

FIVE MINUTE SERMON

BY REV. WILLIAM DEMOUY, D. D.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

OUR SPIRITUAL FORTRESS

"But I tell you the truth: It is expedient to you that I go, for if I go not, the Paraclete will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you." (John xvi. 7.)

The help God gives His Church and His children, members of this Church. He gives without show or display. He is an abominator of the ostentatious. Quietly and calmly all His works are effected, and all His desires carried out. It is only once in a while, when He sends some heavy punishment upon men for their wickedness, that He acts very conspicuously. When He so acts, it is to recall man to a sense of duty and to teach him the awfulness of his Judge-to-be, unless he mends his ways. In the Old Testament particularly do we find examples of God punishing man, while manifesting His terrible anger and stupendous power. In the New Testament, He sends His blessings and His punishments also, as a rule, gently and many times almost unnoticeably.

It is different with God's enemies. Their way is one of ostentation and clamor; and even where they hide their actions from the sight of others, it is not for the sake of virtue, but with the intent of deceiving. Wickedness can not hide very long under the cloak of modesty and gentleness. It is ever on the search for a battlefield where it can murder and wound and destroy. It endeavors by loud shouts to attract the people toward it, and lead them to adopt its cause. It must follow him who originated it—Satan—him who disturbed the great order established by God when He created angels and men. Since there is no gentleness to it, there can be no peaceable procedure. The rough winds can not but disturb the calm of the sea; the appearance of wickedness can not but destroy peace and create waves of discord.

Today's Gospel gives us an excellent example of the ways of God. Christ says it is expedient for us that He go. We would imagine that He could do more by remaining after His glorious triumph over death, thus giving His followers greater strength and encouragement, and effectively confounding His enemies. But such was not His method. All this would be done, but in a way other than by His visible presence. Men had seen Him, had discoursed with Him, had witnessed His wonderful power as manifested in His works, yet they had crucified Him amidst uproar and tumult. Even while on the cross He could have called down the thunderbolts of heaven upon them, but He would not adopt any such means. His enemies, like His faithful followers, were yet to live on their natural lives, and then justice, indisputably clear, would be done them. He must go. His Father's work is accomplished. He will remain in an special way with His Church, but He will be seen no more. Like the gentle breeze that comes to soothe us in the midst of the hottest days, He will come to guard and protect and revive us, while we struggle in the heated days of spiritual and bodily difficulty.

But He will do more. His Father has planned something else for His weak followers. God of very truth, the Paraclete, will come and abide with His people. This Person of the Blessed Trinity will not suffer, will not be crucified. He is simply to be an ever-present help in our combat against the powers of darkness. He will be the fortress that guards the Church, which no enemy artillery can batter down. He will stand by, as silent as the highest peaks in the mountains and as impenetrable. He will be admired, not so much for the show He makes in preserving the Church, but for His insuperable power, though it be associated with no apparent activity. He is God. Why should He show His strength to man? What haughtiness it would be on our part to ask God to manifest His infinite power unto us! How easily we forget what small creatures we are! Possessing but a spark of God's intelligence, we often try to put ourselves on a level with Him—nay, even above Him—and demand of Him a reason for His acts.

The conflict between light and darkness, between manifested weakness and silent, infinite power, continues. We must not think that we poor weak creatures—clergy or people—are the bulwarks of safety to the Church. We would be like the apostles before the Holy Ghost came upon them, were it not that the same Holy Spirit is with us. We must certainly carry arms—not the arms of Peter in the garden before the apprehension of Christ and His crucifixion, but the arms of Peter after his repentance succeeding the denial of his Master, and the arms of Peter after the scene in the upper room at Jerusalem. Our enemies are coming with the clang of sword and the boom of cannon, and there are others lying in ambush for us. Gently and almost silently we go forward to meet them. Our defense is impregnable, it is the Holy Ghost, the "Spirit of Truth." Truth alone conquers and will prevail.

There will be times when it will seem that our bark is about to be submerged, and it will appear that our guide is sleep-

ing, as Christ appeared to be, when the boat bearing the apostles was being tossed about the lake by the winds. But the danger is no real danger so long as we remain fast to our bark. He only is conquered who deserts. True it is that many, who were once within it, are now floating on different seas in barks unlike our own; but this is due to their own fault. The boat on which they once sailed is still gliding over the troubled waters, and will continue to do so until time is no more. He is indeed a frail and weak Catholic who does not earnestly and confidently, while doing his best, trust in the silent strength and power of God. The tactics of our enemies plainly show how very often they have no other guide than the disturber of peace. In heaven there can be no enemy, no combat, no hate. Some one of the sides now waging war can not enter there. Let it not be ours. While we must fight, let us do it, as did Christ and His apostles and the martyrs, that followed them, with no hate for our poor erring brethren, but as possessors of the true faith with a command from its author—God Himself—to defend it; for it is truth, and truth can lead us nowhere but to eternal bliss.

THE PILGRIMAGES TO ROME

NOTABLE INCREASE DURING FEBRUARY

By Mrs. Marie Puel (Home Correspondent, N. G. W. C.)

The pilgrimages during February, the second month of Holy Year, have shown a notable increase over those of the preceding month. Not only have all the pilgrimages arranged for the month been carried out, but several of them have been larger in numbers than any which arrived in January. The first, from Genoa, arrived on February 1, and remained until February 7. It was received on the fifth by the Holy Father, who, after having given each pilgrim his ring to kiss, pronounced a brief discourse, recalling his personal memories of Genoa "the city superb," in its grand past and in its prosperous present, its sea and its mountains, its commerce and its industries, but still more gloriously superb for having conserved unaltered the ancient faith of its fathers and the purity of Christian life. The Pope congratulated the Genoese on the filial piety with which they had welcomed their new Archbishop, since "who is with the Bishop is with the Pope, who is with the Pope is with Christ."

A second Argentine pilgrimage, which arrived at Rome on February 2 and included some eminent personages, left on February 8. The Pope received it on the fourth and in the few words addressed to the pilgrims expressed his joy in seeing such a good representation of a country so far distant from the center of Catholicism, but so near to his heart. A large number of pilgrims from Milan and Vigevano assisted on February 11 at the Mass of the Holy Father. Before the blessing, His Holiness addressed those present and said he was very pleased to find himself in the midst of his Milanese on the Feast of the Apparition of the Holy Virgin at Lourdes where he went on a pilgrimage some days before his entrance into Milan as Archbishop. He then spoke of the statue of Mary Immaculate which is enthroned on the Duomo of Milan as if blessing the city. He commented on the words of St. Ambrose "Ubi Petrus ibi Ecclesia," completing it with the added "Mediolanensis" as the Milanese must be closely united to the Pope.

A Chilean pilgrimage also arrived on the ninth, and on the eleventh a large number of Cremonese under the guidance of the Bishop of Cremona. The Chileans, who were received by the Pope on the fourteenth, were presented by the Chilean Ambassador to the Holy See, who said that the pilgrims would not cease to pray "that the kingdom of peace should reign on earth, and that the people should be closely drawn together in friendly brotherhood." In his reply the Holy Father expressed his joy at seeing the Chilean pilgrims who, in order to reach Rome, had to cross plains, mountains and oceans, suffering discomfort and sacrifice. He mentioned the natural beauty and wealth of Chile, and a thing still more precious, that is, the faith of its people and its devotion to the Holy See. He congratulated the Associations of Catholic Works flourishing there, and especially those dedicated to Missions.

The pilgrimage from Cremona assisted at the Mass of the Pope on February 15. His Holiness pronounced a discourse. After having commented on the gospel of that day—the gospel of the sower—the Holy Father explained the meaning of the word "jubilee" time of purification and mortification, the high dignity of Rome, the second country of every Christian heart, the capital of the Church and the See of the Papacy, the city sanctified by the apostles and martyrs; and finally he extolled the importance of the Vatican Missionary Exhibition where was shown the civilizing virtue of the Gospel and the force of the living apostolate.

The pilgrims of Milan, Chile and Cremona also assisted at the Papal Mass celebrated at St. Peter's on

the twelfth for the anniversary of the coronation of Pius XI.

On the fourteenth there arrived at Rome the pilgrimage from Pinerolo, under the guidance of the Bishop of that city; and on the fifteenth that of Padua, also accompanied by its Bishop and some ecclesiastical dignitaries; on the sixteenth that of Ivrea with a group from Aosta. The pilgrims of Pinerolo, Ivrea and Aosta assisted on the eighteenth at the Mass of the Holy Father, who, after the Blessing, addressed a few words to them, recalling the visit made by him to their cities, to their valleys their mountains, and recommending them to conserve their hereditary piety and steadfastness in the faith making allusion to the Protestant propaganda whose hearth is in the Valli Valdesi. The voice of the mountains, he explained, cried "Sursum corda!" His Holiness then exhorted the pilgrims to give their attention to the divine origin of the Papacy, where is the seat of St. Peter. He exhorted the pilgrims to be united to their bishops, through whom they are united with the Pope and to the clergy who guided them. In the afternoon of the same day, the Holy Father allowed the pilgrims of his hand and distributed Jubilee medals to them.

The Paduan pilgrimage assisted at the Mass of the Pope on the following day. His Holiness pronounced a brief discourse, commenting on the Gospel, explaining the meaning of Holy Year and praising the Catholic Works which flourished at Padua, especially the Catholic Action, and the work being done among young people, and above all among the University students. At midday, the Paduan pilgrims were admitted by the Pope and they all kissed his hand and received the Jubilee medals.

Berlin sent a large number of pilgrims who arrived at Rome on the eighteenth and were received by the Holy Father on February 21. His Holiness, after having made the round of the Sala of the Concistoro, where the audience took place, giving his ring to each to kiss and distributing the Jubilee medals, addressed the pilgrims in German welcoming them to the house of the common Father of the faithful and congratulating them on their coming from Germany, a land which the Pope had frequent occasions of knowing and appreciating. He expressed his belief that the pilgrims would take back with them abundant spiritual fruits, because he knew from personal experience how the Catholics in Germany were diligent in everything regarding their religion and piety.

The pilgrimage of the Catholic University of Milan party arrived at Rome on the morning of the twenty-second, in charge of a group of professors. The pilgrims, numbering ninety, assisted at the Mass of the Holy Father on the twenty-fourth and with the friends of the University were received by him on the afternoon of the same day. The Pope gave his hand to be kissed by each of them and distributed a large commemorative medal of the sixteenth centenary of the Lateran Basilica. Father Gemelli, rector of the University, read an address and then presented His Holiness with three copies in gold, silver and bronze of a medal representing the facade of the University. The Holy Father, at the outset, said he was pleased to see before him the professors, the pupils and friends of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, who cooperate in the diffusion of science. In them, said His Holiness, was the Science that came to sanctify and to be sanctified. They had to give an example so much more precious because it had descended from on high. The kingdom of science illuminated by faith was the real kingdom of truth and of the most sublime ideas.

The Pope, therefore, expressed his pleasure at the sentiments expressed by Father Gemelli. He praised the students' zeal for the thought of coming to Rome, to the Seat of Truth, the heart of the mystic body of Christ, the Center and Principle of the Catholic Church, to gain new inspiration for their mission and to accentuate the solemn gravity of their responsibility and to ask the necessary help for the intellect, the heart, the will. They had come under the best conditions, in the atmosphere of the Holy Year of Jubilee, to that Rome which is the Center, the Head and the Heart of the Church, the Spouse of Jesus Christ. Faithful souls must be with the Church and feel with the Church, not only believe and judge, but also feel, that is, be disposed to put themselves in union with the Church. To feel with the Church was not only a great comfort, but also a great recompense for such generous souls, because thus they hasten the advent of the Kingdom of God.

At the conclusion of this powerful discourse, a group of girl students presented a basket of white flowers to His Holiness.

On the twenty-sixth, a pilgrimage from Belgium which had arrived some days before, was received by the Holy Father. His Holiness gave each pilgrim his hand to kiss and distributed the Jubilee Medals.

ALL PILGRIMS TO SEE POPE

When the pilgrimages become more frequent and numerous, it will be physically impossible for the Pope to admit them all to his Mass and to allow each pilgrim to



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kiss his hand. All of them, however, will be admitted in public audience even, should it be necessary, in the Vatican Basilica, so they will be able to see and hear the Supreme Pontiff.

The prescribed visits to the Basilicas are made with the greatest piety and with perfect order. The pilgrims guided by Roman ecclesiastics, pray with fervor before the Tomb of the Apostles and Martyrs and approach the Sacred Table.

THREE MENACES TO NATION

Divorce, Socialism and the decline of the American home are three serious menaces to the security of the nation declared Senator William H. King, of Utah, in an address to members of Lafayette Council, Knights of Columbus, at a Communion breakfast in New York. The speaker also deplored national indifference to religion and spiritual forces. "The three greatest enemies of America are divorce, the boarding house and Socialism," Senator King said. "All of these seek to destroy the family ties. Men will fight for their homes; they will not fight for their boarding houses. Women will endure any privation, make any sacrifice to preserve the home."

Referring to a meeting with the Rev. Edmund Walsh, S. J., former Director of the Papal Relief Mission in Russia while he was making a tour of that country, the Senator said: "Father Walsh kept the light of religious faith burning in Soviet Russia amid the destructive efforts of the socialist order which was founded on the illusory teachings of Karl Marx. The hope of Russia, the hope of Asia, is Jesus Christ. There can be no consistent progress, no successful civilization that isn't grounded on religion. Without religion there would be world-wide degeneration."

"I am a Fundamentalist. All change is not progress. The true progress of the world, the binding, cementing force of society, uniting humanity for great moral and ethical reform, is religion. We find in America today many men and women whose disbelief in the fundamentals of life and of religion are assaulting the very fundamentals of our Government. I like the American and the Americanism that can see that this nation is a part of the great world family, and I want the day to come when the world will be bound together in fellowship. Christianity is not for the Irish or the English or for any one race, it is for the whole world; it is the great motivating force that will bring civilization to a higher standard. Don't be fooled by the communistic theories that the Government is everything and can do everything and that religion is unnecessary. It is the most necessary thing in the world today."

During his address the Senator took occasion to pay an enthusiastic tribute to the principles of the late Cardinal Gibbons.

Keep from associates who discourage you.

A Perpetual Novena to St. Anthony

This is another demonstration of the powerful intercession of the Wonder-Worker of Padua, because his clients are continuously sending us letters of grateful appreciation. We can publish only a few of them. S. McI.: "As promised for St. Anthony's book and keys. But will send more later and fulfill my obligation, as I got a situation." Mrs. H. L. R.: "I am sending this small donation in thanksgiving for finding my pocket-book and keys. But will send more later and fulfill my obligation, as I got a situation." A. G. Ohio: "About two months ago I wrote you asking that my petitions for two temporal favors be entered in your Novena to St. Anthony. One of these petitions was that we might secure some property we liked. Thanks to St. Anthony, we now have an option on this property, and trust that we can successfully close the deal when required to do so." A. L. K. Indianapolis, Ind.: "On February 15th I started a Novena of Nine Sundays to St. Anthony, asking a very great favor. My favor to St. Anthony, we now have an option on this property, and trust that we can successfully close the deal when required to do so. Wonder-Worker."

Those wishing to participate in this Novena may send their petitions, which will be entered in the Novena and placed at the famous shrine of the Wonder-Worker at Graymoor, and be prayed for daily. Those not having the prayers to be recited during the Novena, may have them upon request. Address your petitions to:

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