

The Force of Example

Speaking in Los Angeles, Cal., Bishop Conaty once told the following story of his experience when a young priest in the city of Worcester, Mass.

There resided about ten miles out from the city a well-to-do family having in their employ about the place an old Irishman, who was much esteemed by them all. One cold winter day the old man was missing, and much wonder was expressed at his absence, for it was snowing hard and the day was dreary. At night he returned and a young lady of the family asked him where he had been in such weather. He replied that he had been into town. When asked why he didn't take the horse, he replied: "Sure, no man having any regard for his beast would take him out in such weather." When asked why he had gone out in such weather, he exclaimed: "Sure, and I've been to Mass. Don't you know that it's Christmas?" A few days after the young lady called on the priest and asked him to explain what it all meant, for if a religion could produce such devotion she wanted to know more about it, with the result that after instructing her the good priest had the joy of receiving her into the Church, and she became a very devout Catholic. This was but one illustration of the lack of understanding of the true faith only a few short years ago, and of the tremendous force of example.

He who labors, needs nourishment. He who is weary, needs comfort and repose; the Holy Eucharist is at once refreshment and rest to our souls.