#### FIVE MINUTE SERMON

By REV. M. BOSSAERT

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST .

IMPURE CONVERSATION

We read in today's Gospel that when ur divine Lord was curing the deaf and dumb man. He looked up to heaven and groaned. Why was A learned commentator tells us that it was because He perceived in this one tongue all the evil wrought by the tongue in the history of the human race. He saw how godless men poison their tongues, and thus do more harm than venomous ser pents which kill only the body, where as wicked tongues destroy both body and soul. One particular kind of wicked tongue is peculiarly evil and armful, viz., that which carries on harmful, viz., that which carries on impure conversations and tells filthy stories. Hence I wish to warn you, in my sermon today, against this terrible habit, and to save you from ever forming it.

1. We may class as impure every

kind of conversation that raises a blush on the faces of honest people, whilst only the shameless approve. Every work is impure that reveals what is unseemly and imparts a knowledge of evil to one's neighbor. In Holy Scripture this sin is de-scribed as a pastilence, a terrible sickness causing wide spreed desola-tion, being most contagious and hard to cure. A man sick of the plague infects his whole household, then the neighbors, then the whole community and perhaps the whole country, and in the same way it is no rare occurrence for one shameless tongue. uttering impure words, to poison and gradually corrupt a great number of people, who become infected one after another. There are mere children, whose minds are filled with impure thoughts and desires, whose hearts are poisoned with impurity and who talk freely of forbidden things—how could they have acquired any information on such subjects if they had not been infected by the impure conversation of shamess people, and had not heard their elders discussing matters unfit for innocent children to know? Parents who speak without reserve before their children are much to blame, and may be called a true pest, as may all who indulge in shameless conversations and disgusting songs, either at home or in the workshops, when visiting their friends, or in public houses and places of amusement.

Some will try to excuse themselves by saying: "My offences against the Sixth Commandment are only fun; I only hint at things and do not mean any harm." Can it be an innocent joke to allude to things that are sinful—things of which St. Paul says that they should not be mentioned at all among Christians? Certainly not: immodest jokes and ambiguous expressions have robbed many of all tenderness of conscience, and made them consent to sin, so that they lost their innocence and adopted an immoral life. In fact veiled allusions are often more infectious and do more harm than conversations which are plainly immodest, since a heart still ncorrupt turns a way from the latter

Others perhaps will argue this: Whatever unseemly remarks I make before children and young people cannot possibly injure them, cause they do not understand,

Would God it were true that your foul conversations caused no scandal and produced no evil fruits among and produced he will remain among your neighbors, and especially among children! Unhappily it is not true, for we all know by sad experience what incalculable and irreparable mischief can be done by time the devil suggests its meaning, the evil takes root, produces foul de-sires and impels him to wicked actions. These latter are the result actions. These latter are the result of careless words uttered in the presence of an innocent child. Each of us can probably call to mind some immodest remark or song heard many years ago, and the trouble that we have had in banishing it from our thoughts, and in preventing it from giving rise to foul desires and acts.

Take therefore to heart St. Paul's admonition: "Let not fornication and all uncleanness so much as be named among you." If you have hitherto allowed yourselves to indulge in shameful conversations, jests, songs and ambiguous phrases, resolve to avoid these sins in future, remembering St. Basil's words: "Impure persons with poisonous tongues do not only themselves perish, but they drag down to destruction all whom they infect. Wherefore listen not to their wicked words, for their whom they infect. Wherefore listen not to their wicked words, for their

## FOCH'S FAVORITES

(Canadian Military Gazette)

before the armistice a private luncheon was given by a lady in Paris to a number of her friends, of whom Marshal Foch was one. In the course of conversation the lady said: "Marshal will you tell us who were your best soldiers?" He replied: "Madam, that is a hard question. To begin before the work in the Church were not aided by various good influences at home.

A certain priest was once giving a certain priest was once giving death of John the Baptist and he noticed that one little girl listened

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with, I must not speak of my own pollus. But you have asked, and I shall answer—Mes enfans cheris mont les Canadiens" (my dear children are the Canadians). The point to note is that Foch was not speaking for publication, but at a private gathering, and amongst his fellow-country

#### RELIGIOUS PICTURES IN THE HOME

Parents have the most serious duty that can be imposed upon human beings, viz., that of training up their children in the fear and love of God. Those children have souls as well as bodies, and, while their bodies will die and crumble into dust, their souls will live forever. While most homes are arranged, as far as possible, in keeping with the means of the parents, in such a way as to minister to the material well-being of the children, the same is frequently not true where there is question of their spiritual development. This is not to be attributed to the deliberate intention of the parents to deprive the children of what is due to them. but simply to the fact that people do not realize the elements helpful to the development of the soul, as well as they do those calculated to build up and strengthen the body.

In this article, it is my aim to make a plea for religious pictures in the home, for the sake of the spir itual good they will do to the chil

Religious pictures are numbered among the sacramentals of the Church. As such they inspire good thoughts and increase devotion among adults, as well as help the spiritual upbuilding of the children. But it is only in the latter aspect that I shall consider them here.

When a child is born, its mind is blank; and it begins to furnish ideas to that mind through its carriers the hands, the ears, the taste, the eyes. But, much as it learns through the other senses. I think that it acquires the most through the eyes. The eyes give it perception of color, of shape, of size, of proportion, of distance, and of action. Now, if the eye is so helpful in supplying the child with the knowledge of earth, why not make the child use the eye to acquire a knowledge of the things

of heaven? People who wish their children to speak French or German, allow only those languages to be spoken in the hearing of the children; and those parents who wish their children to grow up healthy, keep them out in the air as much as possible. In the an evil word falling on the ears of an innocent child. He may not at the moment understand it, but he reand nious, should create an environ ment of religion and piety for them and one of the factors in such an environment would be a plentiful supply of pictures portraying religi ous subjects, on the walls of the

What is it that makes the Church so devotional? Of course it is chiefly the fact that Our Lord is there in the Blessed Sacrament. But, besides, it is the plentiful supply of religious art. There are the statues, the Stations of the Cross, the pictures, and the stained glass win-

not to their wicked words, for their tongues are like that of the serpent which deceived Eve in Paradise, and brought evil into the world for time and eternity." Amen. should be as little as possible; the more they resemble each other, the better. And when the child comes to the Church or to the Sunday School, if what he hears explained The writer has the following story from a gentleman in whose word he has absolute confidence. Shortly before the armistice a private lunchprepared to profit by such instruc-tion than if the work in the Church

to him with more than ordinary, attention. As the instruction was nearing an end she showed by her uplifted hand that she, too, wished to be heard. And when the priest or receive Holy Communion they will help to get him into the state of soul in which he should be .- Catholic

#### CATHOLICS AND THE BIBLE

asked her what it was, she said "We have a picture of the Behead

ing of John the Baptist' at home. It was this fact that made that in-struction of particular interest to her;

School by the presence in the home of pictures that illustrate the matter

it knows its name or not.

And while on this subject of ex-

every time they enter the sacred

Another advantage of having these

attention while saying their prayers. A child who from the beginning has been in the habit of saying his

prayers before a really beautiful picture of Our Lord or the Blessed

will be heeded by one who is kindly disposed towards him. The expres-

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flesh.

In the current number of "Physical Culture" George Bernard Shaw contributes an article on Morality and, further, it called to the priest's attention the wonderful aid that can be given the work of the Sunday and Birth Control, in the course of which he trots out the following oftrefuted fallacy: "To this day it is an unsettled question between the Roman Catholic and the Protestant If children are to get all the profit possible from these pictures in the home, the subjects should be explained to the children. Many of them are symbolic, such as the Im-Churches whether the one is right in withholding the Bible from the laity, or the other in scattering copies broadcast and enjoining its constant study."
That the Catholic Church with-

maculate Conception and the Eternal Father; and their symbolism needs to be explained, if the meaning of the picture would be grasped. But holds the Bible from the laity, is a statement that one might excuse in some obscure Protestant preacher who didn't know any better, but even if the parents are not able to explain the pictures they should, nevertheless, have them in the home, coming from a man who occupies a for the children will later on obtain the explanation themselves, or, if they don't, they will inhale their spiritual commanding position in the intel-lectual and literary world, it goes to show that misinformation concern-ing things Catholic is not confined fragrance anyway. A flower is just as sweet, whether the one admiring to the duliest among our non-Catho-lic brethren. We could quote Papal pronouncements exhorting the faithplaining to the children the meaning ful to study the Scriptures, without to study the Scriptures, who are not open to conviction. The whole controversy turns about the extravagant claims of the Protestants as to the of the pictures in the home, I might suggest the value of parents and Sunlay School teachers explaining the meaning of all the pictures, statues and stained glass windows in the importance of the Bible. Because the Jatholic Church does not reand stained glass windows in the church. The children come into the church every Sunday, and if the meaning of all these works is under-stood the statues and pictures will have a message for the children cognize these specific claims she is declared to be opposed to Bible read-

Protestants have come well nigh to believing that the mere possession of the Bible is an indispensable means of salvation. As some one has said:
"The Bible, and the Bible alone is the holy pictures in the home is that they enable the children to fix their religion of Protestants." Private infended by Protestants, no matter to what conflicting opinions such inter-pretations may lead. The Catholic Church holds that the Bible alone does not adequately convey Virgin, learns to put meaning into his prayers, and feels that those prayers are being listened to and general reader a sure knowledge of faith and morals; that all revealed truths are not contained in the Bible; and that she, the Church, is the appointed witness and guardian of revelation.

sion of kindness and love on a Madouna or on a Holy Face comes to be as much a reality As for the indiscriminate distributo the child, as if he had seen Our Lord or His Blessed Mother in the tion of the Bible without note or comment by Protestant Bible Societies, there is a growing feeling among many thinking Protestants that this is a doubtful means of pro-And besides being a wonderful help towards getting the child properly started in the manner of pagating Christian doctrine. A missionary on the Malay peninsula once complained that although thousands saying his prayers, these pictures will at all times help to protect the of Bibles had been distributed he "did not hear of a single Malay conchild from distractions; and when he is preparing to go to confession vert on the whole peningula."-The

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What is experience? A poor little hut constructed from the ruins of the palace of gold and marble, pretty blossoms spring up beneath his feet.—Sir Walter Besant.

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