

ST. CATHERINE ON PURGATORY THE WONDERFUL WISDOM OF GOD IN THE INSTITUTION OF PURGATORY

As the soul cleansed and purified finds no place wherein to rest but God, this being its end by creation, so the soul in a state of sin finds no place for it but hell, this being its end by the judgment of God.

Thus with regard to purgatory, when the soul leaves the body and finds itself out of that state of purity in which it was created, and only by hindrance, and that only by removal of purgatory, without a moment's hesitation, it plunges there.

From this tendency it is drawn away by original sin, and still more by the addition of actual sin; and the farther off it gets, the more wicked it becomes, because it is less in conformity with God.

Things are good only so far as they participate in God. To irrational creatures God communicates Himself, without fail as He wills, and as He has determined; to the rational soul more or less, according as He finds it purified from the impediment of sin; so that, when a soul is approaching to that state of first purity and innocence which it had when created, the instinctive desire of seeking happiness in God develops itself, and goes on increasing through the fire of love, which draws it to its end, with such impetuosity and vehemence, that any obstacle seems intolerable, and the more clear its vision, the more extreme its pain.

THE DESIRE OF THE SOULS IN PURGATORY TO BE FREE FROM THE STAINS OF THEIR SINS The soul in its creation was invested with all the conditions of which it was capable for reaching perfection, supposing it to live according to the appointment of God, and keep altogether from the defilement of sin. But—marred by original sin, it loses all its gifts and graces and becomes dead; and God alone can raise it to life again.

Again God restores it to life, but after this it is so tainted, so turned to self, that to recall it to its first state needs all the Divine agency that I have been speaking of, without which it never would be recalled. And when the soul finds itself on its way back to that first state, it is so encumbered with the desire of becoming one with God, that this desire becomes its purgatory, not that the soul can look at purgatory as such, but the instinct by which it is hindered, and the impediment by which it is hindered, constitute its purgatory.

God performs this last act of love without the co-operation of man; for there are so many secret imperfections within the soul, that the sight of them would drive it to despair. These are, however, all destroyed during the process I have described; and when they are consumed, God shows them to the soul, that it may understand that it was He who kindled that fire of love, which consumes every imperfection there is to be consumed.

THE SUBMISSION OF THE SOULS IN PURGATORY TO THE WILL OF GOD These souls are so closely united, so transformed into the will of God, that in all things they are satisfied with His most holy decree; and were a soul presented before God with ever so little to purge away, it would suffer grievous hurt and a torment worse than ten purgatories.

That unspotted sanctity, that perfect justice, could not endure it; to do so would be unbecoming on the part of God. Should, then, the soul perceive that it lacked even a moment of satisfying God most completely, it would be to it a thing intolerable; and rather than stand thus imperfectly cleansed in the presence of God, it would plunge at once into a thousands hells.

PROFESSION AND RECEPTION

The happy Christmastide was on the 80th anniversary of the death of the Ursuline College, "The Pines," Chatham, Ontario, for in addition to the usual festive ceremonies of the holy season, occurred that of a religious reception and profession, when eleven young women offered the gift most dearly cherished by the Babe of Bethlehem, that of devoting their young lives to His service, five of the number by solemnly consecrating themselves to Him by the holy vows of religion, and six by laying aside their costume of the world to accept the holy habit.

The beautifully solemn ceremony began as the long procession of religious bearing lighted tapers followed the cross bearer and acolytes into the chapel, these in their turn being followed by the little white-robed novices, bearing their floral offerings, who immediately preceded the young ladies in their bridal robes and the white veiled candidates for profession, His Lordship, the Right Reverend Bishop Fallon, and the clergy completing the cortege. As the brides of Christ arrived at the altar each was presented with a lighted taper symbolic of the light of the Holy Ghost.

This part of the ceremony over, His Lordship with mitre and crozier, ascended the altar steps to address the large number of guests, who crowded the chapel to its utmost capacity. The majestic figure at once invited the most eager attention and his words as ever carried conviction. The gifted orator so logically and impressively developed his subject that "Veni obediens loquetur victoriosa"—"The obedient man shall speak of victory," that all present could not but bear away the most fruitful lesson, that the very foundation of the civil law rests on the observance of the law of obedience; that it is especially necessary for those who consecrate their lives to serve the divine Master; if they will bear His voice they must hearken to those whom He has chosen as His representatives.

The choir was assisted by Mr. Boegel of Toronto and Mr. Farrell of Arthur. The Missa De Angelis and the Adeste Fideles, were very well rendered. After Mass the newly ordained priest imparted his blessing to each person in the church, which was more than comfortably filled. After the ceremony many of his relatives and friends gathered at the home of his parents Mr. and Mrs. John McGoe, to congratulate them and to rejoice with them on the occasion of the great honor that they now enjoy. Ad multos annos.

DIED FLOOD.—At his late home in Toronto, on Dec. 21, 1913, William F. Flood, formerly of this city, in his seventieth year. May his soul rest in peace!

We have endless opportunities for exercising love. Our brothers lie stricken all along life's highway—brave men who have fought and failed, feeble folk who were never strong enough for earth's conflict, some without health, others without money; some without friends, others without hope. What is to become of them? If we would be helpers in this world of perplexity and sorrow, if we desire any real peace and happiness, if we would ever rest our aching heads where St. John rested his, on the very bosom of Jesus, we must practice the lessons of love.

THE ADORATION OF THE KINGS From out the distant east He called three men of singly bearing. How could it be strange if Royalty for regal rank be caring? But 'twas for other cause than that that westward they were bearing.

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THE LATE CANON SHEEHAN

We have received a circular from Donerale, Co. Cork, Ireland, stating that a meeting of the parishioners of the late Canon Sheehan had been held in that town and it was unanimously agreed that a fitting memorial be erected to his memory. It was recognized that Donerale is the most suitable place to erect such a memorial, as it was here his greatest triumphs were achieved. It is well known that he had been offered high dignities in the Church, of which he was such an ornament, but in his abiding love for Donerale he could not sever the link which bound him to it, and here, at his own special desire, his hallowed remains rest under the shadow of his Church, and amongst the people he loved so well. That this movement will meet with the greatest success we are assured because the most prominent men in Ireland in Church and State have given their cordial approval and promised assistance. Those who wish to contribute may send their donations to Rev. T. Shinkwin, C. C., chairman, Donerale, county Cork, Ireland.

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

REV. FATHER MCGOE'S FIRST MASS The Rev. Father Sylvester McGoe, of St. Joseph's parish, Macton, who was ordained on 20th inst., celebrated his first Mass there on Christmas day, assisted by the pastor, Rev. C. W. Brohman as deacon and Rev. E. Hayes from Milwaukee, as subdeacon. Christmas day 1913 is therefore a memorable day in this parish, this being the first solemnity of their kind in the history of the parish. Father McGoe made his classical course at St. Jerome's College, Berlin, (where he won the gold medal in an oratorical competition at the end of his course). He made his theological course at the Grand Seminary, Montreal.

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PRESENTATION

On Christmas day, Rev. James Hogan, pastor of Raleigh, in this diocese, was presented with a purse of money by his parishioners as a token of their regard. The address was read by Mr. Jas. E. Dillon and the presentation made by Mr. D. Kearns. Father Hogan made a touching reply.

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