

And of all who wept over that little coffin there was none who shed more bitter tears than that little boy, who could not forget that he had refused the last request of his little sister.

Little children, are you kind and pleasant to one another or are you cross and selfish? Remember, then, that the time may come when they will be beyond your reach; and then, O how gladly would you give all you possess to have them back again.

Harry was a kind hearted little boy, and dearly loved his little sister, and she had only been sick a few days; he did not consider her dangerously ill, but this was no comfort to him when she was gone.

"O, mother!" he would say, "if I had only brought that water for her I could bear it, but now she is where I can never, never wait on her again."

Think of this when you are tempted to quarrel, or be unkind; for do you know if one of you should die the rest would remember every act of kindness, every bitter word that had fallen from their lips? But then it is too late to recall it, too late to ask forgiveness.

One morning a plainly dressed old gentleman walked quietly in, and asked for the cashier.

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chians, who defiled before her. The blind ones marched in a long line, the first having his two hands on the shoulders of a child not blind, the second with his hands on the shoulders of the first blind one, and so on. They knew they were marching before a living image of charity.

"I have been most pleased," remarked the Queen to a visitor last night, "to see Abbe Gaetan and little Albert. They are constantly in my mind."

Her Majesty next went to Passy, to the 'Ecole des Apprentis,' conducted by the Abbe Roussel. It is one of the most beneficent institutions that can be imagined. The Abbe Roussel has 400 or 500 boys in his workshops, rescued from poverty and idleness, and mostly deserted from their parents.

His workshops represent all handicrafts. He has supplied excellent workmen to all trades. By cackled by vice have left his institution cured of their physical and moral ills, having become efficient and zealous workers, and many of them are now excellent fathers of families.

"I am already a grandfather," remarked the Abbe Roussel to the Queen, who was puzzled to know what a 'Catholic' could mean by this phrase. The Abbe added, much to the Queen's amusement, "I am a grandfather, because many of my apprentices, whom I call my children, are married and have children."

The Abbe is one of the few Frenchmen now professing attachment for England, the English courts have assigned to him a legacy of £5,000 in vague terms for a Paris orphanage. Unfortunately, England, with all her wealth, is not rich enough to pay £5,000 for every French vote to be won over.

The Queen then went to the 'Ecole de la Vierge,' an institution founded by the young widows of the army, who beguile the leisure of their days by premature widowhood by tending the most reviling and incurable maladies. The Duchesse d'Uzes is one of the chief founders and most zealous nurses.

Even the Queen, with all her nerve, felt a shiver; but, soon mastering her feelings in her love for the poor, she bravely advanced, extended her hand to the hands stretched out to her, and clasped that of the most loathsome and hopeless, who exclaimed, "Touch me; that will relieve me."

Beautiful Swiss Custom. The horn of the Alps is employed in the mountainous districts of Switzerland not solely to sound the cow call, but for another purpose, solemn religious. As soon as the sun has disappeared in the valley, and its last rays are just glimmering on the snowy summits of the mountains, the herdsmen who dwell on the loftiest, takes his horn and trumpets forth—"Praise God, the Lord!"

All the herdsmen in the neighborhood take their horns and repeat the words. This often continues a quarter of an hour, while on all sides the mountain echo the name of God. A solemn stillness follows; every individual offers his secret prayer on bed knees and with uncovered head. By this time it is quite dark. "Good night!" trumpets forth the herdsmen on the loftiest summit. "Good night!" is repeated on all the mountains from the horns of the herdsmen and the cliffs of the rocks.

School Notes. The appearance of a school room is marred by untidy children. Clean faces, clean hands, combed hair and clean dress lead to the cheerfulness and the health of a class room. The instances are very rare where these simple requirements cannot be obtained, and teachers should not be lax in enforcing them.

The aim of the Catholic Church is to educate the masses to a proper understanding of man's duties towards God and his neighbor, and thereby secure the safety of society and the eternal salvation of souls. Therefore is she careful and mindful of the education of her young people; for the young are afterwards the old and the leaders or members of society.

The promotion of parochial schools means the promotion of higher education. The vast majority of pupils will go forth from the school room to enter into business, but the rest will take advantage of the courses in colleges, seminaries and academies in greater numbers than heretofore. It is most natural to suppose and to believe that Catholic institutions of higher education will receive the increase.

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