FIVE MINUTE SERMON

REV. J. J. BURER, PRORIA, ILL.

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT THE DIVINITY OF THE CHURCH "Be ye therefore followers of God. (Ephes. V. 1)"

If there is one thing more than another noticeable in the character of the average man it is inconsistency. If he has not sound principles to guide him, every touch of passion. pleasure, or human respect is sure to change his vacillating position. This being true in general, is much more frequently the case in matters

Persons who are considered good Christians, while lauding the bene-fits of the Church and its sound moral teachings, may sometimes complain of its rigors and its strict adherence to principle, while on the other hand, it has been said time and again that the Church is a great

mposition.

They say that its wonderful con-They say that its wonderful constitution, durability and teaching serve to increase its powers of imposing on the people. Its enemies, acknowledging its marvelous superstructure and influence, persist in calling it an imposition. Nothing can be more inconsistent. For there is no truth that can be proved with more certainty than the divinity of the Catholic Church. If divine, it is not an imposition.

The wonderful constitution, the indestructible existence and the sub-

lime code of faith and morals of the Catholic Church, instead of increasing its powers of imposing on the people, unanswerably prove its di-vinity.

In order to see that its wonderful constitution is an unanswerable argument for the divinity of the Church, we have but to recall a few well known facts. About mineteen hundred years ago there appeared among the oldest people in the world an historical personage, a Great prophet. His words and acts are known to all. That Christ really did exist; that He taught "as one having authority;" that He chose disciples; that some of those disciples wrote books, these are facts that cannot be denied by anyone who believes in anything at all.

It is easy to see that the history of the miracles and good works of Christ contained in the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John is, any profane historian. If we look into world we see that about five hundred million of the most enlightened find the same in every age and every

When the Evangelists wrote, the facts narrated were recent. Witnesses of the miracles recorded by them were still living. They could easily be contradicted, if not true. But instead of contradicting, the very pagans and Jews show by their silence as well as by their words that "Indeed this Man, this Founder of the Catholic Religion, was the Son of God," and these facts cannot be denied. Let us imagine, for a moment, that some poor, ignorant Samoan fishermen should suddenly appear in our midst, preaching a new doctrine. Suppose they would tell us they were disciples of a God who had appeared, taught, performed miracles and sent them to continue His mission; that they had em-bodied His principal teachings in a book; that, among other difficult things, we were commanded to have no inordinate affection for earthly things, to love our enemies, to do good to those who injure us and to follow their teachings or be eternally lost. Suppose still further that we were heathen. What would we the man very well either.

do in such a case?

Before leaving everything to which our hearts inclined would we not examine carefully into all the details and circumstances of this new Teacher, of His teachings and His miracles? Most assuredly we like the details and circumstances of the new more in tall right. So I told him I wanted to try the horse for a month. He said "All right to try the horse in tall right." Teacher, of His teachings and His miracles? Most assuredly we would. Yes. And so did the people in the time of the Apostles. Aye! There were great and learned men of that time, as there are of to-day, who denied the possibility of miracles. who denied the possibility of miracles, as they were against reason. But when they became ocular witnesses of manifest miracles, then the fact first dawned upon their darken-ed intellects that there was a supernatural as well as a natural order and that to be above man's reason was not the same thing as to be against it. Then followed that spiritual revolution which regenerate the world and in a short time spread the Gospel to every nation. Allured by no temporal advantage, undaunted by the prospect of ignominy, conquered by no other force than that of truth, the Jew and Gentile, the Greek and the Barbarian, meekly Christ and follow a crucified God. When reflecting on these facts; when considering that to follow Christ was to lose everything in the beginning of Christianity and often even life itself, then we must with St. Augustine conclude "Either the Catholic Church was constituted, propagated by means of miracles or it was not. If it was, it was divine; as no one but God can perform or authorize a miracle. If it was, it is divine, for such a rapid propagation of truths so repugnant to the natural inclinations of man would be the greatest of all miracles."

In either case, the wonderful constitution of the Catholic Church unanswerably proves its divinity.

The divinity of the Church, which

is plainly seen in its constitution, appears in even a clearer light in its

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HAGERSVILLE, ONT., Aug. 26th. 1913.

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"Fruit-a-tives" advertised, I decided to try them.

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When we recall to mind the many bloody persecutions she has under gone; when we remember the ter-rible invasions of the northen barbarians; when we reflect on the fearful assaults of the heretics and wicked emperors who tried in vain to destroy her, then we cannot but see that the hand that guides her is divine. All the powers of earth and hell have ever been waged against her; still she stands. No human institution could survive half so much. During her existence nations have been dissolved; governments have crumbled : thrones een burst asunder; tyrants have arisen, attained their eminence and fallen; while she, having passed through more trials than all combined, remained unchanged and

The bright summer sun that rises in the far east and traces his course through the blue sky until he sinks in the distant west never shone with a clearer, a purer, a godlier light than does the Catholic Church of today. What she is to day, such she people in existence profess belief in the Gospel truths and miracles. If we go back to the time of Christ, we always has been and always shall be and trouble leave no trace upon her. From Peter, who defied the threats of the Pagan emperor and said "It is better to obey God than man," down to his illustrious successor Pius X, the glory of his age, there has been a long list of renowned martyrs, glorious confessors, bishops priests and people who gave their lives, their liberty and their all in proof of the divinity of the Catholic Church.

Good Friday and her Easter Sunday her sorrows and her joys. And al though she is still calumniated, still persecuted, she has nothing to fear; for He has promised that the "gates of hell shall not prevail against her." It now remains to examine how the doctrines of the Church show her to

This Washer Must

Well, I didn't like that. I was afraid the horse wasn't "all right" and that I might have to whis-tle for my money if I once parted with

out wearing or tearing them, in less than half the time they can be washed by hand or by any other machine.

I know it will wash a tub full ef very dirty clother in Six minutes. I know no other machine ever in vented can do that, without wearing out the clothes. Our "1900 Gravity" Washer does the work so easy that a child can run it almost as well as a strong woman, and it don't wear the clothes, fray the edges nor break buttons the way all other machines do.

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Let me send you a "1900 Gravity" Washer on a month's free trial. I'll pay the freight out of my own pocket, and if you don't want the machine after you've used it a month. I'll take it back and pay the freight too. Surely that is fair enough, isn't it?

Doesn't it prove that the "1900 Gravity" Washer must be all that I say it is?

And you can pay me out of what it saves for you. It will save its whole cost in a few months, in wear and tear on the clothes alone. And then it will save you can be promised the machine itself earns the balance.

Put in the send you are the machine itself earns the balance.

Brown of the machine itself earns the dearns and the send poor gravity washer that washes clother in 6 minutes.

be divine. It is a fact, which all will admit, that a religion which teaches truths of faith and morals worthy of God, and not only worthy of God but also most useful to man must be divine. But the Catholic Church teaches truths of faith and morals worthy of God and most useful to man. Therefore the Catholic Church is divine. The dogmas of faith taught by the Catholic Church contain the most exalted notions of God and man as well as the most

God and man as well as the most stupendous mysterious which man could never know without God's assistance. The Church teaches that man by his reason can find out the existence of God, the rewarder of good and the punisher of evil.

The harmony of the works of nature will convince him of this. The admirable revolution of stars and planets and comets in different periods and various orbits without interruption or disorder show it. All the works of nature proclaim a the works of nature proclaim a

But although man by his reason could find out the existence of God and the spirituality of the soul; there are truths that the deepest intellects of man could never fathom. Hence the Church teaches that God has revealed certain truths such as the immortality of the soul, which is made to God's image and destined for eternal happiness with the blessed in heaven; the mysteries of the most holy Trinity, of the Incarna-tion and the Blessed Sacrament, by which the God of Justice and charity is ever with us to soothe our

cares and answer our prayers.

The moral teaching of the Church contains the most sublime idea of morality and perfection which consists principally in the imitation of God. "Be ye perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." The Catholic Church teaches, as Christ taught when on earth, mortification, pov-erty, humility and self-denial; it teaches that we owe a debt of adora-tion to God on account of His omni-potence, of gratitude for His benefits and of love for His providence; it teaches too, that we must live in nations justice and peace and charity with all mankind and die in the hope of a "So r life beyond the grave.

A Church teaching doctrines which are so sublime, both in faith and morals, must be more than human, must be divine. Hence Pagans in the first centuries of the Church admired and embraced the Christian every age they have been the cause of many conversions, drawing high encomiums from even infidel philos-

Now, my dear friends, if the Church is divine; if, as we have seen, its constitution, formation, propagation, clearly shows its divinity; if its very existence is an unanswerable argument for it; if its admirable code of faith and morals proves beyond a shadow of a doubt its divine origin and protectionit follows as a necessary consequence that whenever the Church asks us to do anything or believe anything we must unhesitatingly do or be-lieve it. For when the Church speaks, God speaks; and when God speaks we must humbly bow and say "My God, not as I will but as Thou wilt." By so doing we will be putting in practise the words of my text in to-day's epistle "Be ye therefore followers of God."

TEMPERANCE

THE DRINK EVIL

Pay For Itself

A MAN tried to sell me a horse once. He said it with it. I wanted a fine horse. But, I didn't has much to do with our economic, cial, civic and religious welfare. First of all, the cause of total abstin-ence can be, and has been, very much injured by an incorrect statement of principles, and by an intemperance advocacy of temperance. If temperance be a virtue, it should apply to the treatment of the temperance question as well as all others. One error has been the illogical moral basis on which it is out—that the making, the selling, the taking, or the drinking of intoxicating liquors is in itself criminal. There is no theology for su statement. They are not. Neither the making, nor the selling, nor the drinking, in themselves are criminal habits. They may become criminal by association, by abuse, by the various conditions subsequent to the

taking.
"The other extravagant misstatement is that total abstinence means the elevation and salvation of society —that it has a monopoly in the field, that it is the only virtue, that if you are a total abstainer you must neces-sarily be a perfect human being. Some of the greatest sinners, some of the worst members of society, are total abstainers. Total abstinence or temperance, is not the only virtue just as drunkenness is not the only vice. Nor will the abstaining from intoxicating liquors be the sole salvation of a nation.

There are other causes that make for the downfall of nations which are much more predominant and much more effective than the use of the abuse even of intoxicating liquors. Immorality leading to the devitalization of a nation has been, as history tells us, the cause of the decline and fall of most of the nations that his-tory has recorded. To say that temperance is the only virtue, and drunkenness the only vice, is to adopt a very narrow platform, and to base the propaganda on a very narrow

"But when I have stated these two extravagances, I do not mean to say that enthusiasm, honest, every day effort, even life concentration to sun, nor the moon, nor the stars of the stars o issue, and very false principles.

"But when I have stated these

the cause of temperance and total abstinence is not a worthy mission. On the contrary, it is a most Christian and a most ennobling one. Not only should our purpose as Catholics be to oppose drunkenness, which is a crime and a sin, but also the drink-including

crime and a sin, but also the drinking habit.

"As Catholics we have taught and teach that drunkenness is a sin, morally offensive to Almighty God, offensive in itself, and doubly, trebly, many fold offensive by the additional control of the cont many fold onensive by the additional sins that follow in its wake. Whether it be blasphemy, or murder, or im-morality, or whatever follows in the wake of this sin, the man is morally responsible, for he has committed the first act and in doing so is liable to all the other acts that follow through

"Drunkenness is a spe ace that is particularly offensive to the Christian faith, because drunken-ness dethroned the reason. The definition of a man is that he is a think ing, a rational animal. It is reason that differentiates him from the brute. Drunkenness takes away the distin-guishing quality whereby he is a

"We are opposed to the drinking habit, because drink very often leads to drunkenness. A drunkard does to drunkenness. A drunkard does not simply in a moment of enthusiasm or forgetfulness get drunk. He is led to it, step by step. First he is a drinking man, then he is a drunkard. Drinking is what might be called in many cases the occasion of sin. In the very broad field of social life, national welfare, the welfare of the people. drinking is to be evoided by people, drinking is to be avoided, be-cause over against it is a long roll of crime that degrades and destroys our

The records of our institution show that with drink is bound up insanity. The bars behind which the poor unfortunates are held, these iron bars represent the other bars that were made by the drink habit. We are a nervous people, and drink-ing adds to nervousness. Drink leads to early graves, and generally to dis-honorable graves. It is the drinking nations that are prone to tuber-

"So many of our charitable insti-tutions which have to deal with the weaker, the poorer, the friendless and the homeless have to cater to a larger and still larger clientele because of

the ravaging results of drink.
"We do not need arguments to convince our reason. What we do need are motives, impulses, influences to stimulate our wills. It is not that we have not all come to the conclusion, that we should not. But can we reach the sequence, we will not? It is the will that needs support. This can be avoided, first by avoiding those who do drink.

We have long since set the seal of disapproval or condemnation on the drunkard. He has no place in the business world, in the civic world, in the public world. In avoiding those who drink, you can include everything, from the dive down town to the fasionable club. To drink with the very of the same of the life world. the veneer of respectability, and the glamour of high life, is not very far from the squalor of low-life, and it is oftentimes noticeable that this so-called high life, at its highest point, touches the other extreme.

"Instead of telling what wonderful strength of will we have, we ought to go to the throne of God and ask Him to strengthen us, to sustain our wills. It is well to have strength of will, but it is better to make that strength stronger by the blessing of Almighty God from day to day."—St. Paul Bulletin.

ST. PATRICK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE eny the virtues which it creates, the fortitude which it inspires, let them look to the history of Ireland. If men say that the Catholic religion flourishes only because of the splendor of its ceremonial, the grandeur of its liturgy, and its appeal to the senses, let them look to the history of Ireland. What sustained the faith when church and altar disappeared when no light burned, no organ pealed, but all was desolation for cen-turies? Surelythe divine life, which is the soul of the Church, of which the external worship and ceremonial are but the expression. But if they will close their eyes to all this, at least there is a fact before them—the most glorious and palpable of our day—and it is, that Ireland's Catho-licity has risen again to every exter-nal glory of worship, and triumphed over every enemy. Speaking of our Lord, St. Augustine says, "In that He died He showed Himself man; in that He rose again He proved Him-self God." Had not the Irish Church risen again to more than her former glory? The land is covered once more with fair churches, convents, colleges, and monasteries, as of old; and who shall say that the religion that could thus suffer and rise again is not from God? This glorious testimony to God and to His Christ is thine, O holy and venerable land of my birth and of my love! O glory of earth and heaven, to day thy great apostle looks down upon thee from his high seat of bliss, and his heart

rejoices; to day the angels of God rejoice over thee, for the light of

sanctity which still beams upon thee; to-day thy troops of virgin and martyr

saints speak thy praises in the high courts of heaven. And I, O Mother,

heaven, shine down upon anything so lovely as thee, O Erin!

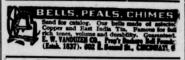
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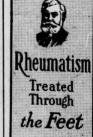
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