BY THE REV. F. P. HICKEY, O. S. B.

QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY

REPENTANCE

"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me. (Luke xviii 38.) The holy time of Lent, upon which we enter this week, is given us once again by the mercy of God, in which ngain by the mercy of God, in which to repent and put our souls in order. No one can afford, can dare to despise this fresh opportunity of having their sins forgiven. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John i. 8).

Then in what does repentance of sin consist? A thorough change of heart, by which we turn from our sins and break with them: confess them with true contrition of heart for having committed them. But can we ourselves do this? Can we hake ourselves free from the honds. shake ourselves free from the bonds of sin? Can we, the slaves of sin, gain liberty for our souls of our own power? No, we need the grace of God; hence our earnest prayer should be, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me."

have mercy on me."

If the blind, the lepers, all the poor sufferers were so earnest in seeking a cure, a freedom from their afflictions, and were mercifully healed by our Blessed Lord, how much more earnest should we be in seeking forgiveness of our sins! For sin is the leprosy of the soul; sin blinds us and leads us soul; sin blinds us and leads us astray from the path to heaven; sin is the palsy that paralyses all our powers. Mortal sin, alas! is the death of our soul, the forfeiture of eternal life, the condemnation to eternal misery. All this is sin; for we are the slaves of that in which we have sinned.

And what is sin as regards Almighty God? A defiance, a rebellion, an insult and ingratitude of the vilest kind. By sin we dare to disobey the Almighty Master; by show we insult the all-holy God, by preferring vile things to Him, by choosing the indulgance of our choosing the indulgence of our passions to doing His holy Will. By sin we ignore and despise all that an infinitely loving Father has

done for us. He has given us an immortal soul, destined to be happy with Him for ever, and we sell this soul for a paltry or shameful pleasure. He has pardoned us so many times, and has pardoned us so many times, and we have added iniquity to iniquity by returning to our evil ways. And that pardon, that our heavenly father has granted so often—what was the price of it? What was the ransom that was paid to rescue us from the thraldom of the devil? The precious Blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who died on the Cross for us. Cross for us.

Alas! in the past when we have sinned we thought little of the dreadful evil of our sins. Yet, without exaggeration sin is this appalling evil, the calamity with eternal consequences for our poor soul. How the tempter has fooled us and ruined us time after time! When we give way to our passions —jealousy, pride, avarice, impurity
—he skillfully hid the malice from us. When we disobeyed the commandments of God and the Church. we did not realize the cruel con-tempt and ingratitude towards our

of our heart-earnest and constant us forgiveness after all our falls. our relapses, perhaps our long continuance in sin? So many times have we made half-repentances and fallen again with scarce a struggle against temptation. Is not the patience of God worn out? Will He trust us and try us once again? In this anxiety and doubt, how consoling for us to recall the words of Scripture—God's own inspired words—" Hear me, O Lord, for Thy

This blessed work of repentance has peopled heaven! Pray to that children.—America.

FIVE MINUTE SERMON multitude of redeemed and glorious ouls who have prayed the same prayer for mercy; who have received the same grace of contrition and the same grace of contrition and absolution; who can look back to some Lent when they turned to God with all their hearts. They persevered faithfully, and may we do the same in the service of that good God "Who is gracious and merciful, patient and rich in mercy."

### NORTH AMERICAN LIFE DO BIG BUSINESS

The business of the North American Life in forging ahead wonderfully, as evidenced by the figures presented in their 42nd Annual Re-

Some conception of the vast scope of the Company's business is to be found in the fact that during the past year there was paid to Policy holders and beneficiaries over \$2,397,000.00. This amount included \$516,496.82 paid as dividends, while in contract to this it is noted that

only \$6,000 was paid to Guarantors. The President pointed with just pride to the increase of over \$1,800,-000.00 in Assets during the year, bringing the total amount now to \$23,683,842.94. Afterliabilities have been fully provided for, there is a substantial net surplus of \$3,476,-230.56, establishing beyond a doubt the unexcelled financial position of the Company, which has entitled it to be known everywhere as the Company, "Solid as the Continent."

### ARMENIAN ORPHANS AND THE POPE

In his Christmas Encyclical, the Holy Father teaches among other lessons that of charity. The peace, which ultimately he would bring about in the world, "the peace of Christ in the Kingdom of Christ," he fully realizes, cannot be obtained unless men learn that the core for the contract. unless men learn that long-forgot-ten lesson. Plus XI., true to the ideals which he set up for others, is the first to practise what he teaches. the first to practise what he teaches. Time and again he has given signal proof that his teaching remains no idle theory. For more than a year he has poured out the oil and the wine of his charity on the wounds of prostrate and starving Russia. More recently at the Lausanne conference, through the intermediary of his Nuncio in Switzerland, Mgr. Maglione, he pleaded in behalf of all the suffering Christians in the Near East. Every day almost brings out proofs that his charity and his sympathy are all embracing and world-wide.

A further evidence of that large-

A further evidence of that large-A further evidence of that largeness and tenderness of heart is to be seen in the telegram sent by the Pontiff in the early part of December to Mgr. Marmaggi, the acting Delegate Apostolic in Constantinople. In that message, the Holy Father informed the prelate that he himself would undertake the care of 400 Armenian orphan children, together with twelve Sisters. dren, together with twelve Sisters to take charge of them, and that he Then let us treasure this opportunity of repentance during the sacred time of Lent; let the prayer than the Pope's own palace at there are than the Pope's own palace at there are \$80,000 Japanese Catholics, on me." But can it be that will hear our prayer and grant the days of the residence of the Popes in fathers, with the odds against them the days of the temporal power, is already being fitted out for its little guests. It is not the first time that its halls and corridors reechoed that its halls and corridors reechoed that its halls and corridors reechoed girls.

Sunday Mass is for some that last tie that binds them to the body of the Church When that tie is broken their condition is indeed most pitiful; while that bond reto the sound of children's voices. Already in 1914 at the time of the earthquake in the Abruzzi, Benedict XV. had given a temporary home at Castelgandolfo to several hundred children rendered destitute by the disaster. the disaster.

The same princely hospitality now imitated by his successor Pius XI., is exercised on behalf of the chilwords—"Hear me, O Lord, for Thy mercy is kind," says the Psalmist, "look upon me, O Lord, according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies" (Ps. lxviii. 17). "Thus saith the Lord: Be converted to Me with all your heart. turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, patient and rich in mercy" (Joel ii. 12).

Surely, then, with all confidence we may trust in the mercy of our surely, then, with all confidence we may trust in the mercy of our heavenly Father! It is He Who turns our hearts to wish to repent. It was He Who prompts the prayer to our Saviour, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me." And that mercy will be poured down upon us to enlighten us to see our sins; to have the good will and the courage to break with them; to confess them; to have loving and sincere sorrow and compunction of heart for having committed them.

Finally, what gratitude should fill our hearts that we have so forgiving, so tender a Father: "Who healeth all thy diseases, Who redeemeth thy life from destruction, Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion" (Ps. c.i., 8. 4). "For thou, O Lord, art a God of compassion, and merciful, patient, and of much mercy and true" (Ps. lxxxv. 5, 15). This is the Father, rejoicing when He hears our prayer for mercy, blessing the poor sinful heart resolving to come and ask for pardon.

This is the holy work of Lent. This blessed work of repentance has peopled heaven! Pray to that

AROUND THE WORLD GROWTH OF THE FAITH IN JAPAN

By Rev. Michael Mathis, C. S. C.

Aboard the Korea Maru, Nov. 10.

Because of the controlling influence of Japan over Asia's pagan millions, too many missionaries and too much mission help cannot be rushed to the decisive battle with

paganism in that country.
The character of mission work in Japan is unique. In spite of civil religious liberty, there is no pagan land in which the whole atmosphere of the country is so impregnated with the tradition of persecution. In Nagasaki, for example, as I described in my last letter, the most popular of the civic festivals is the anniveraary of the so-called destruc-tion of the Christians. The Christians there are practically all the descendants of martyrs and confessors. In fact there are many still living who actually suffered for the faith in the last persecution of 1870-

MARCOOPOLO'S INFLUENCE The first European to mention Japan was Marco Polo, the great Catholic traveler, who, with his father and brother penetrated the court of the emperor Kublai Khan, the great Mongol ruler, who gave them letters to the Pope requesting Christian missing for the court of the cour them letters to the Pope requesting Christian missionaries for China. Marco Polo became the governor of Yang-Chow in China, on which twenty-seven cities were dependent and remained with Kublai Khan for twenty-five years. He mentions Japan in his epoch-making book, which opened a new world to Europe and was one of the volumes that inspired Columbus to set forth on his voyage of discovery.

that inspired Columbus to set forth on his voyage of discovery.

The first known Europeans to visit Japan were the Portuguese in 1543. The first to preach the Gospel there was St. Francis Xavier in 1549. In two and a half years he made almost 3,000 converts and organized the Jesuit Mission. In 1582 the Japanese Catholics sent an Embassy to the Pope. In 1595, the Dominican, Augustinian and Fran-

ciscan Missions were begun.

After forty years of peace a bloody persecution started. It lasted fifty years. All the churches, holy books and images were destroyed and all the missionaries were banished or killed. In 1640 a law was made forbidding any Christian, under pain of death, to set foot in Japan and cutting off the

On March 17th, 1865, a priest of the Paris Foreign Mission Society discovered thousands of Japanese Catholics who had secretly kept the Faith for two hundred and thirtyfaith for two nundred and thirty-five years, without Priest, Church, Bible or Crucifix. From them has grown the present Catholicity of Japan with an Apostolic Delegate, Japan with an Apostolic Delegate, an Archbishop and several Bishops, Japanese Priests, Brothers and Sisters, five orders of Religious men, seven orders of religious would find a home and a shelter for these helpless little victims of racial women, and two foreign missionary

Amist the 60,000,000 Japanese.

for the new Japan.
In 1919, the Japanese Government delared that as soon as this university secured an endownment \$300,000, it would be leg \$300,000, it would be legally recognized on an equal footing with the Imperial universities. Tois will put the Catholic Church in the front rank of Japanese education.

## THE ULTRA MODERN VIEW OF MARRIA E

Judge Ben. B. Lindsey believes that marriage has failed. At last the eternal interrogation so often proposed in drama, song, and story has its answer. 'Yes' answers the learned judge, 'as a social institution marriage has failed.' And he And he offers statistics to prove it, in Denver in 1922 he declares "for every marriage there has been a separation, for every two marriage licenses issued there has been a divorce suit filed, and what is true of Denver is true of every city of the country." the country.

Continuing the Western judge is reported to have said that the reason for the failure of marriage is "the changing conventions the broadening viewpoint of the present generation, its refusals to recognize as sin what convention has heretofore established as such, and the recognition of what is to be, namely that people may live together with-out being married in the conven-

tional way "
The marriage that the Denver publicist declares a failure, there-fore, is not marriage as God intended it, but marriage as society has distorted it. In other words it is not marriage that has failed, but men and women who failed to live up to the rigid requirements of

marriage. This is very different from saying that marriage has failed. When Almighty God instituted marriage and Christ raised it to the dignity of a sacrament, it was not regarded as an unattainable ideal. When men and women obeyed the law of God and recognized His authority over marriage, there was no such talk of marriage being a failure.

But when Luther and the so-called reformers revolted against authority in religion and openly preached and practiced divorce then it seems that the conditions and marriage. This is very different

preached and practiced divorce then it seems that the conditions and restriction in regard to marriage imposed by God were too hard to bear, and had to be modified by convention. We are not suprised to be told that the next step outside the Church, will be the abolition or the gradual disappearance of marriage altogether. altogether.
Let it not be thought, however,

that Judge Lindsey advocates abolishing the marriage ceremony. Not at all. He is concerned primarily with child welfare and as a student of social conditions he is alarmed at the future of the child with the charging conventions. with the changing conventions. Nevertheless he is much at sea to provide a remedy. He proposes psycho analyzing society, removing social inhibitions, stirring social conscious the full seasons of the children of the childr conscience to reactions, that will train the subconscious mind of society to recognize the changed conventions.

The only remedy is to go back to the old standards, and not to yield to so-called changed conventions.

Changed conventions in regard to marriage are opposed to the law of God, and therefore sinful. Any attempt to give into them would bring not relief but more disaster. That way ruin lies. Marriage as God intended it never was, is not now and never can be a failure. Divorce laws have failed to check the breakdown of the home, according ing to Judge Lindsey's implied admission. When will men see that the salvation of society, the safeguarding of the home, and the protection of children, depends upon the Church's age old teaching of God's own word about the unity and indissolubility of Christian marriage !-The Pilot.

### CHINESE LITTLE ONES' GIFT TO PRESIDENT

A gift of the pupils of the Shanghai mission conducted by the Little Helpers of the Holy Souls has been presented to President Harding at the White House by the Rev. William J. Cohill, the first American secular priest to be ordained on Chinese soil.

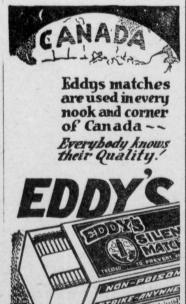
The gift is an exquisite silk The gift is an exquisite silk Chinese tapestry, done in twenty different colors, and depicts a Chinese woman holding a child in her arms. Father Cohill explained that the children of the mission selected the tapestry for President Harding and Mrs. Harding because it was one of the most perfect pieces of work they had ever turned out of work they had ever turned out and they were proud to feel that it

might grace the Executive Mansion.
The Missionary was accompanied
by Francis Hsu, a brother of one
of the sisters in charge of the
Shanghai mission. The President,
in receiving Father Cohill and his companion, thanked them warmly for their greetings and the gift they

## THE LAST TIE THAT BINDS

Sunday Mass is for some that last girls.

In 1908, Pope Pius X. sent the Jesuits to establish the Catholic University in Tokyo, to train up Catholic leaders, lay and clerical, for the near layer. that any sinner can possibly make. Regarded only as an external pro-fession of faith, the hearing of Mass is a matter of the greatest impor-tance; but even to the most careless it is always so much more than a profession of faith. It is well-nigh impossible for a Catholic to come within range of God's altar without making some kind of an act of sorrow for kin. Pitiful, indeed, is the state of that Catholic who through his own fault fails to be present at Sunday Mass.-The Missionary.



## Then The Gifted Musician Called

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## as told by those who have used them

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(signed) Delbert Page.

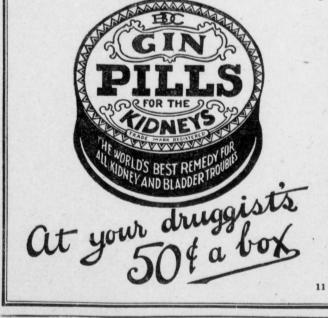
"My two boys have suffered from kidney trouble since birth and nothing has helped them except Gin Pills. They are the most wonderful kidney remedy ever made." (signed) Mrs. J. Raymond.

"My little girl had bladder trouble so badly she could not retain her urine at all. I was nearly frantic. I spanled her but it did no good. One day a friend advised me to buy Gin Pills. Relief came before the first box was used and I believe my little girl's trouble has now been com-pletely remedied, thanks to Gin Pills. They are the most wonderful remedy for kidney and bladder trouble that man ever made." man ever made."

(signed) Mrs. Minnie Coughlin.

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