

FIVE MINUTE SERMON

BY REV. WILLIAM DEMOUY, D. D.

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS

"See therefore, brethren, how you walk circumspectly, not as unwise, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." (Eph. v. 15)

The Gospels abound in warnings. Through life, from a spiritual standpoint, we must proceed as carefully and cautiously as, from a physical standpoint, we would explore regions infested with wild beasts.

God could, absolutely speaking, free us from dangers; but His justice, since man disobeyed Him, demands that our salvation be more difficult.

This neglect of care and watchfulness is generally noticeable in people who are not strongly religious, or who frequently neglect their religion.

Parents especially need to listen to the warnings of the Gospels, as regards their children. It was said of old that the serpent could not enter, he sought vainly, he has other and more powerful avengers now.

Do Catholic parents realize all these truths? If they do, are they, too, carried down stream by the rush of the modern current?

Man must consider his end and judge goodness and wickedness, or at least uselessness, accordingly. Money can bring a certain amount of happiness upon earth, even to him who is not rich; it can clothe him in beauty; it will allow him to bask in luxury.

Christians not only must watch, they must reason. They need to acquire an education in spiritual things. Parents must listen to God, and not be carried away by the custom of the day.

WHAT THE CHURCH OFFERS THE CHILD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO

living members of the Church, we are living members of Christ's mystic body and dwell in Him.

In this world, a free act of ours is divine or supernatural when performed by us under the influence of divine charity; but in heaven "we all beholding the glory of the Lord with an open face are transformed into the same image, from glory to glory, as by the Spirit of the Lord."

Your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ shall appear who is your life then you shall appear with him in glory. (Colossians, 3, 3-4.)

The former watchfulness of parents over children has become almost as a view of a landscape—often distant, too. The plain attire that covered their pure forms has been transformed into the gaudy finery of the vaudeville stage.

The nature of everlasting life becomes somewhat more apparent to the child when he learns how it is communicated and maintained. For there exists a wonderful analogy between the vital processes of the natural and supernatural.

The child's introduction to the Church is dramatic. He is brought to the Church by his sponsors a few days after birth. At the door he is met by the priest of the Church who questions the child: "What dost thou ask of the Church of God?"

Our Lord, who was born and suffered for us? Dost thou believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting?"

A complement to faith and charity is hope, that is, boundless confidence that God will give us everlasting life if we do His will. Hope finds its characteristic exercise in prayer and the object of prayer is everlasting life.

EVERLASTING DEATH

As supernatural life is more valuable than all the world, it should never be injured, much less destroyed. "For what doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world and suffer the loss of his own life?"

The task of the Church is by no means completed when she gives her children everlasting life by baptism. Her task is next to develop and nourish and, when necessary, purify or restore that life, and then to direct its activity in this world and bring it safely into eternity.

The same everlasting life, brought to the child by baptism and nourished by the Blessed Eucharist, is frequently promised in the Bible as the reward for faith and charity. "He that believeth in me," says Christ, "hath everlasting life."

Why faith and charity are required for everlasting life is explained by the comparison which we have all along been considering. It is impossible to maintain bodily life unless we know and observe its essential laws. To fail to know that food is required and as a result to fail to eat would bring on death.

Were one to follow out this doctrine of everlasting life in all its ramifications, one would see the explanation of every doctrine and ceremony of the Church. For the whole purpose of the Church consists in establishing, restoring, maintaining, developing and perfecting everlasting life in men of good will.

If children, therefore, be made realize clearly and vividly, the nature, laws, utility and necessity of each of the three types of life which are theirs, if they be brought to understand the harmonious and fruitful subordination of their lower types of life to the highest,

they will indeed cherish the health and strength of their bodies and their intelligence and liberty of their soul, but most of all that supernatural gift for which they were created, everlasting life with and in God through the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Thus far we have compared, briefly and baldly, the child's bodily life, rational life, and everlasting life, as these three types of life exist in this world.

IRISH CHRISTIAN BROTHERS TO RECEIVE OFFICIAL RECOGNITION

The Christian Brothers of Ireland, the great teaching Order which ran into many difficulties in the days of British rule because it insisted upon giving only what it considered proper Catholic education, is now about to receive official recognition from the Free State Government.

Thirty years before O'Connell carried the Catholic Emancipation Act, the Christian Brothers had been working zealously to impart a sound Catholic education to the youth of Ireland. When the British government ruled that Catholics might educate their children under a so-called system of national and non-sectarian schools, the Order was induced to join the new system and give it a trial.

Worry

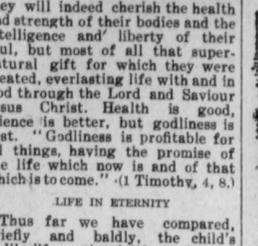
"Worry is rust on the blade." A strong solution must be compounded to remove the presence as well as its stain. The rusty knife, as it were, spoils the fruit which it cuts; it destroys the cloth which it tears. Worry spoils tranquility of heart. It does more. It sears the hearts of friends who fret under its strain and grow old under its blight.

Reasoning with worries will not eliminate their burden. Will-power sanctified by God's grace will teach all to follow Him and realize that He Who walked in the Valley of Shadow did not permit the darkness to wither His soul.

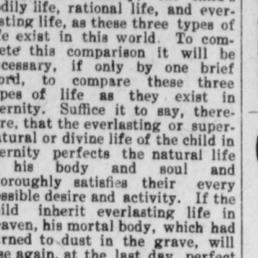
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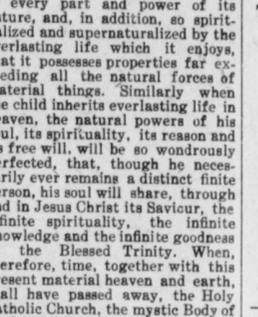
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