

FIVE MINUTE SERMON

BY REV. M. BOSSAERT

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHY MANY ARE NOT SAVED

Dear brethren: God desires that all men be saved; hence He sent His own Divine Son down upon earth that the world may be saved, that no man who believes in Him be lost, but may gain eternal life.

Why are many not saved? Many are called but few are chosen. All might be saved, but many will not be saved because they do not believe in the Son of God; and he who of his own fault believeth not is already judged.

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BE PROUD OF YOUR FAITH

It is well to be proud of your faith, but do not imitate the Pharisees who boasted that he was not like other men, and looked upon the poor publican on whom the God of mercy took pity.—Cardinal Mercier.

BODY AND SOUL OF LITERATURE

The beauty of the body is not identical with the beauty of the soul. The exterior may be fair to the eye, beautiful in the grace and symmetry of its parts; it may image for us the types of beauty that the Grecian sculptor immortalized in marble.

There is a body and a soul in literature. The thoughts that the essayist would communicate to his reader, the emotion that the poet would awaken in the hearts of others, the motives, the principles and the ideals that control the actions of the hero in the novel or the drama, and which, as we suppose, the novelist or dramatist would have us approve, these constitute the soul of literature.

It is impossible that in literature as in life the body should be fairer than the soul? The ideal no doubt would be found in the apt union of high moral excellence and physical beauty. In life we have had such an ideal union, in Him who combined the sanctity of the Godhead with the fairness that made Him "beautiful beyond the children of men."

THE PEARL OF PARAY

It is part of the character of the Saint of Paray to stand aside in the shadow until the great devotion of which she was the apostle had spread over the entire world; until the noble basilica, its universal monument, was completed, and incarnate Love, the Living Fact symbolized by the flaming Heart, was given by the Papal decree to little ones and all the world as daily Bread; for the "Pasceat Gregis" of Pius X. is the crown and consummation of Margaret Mary's work.

The ways of Christ with His hidden favorites are as varied as their own characters and history. With Margaret and the beautiful soul of Margaret of Cortona, He is gentle, careful, exquisitely delicate. He shields them from the least wound, they must never be hurt by man's scathing tongue.

The zeal of the Apostolic age, the heroism of the ascetics, the intensity of eremitical and monastic life, the childlike faith and fervor which lived and blossomed into sanctity in the stormy Middle Ages had been succeeded by the poison of the Renaissance, the chill of the Reformation, and the paralysis of Jansenism.

It is what breaks his heart. This is the substance of the great Plink—that He is ignored; of the great Demand—that His creatures whom He has left free—will give Him their unconstrained love. He almost kneels to the heart He has created free; He is the Kingly Mendicant of His subjects' souls. Nor is this any new plea—all through the Old Testament runs the

same Almighty desire for man's love. The essential meaning of the Divine request is that Christ may, by our own volition and conduct, be inside our life—all life—not just that of the cloistered and consecrated, but of every condition of humanity. He came not to destroy but to vivify. Laughter and joy and human love are His as well as tears; a child's study, because of the deep bond between them. He begs to be shut out of nothing that belongs to the innocent life of His creature—not as retreatist, but as inspiration, stimulus and repose. He is the divinely Adaptable One, but he is something more: He is the Inexhaustible Lover. It was St. Margaret Mary's Mission to make "L'unique Amour de son Ame" ours. Gloriously has it prospered. It is for each of us to see its ultimate consummation.—L. Wheaton, in Catholic World.

HARMONY AMONG EMPLOYEES NECESSARY TO PIANO PRODUCTION

It is a recognized fact that the temperament of an artist, a writer, a composer or a sculptor, shows itself to a marked degree in his productions. A mood has often produced a masterpiece, as has also a burst of temper, a stab of sorrow, or the dawning of a love, and as often these things have wrecked what might have otherwise been a masterpiece.

Does mental condition play as great a part in every day production—for instance, does the butter-maker make good butter one day, inferior another because he is not in the "right mood"—does the baker make good bread to-day, not so good to-morrow because he does not "feel like it"? We find that this happens. In finer work, work that requires artistic ability, however, mental condition exerts itself more freely.

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APOSTACY FROM GOD

The general trend of modern society is toward irreligion and paganism, according to many keen observers of the spirit of our own times. Especially is this true in Protestant circles where the fanatical sects which have not the seamless robe of Christ have created religious anarchy and spiritual indifference among the masses who are infected with the radicalism of various brands. In many countries today most of the men are practically atheists. They do not deny God outright but they ignore His Presence. They are what is called vituperably ignorant of divine and supernatural truths.

Grave peril lurks in this attitude of modern man towards God in whom we live and move and have our being that we may know, love and serve Him here in order that we may be happy with Him hereafter. Ignorance of divine law and truth excuses no man because God has given to the average individual sufficient ability and ample means to learn His holy Will and commandments. Man have a responsibility that they cannot shirk in this matter and they are bound to co-operate with God in the salvation of their souls made in the image and likeness of God. If they sin against the light and grace of God they are helping to destroy God's image in their soul. They are creating the greatest evil in the world, which is sin, thwarting the development of their own character and making hell in their own souls as well as causing confusion and unrest in the world.

People do not stop to think that by ignoring the Creator and Author of their lives they are kicking away the props that make human existence possible. If there is no divine command and sanction behind the moral law which makes civilization a working proposition, the social structure will be built upon the sand of passion and self-interest instead of upon the rock of the eternal law of God, men will think lightly of sin, tolerate evil and condone what is intrinsically opposed to the highest welfare of humanity. It must be confessed that the so-called "churches" of Protestantism are largely to blame for the modern apostasy from God. Moral duty does depend on religion, and the countless Protestant sects are partly responsible for the moral and religious anarchy that characterizes

the Western world today. These sects have gone out of the Bark of Peter and sail aimlessly on a sea of doubt. They lack authority, unity, definite teaching; they have abandoned the sacramental system as channels of grace and have rejected the Supreme Sacrifice of the Altar, the great act of worship in the Christian Church. In opposition to the one, holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of Confession in Protestantism and hence a Babal of contradictory voices, among them even bishops denying the essentials of Christianity. Is it any wonder then, that Smith decides to play golf or take an auto ride instead of going to church on Sunday?

As Hilaire Belloc says so powerfully, Europe and America and the world must turn to the Catholic Church to be saved from a deluge of blood before the vials of God's wrath are turned loose on a sinful and perverse generation. Many people today are renning after every kind of novelty and fad in religion, which shows after all that they are incurably religious at heart, but must be led to the Way, the Truth and the Life, which is the wisdom of Christ. If they do not go to church, they are going to mediums, attending esoteric lectures and trying out the latest cults in their curious desire to seek after God in their own blind way.

Why does not the Catholic Church make a stronger appeal to these seekers after God, religious truth and the laws of morality? One reason may be that Catholics are too reticent and complacent and wait for souls to come to the house of God. The Church of Christ is as a city seated on a mountain and her light shines for all. But somehow old truths fall on the minds of people. Human nature is strange and curious about a hairy comet that appears in the sky and signifies nothing, but never interests them selves in the great sun in the heavens that gives light, heat, life and beauty to the earth. If we had only half the zeal of those fighting against God and His Church, myriads of souls wandering in confusion and darkness would be brought to the knowledge of God and obedience to His laws through loving service in His Kingdom on earth.—The Monitor.

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONY

The efforts of fanatics to fan the flame of bigotry meets with opposition from unexpected quarters. The State of Georgia has received much unhealthy notoriety in recent years from the vituperations of anti-Catholic writers. But the State of Georgia is not made up wholly of men whose chief purpose in life is to distort history and misrepresent the religious convictions of their Catholic fellow citizens. The editor of the Macon Telegraph is the latest non-Catholic of Georgia to rise in protest against such mischievous propaganda as the bogus Knights of Columbus oath and the alleged interference of the Pope in politics.

"We do not belong to the Catholic Church," he says, "but we are no more afraid to give vent to the truth than Tom Watson is to distort it. As far as the city of Macon is concerned, it is hardly necessary to take a stand. Catholics and Protestants are so finely knit together in the

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social and business structure of this town, that the matter of man to man and of friend to friend is a much more substantial affair than the busy references to great and hidden mysteries. When these men whom we know so well we can almost read their inner thoughts before they are expressed, tell us upon their solemn honor as brother to brother that there is nothing in their Knights of Columbus obligation that could be in the least objectionable to Americans or offensive to even their women folks, then we promptly and rightfully so, forget all those charges that flare up before each election time. The United States Constitution gives to every man the right to worship at whatever altar he desires. As to Catholics pledging themselves to the Pope in politics, the man who occupies the Vatican has no more to do with the politics and ambitions of Macon Catholics, and of any other that we know than Mr. Harding has with the politics of Democratic Catholics. These are facts that can be easily proved. We do not believe that the selfish political maneuvers of men who are this year attacking the Catholic Church in Georgia will delude the sanely thinking people of the State nor affect in the least the excellent relations that exist between Georgia Catholics and the people of other faiths.

That there should be occasional outbreaks of religious bigotry in this country is no cause for wonder. Such has been the history of the Church in all ages. "They have persecuted Me, they will persecute you" was the substance of the warning handed down by Christ to His apostles. That there should exist men who are willing to rise to power upon the religious issue in politics is no more surprising than there should be politicians willing to betray their trust for gold. But religious bigotry has been an unprofitable and inadvisable medium in politics. For the sense of fair play that distinguishes American citizens generally resents the appeal to prejudice that is manufactured from lies and calumnies. The age of pitiless publicity has means of separating truth from falsehood, and in the end men of true American mold like the editor of the Macon Telegraph will arise to rebuke the deceiver of public opinion.—The Pilot.

It is infinitely better to have an intense yearning for moral excellence than for intellectual eminence; there is no question of it. Nearly all our failures come from lack of morality, lack of virtue, lack of power. The highest kind of power is moral power. I know that intellectual power does miracles, but in the end moral power is the supreme power.—Bishop Spalding.



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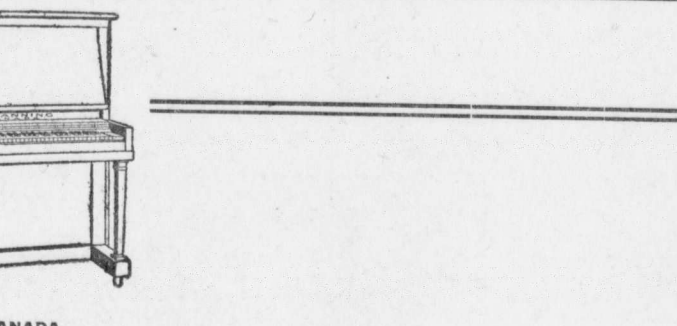
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