

FIVE MINUTE SERMON

BY REV. M. BOSSAERT SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

THE PASTORAL CARE DISPLAYED BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

In today's Gospel Christ speaks of Himself as the Good Shepherd, and such indeed He was, and we find in Holy Scripture abundant evidence of His love for His flock, and of His faithful discharge of His office as shepherd.

1. The Church instructs the ignorant. As soon as a child develops the gift of reason and is capable of understanding the higher truths of faith, he becomes an object of the Church's love.

2. The Church strengthens those engaged in conflict. Moses once raised his arms in prayer, when from the mountain top he watched the battle raging in the valley below between the Israelites and the Amalekites.

3. The Church seeks the erring. Remembering that the souls even of sinners have been redeemed with the precious Blood of Christ, the Church seeks her erring children with a mother's love.

4. The Church leads the dying to heaven. Whoever has lived as a loyal son of the Catholic Church, can fearlessly depart from this world, for he dies in the one true faith.

5. The Catholic Church is the loving mother of all her children, just as Christ is the Good Shepherd of all His sheep.

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with veneration and love, by obeying her precepts and observing her Commandments. Let us always be attentive to her voice and live as her faithful children, and then both in life and in death we shall enjoy her love and blessing. Amen.

CARDINAL O'CONNELL

GIVES ELOQUENT EXPOSITION OF ACTUAL CHRISTIAN AND CIVIC DUTIES

At the close of a Mission for the men of the Holy Cross Cathedral, Boston, two thousand men thronged the historic sacred edifice and listened with bated breath to the solemn and measured words of final admonition uttered by His Eminence, the Cardinal, who throughout his long career as a pulpit orator has seldom spoken with more force and fire.

"Daring this last week you have seen the truth, you have experienced the relations that exist between God and man. These are the only permanent things in all human life.

"Go forth strong in your confidence that God has chosen you to do the work of your lifetime according to His plans. Be faithful to them and you will realize every day more and more what those plans are when you are faithful to the laws and the commandments of God.

"There are the true, the solid foundations of real society, of real welfare and true happiness. You are the men upon whom this Commonwealth depends to preserve law and order, righteousness and trust and honesty.

"I cannot be unmindful of the good work which the Pastoral Fathers have done here during the last two weeks. Certainly, were it not that the strength of God is with them, they could never endure such a strain.

"The very fact that women are so often clamoring to take all power and authority into their hands is certainly no compliment to the manhood of the nation.

"My dear good Catholic men, you have no right to abdicate the position you occupy by the grace of God as the Christian heads of households.

"Another evil that we are seeing on all sides is the evil of extravagant expenditure. Everyone who is wise will understand that the present is no time for useless extravagance.

"If wages are high, if there is more money now than is necessary for your daily expenditures, then the part of the wise man, naturally, would be to save the surplus, and to insist upon such economy in his family. Instead what do we see? The wildest sort of extravagance, a purchasing of luxuries which is almost criminal.

"My dear men, do not forget that work is a sacred thing. The world is being flooded now with a false philosophy, the chief purpose of which is to make men think that work is something accursed, something to fly from.

"Of course, we wish, I, for my part, shall do my share in insisting that men be not overworked. Overwork is wrong. But also, I would fail in doing my duty toward God and toward you if I allowed to go unrebuked any system of false philosophy which tells you the less you work the better.

"There are many forces in the State which prescribe the proper conditions of labor, toil and remuneration. It ought to be an easy question to settle. But, underneath that question, which is perfectly legitimate and right,—that is, the proper labor of a man, under proper conditions, with proper remuneration,—there is abroad a diabolical spirit of discontent.

"I look to you, good Catholic, Christian men, who know what Justice is, to be the safeguard and the bulwark against the influx of false ideals. This mission will lighten and strengthen you in taking your rightful stand for honest and sanctified labor, and enlightening in your hearts a love for it.

"Be true to your position as Christian fathers. Exercise moderately, kindly, but firmly your Christian authority. Make yourselves respected in your own homes, first of all by good, Christian example, and by kindness and provision for the needs of the family.

"So, beloved men, once more at the close of this annual mission which brings with it such heartening train of graces, I beg Almighty God to send into the hearts of all of us stronger faith, greater readiness to serve Him, to obey His laws, to live near to Him in the Sacrament of the Altar.

"What strange vagaries the whirligig of time develops in the minds of a certain class of people! Twenty-five years ago it never occurred to 'the man in the street' that any religious sect could, by any stretch of the imagination, lay claim to St. Patrick, the glorious Apostle of Ireland.

"Within the past two decades, however, some sectarian or other, a little bold and less informed than the general run of his kind, breaks loose with tongue or pen in a foolhardy attempt to convert the Patron Saint of Erin into a Protestant.

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"For a year, I suffered with Rheumatism, being forced to stay in bed for five months. I tried all kinds of medicine without relief and thought I would never be able to walk again.

"The first box helped me, and I took the tablets regularly until every trace of the Rheumatism left me."

"My dear men, do not forget that work is a sacred thing. The world is being flooded now with a false philosophy, the chief purpose of which is to make men think that work is something accursed, something to fly from.

"Most significant and thought-compelling" is what the editor of the American Church Monthly, the High Anglican magazine, will term the following "parable" from André Maurois' "Les Silences du Colonel Bramble."

"There is also a latent spirit working, manifest offenses even among our Christian working men. It strives to instill into them little by little, strike, more strike, again strike and perpetual strike, and with the purpose of destroying all organization and all industry.

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byterian organ published in Cincinnati, carried an editorial on "St. Patrick of Ireland," which contains this statement: "In every essential he (St. Patrick) was a Protestant, as genuinely so as the Apostle Paul was, or Martin Luther, or John Knox."

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Heaven about four centuries before Ireland's Patron began the conversion of the Irish people, it is undoubtedly true that one was just as much of a Protestant as the other—both were as much Protestant as is Pope Benedict—and to mention them in the same breath as Martin Luther and John Knox is next to blasphemy.

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