SIX

FIVE MINUTE SERMON

#### BY THE REV. F. P. HICKEY, O.S.B. THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

THE HOLY WILL OF GOD

"The good, and the acceptable, and the perfect will of Go ." (Rom. xii 2.)

At the beginning of the year let us resolve, wisely and carefully, to se the safe path to heaven, and

with God's help to persevere in it. This safe path is to do the holy Will of God. In resolving to follow this path, we are attempting to do that which the blessed do in heaven, "Thy Will be done and for ever. on earth, as it is in heaven. God so supreme that His Will is the glory of the full moon, and both the law, the regulator, the perfection of all His creatures. We pray for you," says St. Paul, "and beg that you may be filled with the knowledge of His Will that you may walk worthy of God in all things pleasing " (Col. i. 9). Not only the saints prove the neces sity of this, but even holiness itself was based upon doing the Will of God. Our Blessed Lord Himself said, "I came down from heaven, to for the city is under martial law. Frequently, a curious crowd gathers in front of the "First Aid" offices, opposite my hotel window, and a wounded man is rushed clumsily in, or another is brought of Him that sent Me" (John vi. 37). And our Lady, "Be it done accord-ing to Thy word," "The Blessed the Fascisti, who boldly walk about Virgin was blessed," says St. Augus-tine, " because she did the Will of dressed in black shirts open at the the Father.

Will of God? From His Command-ments and the teaching of the seems to echo some discontent. Church, and by that monitor within us, our conscience. If we only a small hill town such as one en-bravely accept the Will of God. counters only in the very remote there will be no worry or doubt, districts of Italy and Sicily. Saint no perplexity and anxiety, for God's Will is wisdom itself and must pre-vail. We must pray, then, that we

it, and love it. opposition is strengthened; and their antiquity, but rude and unsan-through the malice and craft of the itary.

we shall be ruined. "Before man is life and death, good and evil, that which he shall choose shall be given him." Behold I set before you the way of life, the way of death" (Jer. xxi. 8.) Then, as we see that self uses its free will to oppose and thwart the Will of God, we must be on our guard, and fight argainst it. Our free will unchecked against it. Our free will unchecked leads us to ruin; God's Will leads us to heaven. We must watch our hearts to see what awakens the evil of self. At first, if it all goes well, it lies quiet but passion may be conventioned to be told of the convent's poverty. The pilgrim the convent's poverty. The pilgrim can see at a glance that Saint Rita's community is desperately in need of help. Even the hard-working and faithful priest, a native of Cascia, roused by envy, uncharitableness, hat the miserable hotel slight, an unpleasant command, which many Americans would deem by the very dullness and monotony penance enough of life indeed; and then self-will twenty-four hours. is up in arms, and disregards—yea, may boldly assert itself against— the Will of God. The devil is the the Will of God. The devil is the

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Pope Clement XII. wrote the name of Rita of Cascia in the Martiro-logio Romano, and on Ascension Day, May 24th, 1900, Pope Leo XIII. This is the work of our life, and we must not be beguiled into believdeclared her a Saint. It was a long while for the little convent of ing anything else can take the place ernist humbly his knees Cascia to wait for the official recogdoing the blessed Will of God. noble women have watched and At first there is not open insub-ordination and rebellion against God's Will; but there is a quiet, hope in their hearts. For is not moth only to be the cause of its destruction. nition of their Saint, but the Nuns of Cascia have dauntless patience and Appearances are deceiving. Near For is not faith. They have always been crafty evil, that may not look very wrong, that starts the mischief, and that is tepidity. The sin of tepidity is the deliberate choosing in small matters to do our own will instead of the Will of God. Its beginnings are want of forvor, carefulness, and stare with the confused wonder of one of the portals to the cathedral worthy sisters of Rita, the Saint of of Strassbourg there is a statue the Impossible. which has for its purpose the illu-stration of this fact. The front DEVOTION OF HOLY view is sculptured to show a beau-tiful exterior, from the side may be the Will of God. Its beginnings are want of fervor, carefulness, and cheerful, prompt obedience. Our prayers, our duties are not omitted, but our heart is not in them. We do not miss Holy Mass, but we are late at it, and choose the shortest. We do not mean to give up our prayers, but by degrees they are hurried over, shortened, and often forgotten. God's grace is by degrees withdrawn from us; it is not wanted, or caref or, or asked for. Tepidity is an insult to the Holy God, an offence to the Good God. A sudden temptation, a dangerous occasion—then, alas! a catastrophe, a fall into mortal a catastrophe, a fall into mortal EUCHARIST seen the back pictured as a crawling mass of worms. In carving this statue the artist had the above thought in mind, and wished to Memories of a life of remarkable sanctity which did much to spread the rich Eucharistic devotion which express in stone a lesson for the be-holder. It is said that the face is is such a golden feature of Catholic piety are being recalled during the the window of the soul and in the generality of cases it is. But aftermath of the recent Eucharistic Congress, which has so signally enriched Catholic life. always there must be made allow ances for the exception. Similarly Mother Mary Teresa Theodelinde a neat appearance is the index of a well ordered interior, but again Dubouche has already come to occupy a high place in the record of here room must be left for the ex-ceptions. The whitened sepulchers Catholic piety by reason of the fact that she received a mission from Almighty God which performed wonders in furthering the progress of Eucharist devotion. She was born in Montauban on May 2, 1809, spoken of by our Lord in the Bibl tells the same truth. The term was applied to the Pharasees. Like the neatly whitened sepulchers to out a dangerous occasion—then, alas! blessed bread, rose leaves from sactastrophe, a fall into mortal sin. Self-will had been unbridled, there was no check on it, and now suddenly it breaks loose, and revolts against its God. We know from the past the danger of falling into sin; there-fore let us cherish an abiding sorrow for all the past offences, and humbly ward appearances they were both respectable and honorable men but and at an early age was noted for her recollection in church. inwardly like the sepulchers they It was on a Feast of Corpus Christi that the Blessed Sacrament imharbored corruption. Honeyed, words, an avoidance of vulgarity, and a pleasing modula-tion may be as deceptive. These are all indications of culture, but pressed upon her soul the first vivid sentiments of unusual faith and love. She received the first revela-tion of her vocation in 1846. She went to venerate the Relics of the Passion in the Cathedral of Notre fore let us cherish an abiding sorrow for all the past offences, and humbly pray to God that we may not relapse. Our safeguard will be to cling to the holy Will of God. It may seem hard to give up our own will always, but God's grace will make us brave and generous enough to attempt to do it. Think of the promise and reward to those that cling faithfully to that divine Will. Begin the year by promising God to place Him foremost in our minds are an indications of culture, but culture of the modern kind, covers a multitude of sins. The very con-demnation of vice is not always a sign of the hatred of it. Much less Dame at Paris, and at Holy Com-munion she was overwhelmed with the thought: "The Blessed Sacra-ment is above all." the expressed suspicion of its pres-ence in others. Tennyson writes in At the side of the Holy Crown of Thorns she saw a Host which seemed to be held up of itself. She alone saw the wonderful vision. It this regard : "And they, sweet soul, that must impute a crime cling faithfully to that divine will. Begin the year by promising God to place Him foremost in our minds and hearts; to be generous to Him, Who has loved us, in spite of all our failings. And take courage-the Will of God, and the same Blessed Saviour will help you in your endeavors. And remember His promise: "He that doth the Will of My Father, Who is in

# heaven, he will enter into the King-dom of heaven." (Matt. vii. 21). A PILGRIMAGE TO CASCIA

SAINT RITA'S CONVENT AND THE NUNS OF CASCIA III.

By Cecil Fanning How different, how sadly different, all about me is from the almost medieval quiet of remote Cascia, the shrine of Saint Rita, which I left. only a few days sgo, hidden away in the verdant mountains of Umbria. As I write, I can see the majestic Cathedral of Milan, bathed in the man-made and the divine monu-ments are silent testimony of the ation of devout Catholics of all grades of society. God's saints and the souls of the faithful departed eventual triumph of right. Un-mindful of me, a motor van occasionally rumbles by, loaded with soldiers going to relieve the guard, are ever near awaiting our prayers for aid; ready, at all times, to act as intermediaries in our behalf. If we have faith in this life and in the life to come (and who is capable of really living without such a faith !) we should lean on those who have gone before and secure their help in these troubled times. But how do we know what is the

What a contrast is Cascia called sible."

may have the grace to recognize situated on one of its narrow lanes it, accept it, act up to it, adore which lead from its main thorough-Saint Rita. , and love it. But it is our nature to find obey-those pinched by-ways, leading for ing irksome, and we are quick and clever at inventing excuses from doing the Will of God. It is self that is the enemy. Self that has to accommodate a vehicle, and the free will, which opposes itself to the holy Will of God. Of our own nature, then, we are inclined to oppose; having sinned, the habit of squalid dwellings, picturesque in

through the malice and craft of the devil we shall be urged, unless we are watchful, into determined opposition to the Will of God. So it is by no means easy to do the Will of God on earth as the blessed do in heaven. We may mean it, intend it, resolve—and yet contin-ually fall away. Unless we had free will, we could not merit; but alas! if it rules us we shall be ruined. "Before man is life and death, good and evil,

ture or postcard

will help to solve some of the daily problems which are confronting these self-sacrificing Augustinian Nuns of Cascia, because of their poverty. The postage from the United States is five cents. And money should be sent either as a post office money order, or in the penance enough to endure for form of a bank note.

On August 7th, 1737, two hundred and eighty years after her death, instigator to fan the smouldering fire into a blaze.

## THE CATHOLIC RECORD

countless examples of individual and of group loyalty to the prin-ciple of the might of right but a passionate war-mad regime has been riding rough shod over such simple and pure ideals as those to which the sisters of Saint Rita's Convent, true to the great tradi-tions of the Catholic Church, have been clinging through it all. We live in a commercial age. Success is too much gaged by in-come. To say, though, that times

found an institute which should have for its object to make repara-tion for the outrages received by Our Lord She consider an environment of character from are degenerate, is aphoristic. Writers, even in the days before Christ, made such assertions, and Our Lord. She considered entering good manners. the Carmelite Convent on the Rue d' The words of Enfer in Paris, and took rooms nearby. In February, 1848, the revolution broke out and Theo-delinde organized a forty days' reparation, to which she invited many pious persons. The vorus of warning which fe-cently appeared in a Catholic con-temporary are well worth repeating: "Girls should always refuse to accept offers of automobile rides from men whom they do not know or of whose character they are not to words of warning which fe-cently appeared in a Catholic con-temporary are well worth repeating: "Girls should always refuse to accept offers of automobile rides from men whom they do not know or of whose character they are not to words of warning which fe-tently appeared in a Catholic con-temporary are well worth repeating: all through the ages the same cry has reverberated. But the world is has reverberated. But the world is surely not worse in the present than it was in the past. Right will assert itself sooner or later. And its arrival depends upon the cooper-

The reparation days proved such success that she desired to estab- agreeable outwardly and ish an association, and 2,000 names harmless, were presented for this purpose in a short time. The Associates of Reparation prayed day and night before the Blessed Sacrament, which was exposed during the Octore of Corner Christian Octove of Corpus Christi. A GREAT FOUNDATION

#### Our Blessed Lord chose this time

Devotion to Saint Rita is of ines-timable help at all times, especially to show Himself for the third time to His faithful servant. The Venertimable help at all times, especially now in these times of stress and in-decision. The experiences of her life seem to have schooled the Saint if e seem to have schooled the Saint of use the seem to have schooled the Saint of the seem to have schooled the set the second the there is no instance on record where a follower of Christ rose with more beautiful magnanimity from the sordid setting of her surroundings whole being a life which would have beautiful magnatumity from the sordid setting of her surroundings than did Saint Rita. That, no doubt, is one reason why she is called "the Saint of the Impos-the Saint of the Imposappease the justice of My Father, but all these Associations are insufficient. I want a religious con-secration : I want souls who will sible." And you are missing very rich experiences, if you are not among the vast throng of people who are daily in communion with be always before Me to receive My Life. I will place a tube on their In this connection let me say that

Mother Superior M. Teresa Fasce, who is in charge of the community heart as I have just done for you, and they, in their turn, will comof nuns who are faithfully keeping the light of Rita's saintly life burnmunicate this life to souls who belong to Me in the world." ing through this generation, assured me that she would welcome re-Venerable Mary Teresa then saw clearly the complete organization of

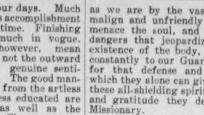
quests from devotees of the Saint the work asked of her by Our Lord. in the United States. You will feel infinitely near Saint Rita if your special intention is offered from the sion, and then others united to altar of her own church, or if you have near you some souvenir of Saint Rita, such as some powdered grape leaves from the Saint's own vine; some dried rose leaves from the rose tree of her own planting. The source of the source of her own planting to the source own planting town planting tow

vine; some dried rose leaves from the rose-tree of her own planting; some blessed bread (a'specialty of the convent, a little hard cracker or biscuit;) a medal that has been pressed against the Shrine of the pressed against the Shrine of the Saint of the Impossible; or a pic-of the Heart of Jesus. Thus was founded the Congregation of Adora-But do not forget, the Nuns of tion and Reparation. In 1852 the Cascia are very poor. Saint Rita's Convent is not begging, but it is in great need. One dollar sent to Mother Superior M. Teresa Fasce, Monastero di Saint Rita, Cascia, Province of Perugia, Italy, will when it arrives there be translated dury Victim, exposed in their chapels day and night.—The Pilot. when it arrives there be translaten into some twenty lire and thus it

## WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

The devil can be respectable for his purposes. Neatness of appearance, glibness of tongue, and attractiveness of manner are not a guarantee of innocence of purpose. "All that glitters is not gold," is the proverbial way of expressing the same fact. Many are deceived because they judge an individual's worth only from outward appear-ances. The brilliancy and color of the flame has attracted many a

But



page 8.

The words of warning which resure. These men are usually very harmless, but are absolutely corrupt and without conscience, and themselves to be placed in danger in this way and also in the danger of being out late at night."-A. R. in The Echo.

POWER OF MORAL FORCE

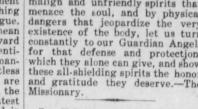
Under the title "The Pope Dares To Do It," the New York Times, of December 6, printed the following as its leading editorial. "Pope Pius has sent to the Near Eastern Conference at Lausanne a solemn protest concerning the dead peril in which it is propose eave the Armenian and other Christian minorities throughout the Turkish Empire. His Holiness ems to be unaware of the immutable principle that you cannot pro-test against an act of gross in-

humanity unless you are prepared to prevent it by force. It is to be imagined that the Turk will stand in fear of the Swiss Guards at the Vatican? The Holy See is without any temporal power at all. Yet the Bore deep not heritate to make his Pope does not hesitate to make his indignant voice heard at Lausanne and throughout Christendom as confidently as if he had fleets and armies at his eommand. This strange Pontiff seems to believe that there is still in the world such a thing as moral force. They would tell him his error if he applied to Washington."

THE GUARDIAN ANGEL

God extends His protection to us through many agents, chief among whom are the Guardian Angels, whose office it is to assist and save all human wayfarers from the perils that at every turn in the road threaten the life of both body and soul. This consoling truth is clearly taught in the Scriptures, which say: "For He hath given His Angels charge over thee to keep thee in all thy ways."

Not only the years of childhood, but youth in its prime, and man-hood in its decay and old age come within the province of the ministering Angels. A simple faith in the power and protection of our celes tial companion, who walks with us every step of our life, is one of the greatest needs of our materialistic and self-sufficient age. Surrounded



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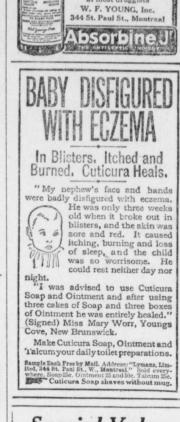
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