

THREE-MINUTE SERMON. Sunday within the Octave of Christmas.

THE FEAT OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS. And lo! the angel of the Lord appeared to them in a dream, and said unto them: Rise up and flee into Egypt...

Who is not shocked by the recital of Herod's cruelty? Carried away by pride and ambition, and the fear of losing what he had usurped, this tyrant tried to put to death the King of Kings...

Who to these wretches? Who to the Herod-like physicians who, for any reason whatsoever, directly prescribe or use means to prevent child-birth?

But I have another cruelty to cry out against. It is that of those who destroy the "little ones of Christ" by neglecting to instruct their little children in the way of salvation.

It follows then that the mind cannot come into possession of the first principles of reasoning of laws of thought without coming in touch with some outside agent.

Now in view of these meditations, into which we have been led by Dr. Crapsey's scholasticism, we must conclude that the way of external authority—communication from without—is not only the best way by which the mind can receive knowledge, ideas, but it is the only way.

There are myriads of little men who do know and see all they long after, but that is because their longings are so shut in by valleys and their horizons so narrow and materialistic...

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INTERNAL TRUTH VERSUS EXTERNAL AUTHORITY.

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SHORTAGE OF PRIESTS. "FIFTEEN HUNDRED COULD BE PUT TO WORK TOMORROW."

A Catholic Bishop is quoted as saying recently that "the Church in the United States could put to work fifteen hundred priests tomorrow if she had them." His words, echoed by the Very Rev. A. P. Doyle, are enforced by the statement that the Church files itself in a shortage "very much akin to the prevailing labor famine in the agricultural districts with bumper crops withering in the field and no farm laborers to gather them in."

It has fallen to my lot to be obliged to present to the president some suitable candidates for the extra chaplaincies in the army that he assigned to the Catholic Church. He is persuaded of the efficiency of the Catholic priest among the enlisted men in the army and navy, and when the new coast artillery bill made a number of new vacancies, he gave five to the Catholic Church.

There was a demand for the American priests to go to the Philippines to take the place of the Spanish friars who were withdrawn. The Bishops made a quest everywhere, in the religious orders as well as among the diocesan priests, for some Americans to replace the Spaniards.

The writer goes on to inquire what are the principal causes of this dearth of priests and observes that "some may be told; others may not, because probably they would reflect too much on those to whom is entrusted the care of the churches."

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"There are few vocations from families of wealth and culture. The opportunities of the commercial life lure the boys away. They are brought up in luxury, and they have no heart for the sacrifices of a priest's life. Moreover, the strong old faith that esteems a vocation in a family as a divine blessing, and is infinitely grateful for such a family grace, seems no longer to exist in the heart of the mothers of wealth. Time was when every family paid its tribute of a boy and a girl to the inner courts of the Lord. Kings and queens were glad to step down from their thrones and follow the step of the Crucified One. We nowadays often hear from mothers the complaint that 'priests are such ordinary men; they have no culture.' Such mothers ordinarily stand in the way of their own children going to the priesthood."—Literary Digest.

NOTABLE ADMISSIONS BY PROTESTANT WRITERS.

Rev. E. Cutte says: "In the Middle Ages, the Church (Catholic) was a great popular institution. In politics the Church was always on the side of the liberties of the people against the tyranny of the feudal lords. In the eye of the nobles the laboring population were beings of an inferior cast; in the eye of the law they were chattels; in the eye of the Church they were brethren in Christ, souls to be won and trained and fitted for Heaven."

Her ten thousand monasteries kept alive and transmitted that torch of learning which otherwise would have been extinguished long before. The humanizing machinery of schools and universities, the civilized propaganda of missionary zeal, were not due to her? And more than this her very existence was a living education.

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FIGURES THAT STARTLE STATESMEN WHO BELIEVE IN THE NECESSITY OF PRESERVING THE AMERICAN HOME. Public attention has again been drawn to the social plague of divorce, by official information supplied by the Federal Census Bureau. The statistics are unquestionably startling, and certainly welcome in that they furnish something to begethared to the further spread of the evil.

"HOW TO MAKE A HOODLUM." This is the rather startling title of a short article in one of our contemporaries. Who, under the sun, may be asked, would want advice as to how to make a hoodlum? Well, nobody seeks directions on the subject, but the fact is that a great many fathers, mothers, uncles and aunts (to say nothing of grandmothers), are, through ignorance or carelessness, turning sturdy little boys into hoodlums every day of their lives.

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