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FIVE-MINUTE SERMONS

**NOVEMBER 10, 1894** 

Feast of the Patronage of the Blessed Virgin.

To day, my dear brethren, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Patronage of the Blessed Virgin. Let us stop a moment and consider what is meant by this title, as given to our most immaculate and blessed Mother.

You remember that there is a similar feast on the third Sunday after Easter, in honor of her glorious spouse, St. Joseph; and that he has lately been given the title of Patron of the Universal Church. Is it, then, in this sense that we are to understand the Patronage of the Blessed Virgin; is it that she is the patroness and protectress of the Church in general, in its continual conflict with the powers of darkness Yes, we may certainly understand it in this way. She who with her foot has crushed the serpent's head is the great enemy and terror of heresy in particular, and the greater part of the heresies which have afflicted Church, and especially those existing in our own day, have, it would seem, instinctively felt this. They have directed their assaults in one way or another against her, and against the position she holds in the work of our redemption. She may also be rightly considered as our bulwark against the attacks of the infidel, and has at various times come signally to the assistance of the Christian world when exposed to danger, particularly from the followers of the false prophet Mohammed.

But there is another sense in which to understand her patronage, and to avail ourselves of it, besides this one of her protection of the Church as a whole; and this other is practically more important for us to realize. It is that she is the special patron and protector of each one of us individually, in our own special needs and trials and in the war which we have to wage on our own account with the enemies of our salvation.

You know that we are all encouraged to choose certain saints whose name we bear, or to whom we have a special devotion, as patrons, to obtain for us the blessings and helps we need, temporal as well as spiritual. And there can be no doubt that if we do thus select certain patrons, they will perform for us the office which we desire and though they may not always obtain for us those things which our imperfect judgment fixes on as most desirable, they will reward us with even greater blessings than we ask if we are faith-

But it is quite plain that we should not omit, and certainly it is not the custom of Catholics to omit, the name of the Blessed Virgin from the list of patron saints, whatever others may be chosen with her. The Church, in establishing this festival, seems herself to officially constitute our Blessed Lady as the patron of each one of us, to whom we are to have recourse in all our difficulties, of whatever kind they may be, that we may find a safe way through them. We have the assurance of constant experience that if we follow the mind of the Church in this way we shall not be disappointed.
"Remember," says St. Bernard, in
the beautiful prayer "Memorare," which it is to be hoped we say often—
"Remember, O most pious Virgin
Mary, it is a thing unheard of that ever forsakest those who have recourse to thee." Let us then also remember this; and whatever special devotions, or helps to salvation, we may select, never forget this, the most

universal and indispensable of all, of recourse to the Blessed Mother of God. hat above all is the Blessed Virgin the advocate of sinners. If, then we wish ourselves to escape from the power of some temptations or evil habits which are threatening our ruin, let us not forget to go to her. She is sinless herself, has more than the compassion of a mother for us; let us beg the powerful help of her intercession, and let us also ask her to rescue others who, it may

are more tempted than ourselves. And it seems to be also not without reason that this feast is placed in the month of November, that we may re-member that the holy souls now suffering for sin in Purgatory are especially dear to our Blessed Mother, and that she wishes us to pray for them, and to present our prayers herself, as she is their patron too. Let us, then, say at least some Hail Marys (and why not the beads?) every day this month, that she may bring to heaven during it many souls, who will not forget to ask her intercesssion for us when we shall be in the same need.

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OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

True Words. As the boys and girls grow up, it is him. As the boys and girls grow up, it is a serious question in every family what they will do for a living. Where are the best opportunities, and to what are the children best adapted? It is not easy to decide in most cases. Learning a trade, or getting into a profession, or working up to a paying position in mercantile life, is not a story for my father was the chief of "Well, Ellen, and then?"

"He examined me carefully, and then he said that a few months was the utmost he could promise me, and if any sudden accident were to occur, it might only be a question of a few weeks."

Margaret hid her face in her hands. "Margaret, dear, do not grieve; holiday affair, and it is with something the party on the occasion like a sigh of compassion that we see the boys and girls go out into life's struggle for food, and raiment, and a home of their own. If, then, life is such a serious thing for our children, should we not try to equip them in the best possible manner for the battle in life which is before them? Is not man bound, in all conscience and honor, to give his son or daughter a "busines education" before they are required to face the conflict for which they cannot

be too well prepared ?-Selected. Children's Manners.

It is a mistake to suppose that children will acquire good manners when they are, as people phrase it, "old enough" to understand their pro priety, if the small observances of good breeding are ignored or neglected in the first four or five years. Mothers sometimes forget that the active and receptives tage of child life in the nursery is never surpassed at a later period. The little one is taking impressions every moment, acquiring gentle habits or the opposite, picking up words and sentences, surprising his elders by the facility with which he learns what they would rather he should not know. In the baby's home the foundation is laid for the good or or the bad manners of the mature

A Lesson to All.

After Stonewall Jackson's death, a New York merchant said of him: never met Mr. Jackson but once, vet an incident in which he had part exerted a strong influence over my early life. I was a boy in college, eager to be considered a man, but often hesitated to maintain the principles taught me by my mother, lest I should be called weak and womanish.

"I happened to be seated at supper one night next to Jackson, who was a omewhat younger lad than I. waiting to be served, one of the boys drew from his pocket an incident picture on a card, and passed it to neighbor. It was slyly circulated among the students near by with shouts of laughter. When it came to Jackson, he glanced at it and threw it down contemptuously, saying quietly 'That is silly and beastly!'

"The boys were silent. One of them threw the card in the fire. I felt a sudden stiffening of my whole moral nature. It was so easy for him to be decent and manly! Why not for me "I can say candidly that momentary touch of a strong, bold nature put new health and vigor into my own.

Economy and Charity.

Many years ago, a venerable priest was making collections to repair his church. He called on a lady who passed for being very rich and generous. As it was already late in the day, the lady called for a light. servant took one of those long matches dipped in brimstone, which were then in use, touched it to the fire lighted a candle in a silver candle stick, and threw the rest of the match in the fire. The lady sharply scolded the girl on that he might as well have saved himself the trouble of calling. What was then his surprise, when the lady, open ing her bureau, counted to him The priest to make up for his unjust suspicion grew warm in his thanks. train servants to economy in the smallest details. As the girl has been in my service only a short time, I made it a point to give her that lesson in your presence that she might better remember it."

Lost on the Prairie.

Some years since, a party of surveyors had just finished their day's work in the north-western part of Illinois, when a violent snowstorm came on. They started for their camp.

The wind was blowing very hard, and the snow drifting so as to nearly blind them. When they thought they had nearly reached their camp, they all at once came upon tracks in the snow. These they looked at with care, and found, to their dismay, that they were

their own tracks.

It was now plain that they were lost on the great prairie, and that if they had to pass the night there in the cold and the snow, the chance was that not one of them would be alive in the one of them would be alive in the morning. While they were all shivering with fear and with cold, the chief surveyor caught sight of one of their norming in the risk of contracting inflammation of the lungs or consumption, while you get Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. This medicine cure coughs, colds, inflammation of the lungs and all throat and chest troubles. It premotes a free and easy expectoration, which immediately relieves the throat and lungs from viscid phlegm.

Skepticism.—This is unhappily an age of skepticism, but there is one point upon which persons acquainted with the subject agree, namely, that Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil is a medicine which can be relied upon to cure a cough, remove pain, heal sores of various kind, end benefit any inflamed portion of the body to which it is applied.

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Minard's Liniment Cures Diphtheria.

Minard's Liniment Cures Colds, etc.

and walked off, and the men followed They had not gone more than a "Well, Ellen, and then?"

story, for my father was the chief of

Children Without loys. Mrs. Molesworth, the author of a them. He is the Father of the orphan; I will trust Him about them; I will not folk, is also an enthusiastic worker among the poor of London, and in a recent article she relates many touching incidents connected with her life among the lowly. There are thousands of poor children in London, she is kn tells us, who never owned a toy, even the most common one.

long she lay patiently in her ragged bed, watching the damp spots on the wall. She gave to each one a name, and imagined that it was alive and

The same kind hearted author also tells us of a poor child who pondered the saying of her teacher that we should offer to God what was most precious to us. The next day she came and handed to her instructor a carefully tied package, saying it was for the good God. The teacher opened it, and found a few grains of rice, -all that the child could call her own.

It may do our children good to think of these perfectly true stories the next time they are tempted to complain that time they are tempted to complain that they are tired of their old toys and I have no words to thank you. You

He Invented the "Saw-Ry." A few years ago a green country boy applied to the superintendent of a western railroad for work, and, somewhat against the superintendent's wish, on account of the danger of life and limb attendant upon such occupation, was given a place as brakeman of a freight train, says the Washington Post.

On one of his first trips it happened not long enough to accommodate either of them. The conductors were debatof them. ing which train should back up to a point where they could pass when the new hand ventured to suggest that neither should go back; and they could pass each other by means of the short side track if the thing was managed right.

The idea excited a great deal of laughter on the part of the old train-men, but the boy stood his ground. 'Well, how would you go about it?" asked one of the conductors, confident that the lad would soon find himself

against a stump. The boy took up a stick and traced in the sand a diagram to illustrate his

"Good gracious!" said the conducor, "I believe that will do it!" And it did do it. To day every trainman in America probably knows how to "saw" by two long trains on a short side-track, but it is not so generally known that the thing was never done until an inexperienced her extravagance. "That match," sho said, could have been used at least of a great railway line worked out

## TRUE TO THE END.

CHAPTER I.

suspicion grew warm in his thanks.

"This is not any too much for such a good work. But perhaps you were not expecting that much after my severe lecture to the servant; but if we want anything to give to God and to the poor, we must let nothing go to waste; it is absolutely necessary to waste; it is absolutely necessary to the poor, we must be conomy in the sort green grass, gilding the trees and bushes, and making all nature rejoice, on a soft, balmy day in June, in a little, quiet village not many miles from Dublin. A small, neat-looking house stood back from the main street, and was surrounded by a garden, in which, at the moment our The bright summer sun was shining garden, in which, at the moment our story opens, two little children, a boy and a girl, were playing; while near them, reclining in a low chair, and wrapped in shawls, although the day was intensely hot, lay a pale, delicate looking young woman, with the ex-pression in her face of one who had patiently borne long and wearing suffering.

Presently the garden-gate gave a click and a pleasant, bright-looking lady entered. The children greeted with a shout of delight, and upon the appearance of certain de licious looking apples from her basket, retired to enjoy them, leaving the visitor at liberty to approach the invalid.

"Always the same?" said the latter, as she stretched out her hand to her as she stretched out her hand to her friend, and smiling sweetly. "Al-ways bringing something with you. spoiling those children, and spoiling me, dear Margaret."

Margaret Murphy's only answer was

alone in the world; but that, if it was

Follow me; I'll lead you out of this God's will to take me, all I asked was to have time to face the truth, and He then turned in a new direction prepare as best I may for their future. Margaret's eyes filled with tears.

"Margaret, dear, do not grieve : you know how I long to go. only the thought of my children that troubles me ; but God will take care of

Margaret raised her head. "They will be as my own," she said eagerly." With God's help, I will be a mother

"I know you would, dearest; but is it right to leave the burden upon you? Ought I not rather to write to their girl in a wretched house who was ill with an incurable disease, and all day long she lay nationals. Hot rather to write to their father's brother, and see whether he and his wife would take them?"

"Certainly not "ce

"Certainly not," said Margaret.
"Don't send them to strangers, even though they are their flesh and blood. You know nothing of Robert O'Donell and we are your cousins, Ellen. Our doing all sorts of things. These spots she called teachers and scholars, or am sure we have been like sisters to mothers and children; and she gave them imaginary qualities, or made be- And if I had been the one to go, and them imaginary qualities, or made believe that they were the playthings of which she had heard, but never seen.

The analysis of the beard that they were the playthings of and John also, we would have left our Frank to you, and you would have Frank to you, and you would have cared for him?"

"Indeed and I would," said Ellen

fervently.
"Well, then, if you are to have heaven first, and leave earth to me, I will take yours ;" and Margaret tried to smile "And John?" said Ellen.

"He is quite willing, and will do all he can for them, especially for Willie." Ellen clasped her hands together "What can I say to you, Margaret know, you can guess, what is in my heart. Oh! how I will pray for you and your husband, Margaret, and a dead mother's prayers must bring

down blessings on you."
"Now say no more, Ellen darling,"
answered Margaret, laying her hand on her friend's lips for a moment. "Here comes Frank, I declare! to fetch me, I suppose; but he will have a game with the children first."

And the children rushed forward again to greet a visitor of their own that his train met another freight train age—a bright curly-headed boy of at a station where the side track was not long enough to accommodate either off to their side of the garden. The two mothers gazed after the group with admiring eyes.

"My Willie is so good, Margaret," said Ellen; "I do hope he will be a priest."
"To be sure he will," replied Mar-

garet : "why, the child is marked out for it, as it were. You may almost see it written on his face; and I am sure Father Donovan thinks so. Yes, I know he does, thank God.'

said Ellen; "only yesterday he told me so again. He says he will be some

thing remarkable, so it is not all a mother's partiality, I suppose."
"Why, Frank is as different as possible," said Margaret. "Dear good child he is, too, but not like Willie. Willie's face, when he serves Mass, is just like an angel's. Then, I suppose ittle Nellie is to be a nun, for twins always agree in everything they say and I am sure all the stories peopl tell about twins are verified with those children-they are alike in everything, as well as in face."
"I am not so certain about Nellie,

niversal and indispensable of all, of sho said, could have been used at least ecourse to the Blessed Mother of God. Sho said, could have been used at least eight times." The priest thought that he had got in the wrong pew; and Record.

Sho said, could have been used at least of a great railway line, worked out the problem for himself.—Philadelphia alike in many things, but not in all; and she is childish for her age, while Willie is far older in mind than in years. It is so pretty to see how he watches over her, and how he takes care of me! He will give up his play in a moment, and sit as quiet as a little mouse, if he thinks I want to

"I must be going now," said Margaret, rising. "Come here, children," she called out, "and bid me good by."
The three came running up, little Nellie with her brown curls blown and tossed by the wind; Frank with his open, happy face; and Willie the very ounterpart of his sister, with the sam soft brown eyes, the same thick clustering hair, the same delicate features, but with an expression of sweetnes and innocence on his face far beyond that of the others - an expression which, alas! sometimes fades away when the bud grows into the flower out which in other cases is the outward token that God has set His seal upon the soul, and marked it as His ery own for evermore. TO BE CONTINUED.

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