

FIVE-MINUTE SERMON

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

PRAYER

"If you ask the Father, anything in My Name, He will give it to you." (John viii, 26)

We read in the prophecies of Isaiah that God demands us to "make haste and buy." You will not doubt ask: "How can we buy from God?" How can we possibly pay God for anything? This is explained when we read further on: "Come ye, buy without money" (Is. lv, 1). Through the psalmist God speaks: "I demand neither gold nor silver, for the earth is the Lord's and all that dwell therein" (Ps. xxiii, 1), and again through St. Luke the Evangelist: "Ask and it shall be given you" (Luke xi, 9). Prayer is the coin with which we may buy all things from God; for our Saviour said: "And whatever you shall ask the Father in My Name, it shall be given you."

St. Chrysostom recommends the use of prayer as a strong weapon with which to conquer the evil spirit. St. Augustine calls prayer the key to heaven which opens the door to all the possessions of God. "Prayer ascends to heaven," he says, "and causes the mercies of the Lord to descend." Another saintly writer compares prayer to the sweet sounds of a harp, capable of driving away the evil spirit, recalling the action of King Saul, who, when tormented by the evil spirit, caused a shepherd boy to play on the harp for him, at which the evil spirit immediately departed. Prayer has this same effect. When temptations, cares, and sorrows overwhelm us, things will appear brighter if we have recourse to the power of prayer. The spirit of evil is soon banished by prayer, and the soul linked more firmly to God. Prayer is compared to sweet music because of the soothing and overwhelming powers which are peculiar to both. Prayer will not only bring peace to our souls, it will also take away the wrath of the Almighty God. We read: "Whatever you ask when you pray, believe that you shall receive, and they shall come unto you" (Mark xi, 24). Is this not, my dear Christians? Recall your own experience, for example, and you must acknowledge, that often you have received the graces you sought with confidence and humility. Thus by prayer your souls are enabled to banish temptations, or to accomplish some special good deed. Consider, too, that strength are given in time of trial and adversity. Prayer is, St. Bernard says, a faithful messenger, who easily gains admittance to the heavenly throne and moves the divine King to give us assistance, which we find so necessary to overcome the obstacles to our salvation. If prayer is to have such good results, however, it must come from a heart free from sin. The grace of the Lord must be with us. We have an illustration of this in the case of Peter, who had been working all night casting out his nets but had caught nothing. When Jesus came the next morning and told him to again throw out his nets, he caught such a number that he feared the nets would tear and the boat would sink by the weight of the fish. Peter was successful when the Lord was with him. There are many people who pray often and fervently and still do not receive what they request. Why are their prayers not answered? Because their conscience is burdened with sin, their heart is the abode of evil rather than of grace. God can not be expected to hear the prayer that is uttered by a penitent sinner. We can not hope that our prayers will be acceptable to God, if we praise Him with our lips while our hearts are stained with sin. Holy Scripture says: "Praise is not so easily in the mouth of hypocrites" (Ps. lvi, 2). Prayer must come from a humble and contrite heart, and such prayer is always sure of a ready answer from the throne of God if the object of our prayer is a spiritual good and is necessary for our salvation. Amen.

CHURCH NOT DEAD

Not many days ago a well known Protestant minister said in a New York pulpit that the Catholic Church was dead and the Protestant religion dying by degrees. The reason he gave in proof of his first assertion was the continued persecution of the Church was the object in the last century, and which has been still directed against it in the first decade of the present century, and this even in countries professedly Catholic, such as France, Italy, Spain and Portugal.

As for the second part of the reverend gentleman's argument—that Protestantism is dying by inches, we will let that go, for there seems nothing more natural than that it should die, since it was founded on error and rebellion.

We shall confine ourselves, therefore, to bringing into evidence the fact that persecution forms an integral part of the vitality of the Church and that in all ages and at all times it has come out safe from the savage claws of its enemies, and that, from being dead, it is now giving most unmistakable signs of vigorous life, undimmed energy and of an apostolate truly sublime.

When we look over the pages of history and see the Catholic Church struggling alone during a period of twenty centuries against all the powers of the earth who tried with all their strength singly or banded together to destroy the indestructible work of faith,

Sprained Ankle Saturday Worked Again Monday

Douglas' Egyptian Liniment Did the Trick

Mr. A. Carman, one of Davisville, Ontario's energetic young men, writes: "Some time ago I was getting over a wire fence, and when lifting my left foot, my right slipped, and in falling the heel of my boot caught the second wire, thus spraining my ankle."

From the pain I thought my leg was broken. I managed to get home, suffering great agony. My father walked over a mile to the drugstore, who sold him a bottle of Douglas' Egyptian Liniment, which we applied with surprising results, for it relieved the pain almost instantly, and on the next day, Sunday, I was able to put my slipper on.

Though this was the worst accident I ever had, I was able to work on Monday without the loss of a single day.

Accidents will happen. Don't be without a bottle of Douglas' Egyptian Liniment.

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to silence the infallible voice of the Roman pontiffs, to do away with the civilization of Christianity—we cannot do less than say: "The finger of God is here"—that is, that the Catholic religion is of divine origin, and that the machinations of men prevail nothing against it. Jesus Christ himself told our struggles, our sufferings and our victories:

"I send you," He said to His apostles, "as sheep in the midst of wolves."

The history of the Catholic Church from the time of the Apostles to that of the pontiff who now occupies the Chair of St. Peter is nothing but one unintermitted series of battles against error, combats against immortality, struggles with and triumphs over the passions of the human race.

Far greater than the power of modern nations was the power of haughty Rome which ruled the then known world with its laws, its legions and its conquering eagles. And Rome, representing the civilization of strength of law, of art and of pagan religion fought against the belief of the Crucified, the moral holiness of Catholicity, but Rome with her powerful emperors, her wise laws, her invincible armies, with all her gods and all her arts, disappeared like smoke which vanishes; grew old and passed away like a worn out vestment which is cast aside.

On the other hand the Church, crushed by ten centuries of persecution, shedding in torrents the blood of its children, scorned and calumniated by its allies, enemies, triumphed at last over the Roman eagles, escaped the throne of its emperors, increased and multiplied wonderfully throughout the whole extent of the world, and wielded the sceptre of supremacy through the succeeding ages.

Barbarians came from the north, heretics arose in the very bosom of the Church itself, kings and emperors rebelled against the Roman pontiffs during the middle ages, but the Catholic Church stood firm as a rock in the midst of increasing tempests. The Swabians, Alans and Vandals submitted to the faith and received baptism; heretics like Arian, Eutyches and Nestorius were condemned by the Ecumenical councils and died in dishonor; emperors and princes yielded to the excommunication of the Pope and listened to the infallible voice of truth, and so the Catholic Church was once more mistress of the world in the turbulent period of the Middle Ages. Then the civilized peoples and nations by means of her missionaries, and gave impulse to agriculture, industry and the fine arts through the medium of her monks, who came mistress of sciences, owing to the labors of her learned men, and the centre of enlightenment on account of her great universities.

It is not necessary to continue giving a record of the past, since it is in the fact that the Catholic Church has always been, is now and shall continue to be the Alma Mater of the only true civilization—that of Christianity.

History which repeats itself cannot be doubted. Divine Providence guides the steps of man upon earth, and the latter in virtue of his free will can only be God's instrument either to glorify Him or to oppose Him if through his fault he closes his eyes to the truth.

Since the French Revolution with its philosophers of the encyclopedia a new era of persecution has broken out against the Church. A century ago, both in Europe and American secret societies did their best to overthrow Christianity. Books, reviews and newspapers tried to spread broadcast the subtle poison of so-called enlightenment, which was grossly materialistic, anti-social and anti-Christian. Freethinking rulers connived with Freemasonry and Judaism to impose upon the masses of the people an atheistic education, destined to drive down and looting off the rights of the Catholic religion, for which purpose they made up of every means which the powers of evil could suggest to calumniate and cause to be hated both Catholic priest and Catholic doctrine.

Will they gain their end? Relying on the promises of the Saviour, we can say in all certainty that the gates of hell will never prevail against the Church, because He, its founder will be with it unto the end of time.

The mere fact of seeing the Catholic Church, to-day as it was yesterday, the target of all wrath, the centre of all

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attacks the point at which are amid all the darts of those who hate the name Christian, last itself conclusive evidence that only the Roman Catholic Apostolic Church has sufficient strength, vigor and life to defy so many adversaries.

No one thinks of fighting a corpse; no one thinks of attacking Protestantism, which is at best but a gilded corpse, which is moved only in accordance with the gold of the Anglo-Saxon races. But all, all league together to attack and quarrel with the Catholic Church, for they well know that she is no corpse, but an organism of intense life which disconcerts them, a dazzling light which blinds them, a latent power which overcomes and conquers them.

We think then that the new currents of anarchical and socialist ideas will in the end produce a social revolution in which atheistic and materialistic civilization will be engulfed forever, giving place in the spiritual world to Christian civilization which will come back to shine with renewed splendor in all horizons and over all continents.

The impious and the evil-doers struggling against the Church which today more than ever alive of our age as can be proved by her hierarchy, her congresses and missions, her army of priests and millions of faithful—the evil-doers and impious, we repeat, will like the shaft of hygonic centuries be borne away by the winds that pass, because their words, works and thoughts are vain and full of iniquity, while the voice of Rome, even in the midst of the wildest uprisings, will be heard forever; the Church is the true light and as such will continue to shine even unto the end of ages.—Intermountain Catholic.

WHERE IS THE "NATIONAL CATHOLIC HOME JOURNAL"?

It grieves us greatly to make known that some twelve hundred trusting people living throughout the length and breadth of this beautiful city of ours are weeping and wailing; yea, verily, sundry of them are gnashing their teeth—

all because of the non-arrival at their well-regulated residences of the National Catholic Home Journal, for which they had subscribed.

Some time ago a detachment of well-dressed and smooth-talking gentlemen camped in Buffalo. They had sample copies of the undertaking, which was alleged to be published in New York. They went here and there and everywhere and though utter strangers to the people on whom they called, they succeeded in landing the aforesaid gentlemen and their subscribers to suspect that all was not well.

The subscription price was to be two dollars a year; the entire sum could be paid at one time, or the subscriber could make a down payment and contribute the balance at the easy rate of 25 cents a week. Premiums were to be given to all—rosaries worth more than the price of subscription, gold crosses, etc.

It has been said, the solicitors were not Buffalo men. Now enter the collector—a local personage, who has seen the light, for he has had some really discomfiting experiences. At first, ere time in his ruthless fight had put very much distance between the visit of the solicitor and that of the collector, there was not any trouble; but as weeks passed into months and no Journal appeared, some people began to think the discerned a nigger in the woodpile and the police collector, entirely lacking in any wrongdoing, began to suffer the darts from the scornful tongues of irate women who declare that they have been taken in—whether by the solicitors or the National Journal they are not prepared to testify.

We have been shown a copy of the periodical. It does not amount to much. Its gaudy cover no doubt proved attractive to the less thoughtful. Inside there are pictures, stock illustrations of a religious character, while the reading matter is almost entirely made up of clippings from Catholic papers and had been read from one end of the country to the other ere it reached the National Catholic Home Journal. That the selections are reasonably good may be found in the fact that the copy handed to us has

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A man who has been released from the awful ordeal of drink, and whose first thought is to help others, shows the spirit of true brotherhood and philanthropy. Read his letter.

"The Samaria Remedy Co., Toronto, Ont.: Read what Mrs. G., of Hull, says of it and what it did for her."

"Will you please send me book on drink also circular relating to your valued remedy for the drink habit. I wish to hand these to a friend who is going to run through drink. You will remember that I have taken your remedy, and find it all I claim it to be. I never think of taking or using strong drink in any way and I feel that I am safe. I cannot speak too highly of your wonderful remedy. You may use my name in any way you wish in public."

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Drink is a disease, not a crime. One drink of whiskey always invites another. The inflamed nerves and stomach create a craving that must either be satisfied by more whiskey or removed by scientific treatment. Write Samaria Prescription. Samaria Prescription has been in regular and successful use by Physicians and Hospitals for over ten years.

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A FREE TRIAL PACKAGE of Samaria Prescription, with booklet, giving full particulars, testimonials, price, etc., will be sent absolutely free and postpaid in plain sealed package to anyone asking for it and mentioning this paper. Correspondence sacredly confidential. Write to-day, The Samaria Remedy Co., Dept. 11, 49 Colborne St., Toronto, Canada.



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one extract from the editorial page of the Catholic Union and Times.

One woman, tired of waiting for the arrival of the Journal, soundly berated the collector when he called, whereupon the title-gatherer wrote the firm calling attention to the disagreeable position in which he had been placed. Shortly thereafter came to the complaining subscriber the following choice literary effort:

Dear Madam: We have a letter from our collector, Mr. —, stating that you had informed a certain party, who was a subscriber, that the magazine was a fake, therefore for her not to pay anything, also that you would take the matter up with the Catholic Union and Times. Beg to state that this assertion is in no way correct. The Catholic Union and Times are not the people to be consulted if you have any assertions to make, and, therefore, we are sending herewith an envelope which you can use if you care to write us. Sorry that perhaps you were informed of this fact and assuming you the subscribers will receive their magazines for the period of one year. We beg to remain,

The National Catholic Home Journal.

This letter would lead one to believe that there is or was a National Catholic Home Journal; but if it is still in existence, why don't those who subscribed get it?

Another matter which the National Journal people appear to have entirely overlooked is the necessity of following the old-established custom of securing from the Bishop of the diocese permission to work in his territory. This is a matter of courtesy appears to have been considered quite out of place by the glib gentlemen who solicited subscriptions.

Times innumerable this paper has called attention to the fact that who are perpetually on the go from one town to another. Some of them are "seminarians" who take this method of finishing their college course for the priesthood; some are "sisters" gathering funds for a convent in Timbuctoo; some are soliciting alms for the starving Digger Indians who are being mistreated because they have become Catholics. Thousands of such uses as these are used by the migratory birds of prey who always find Catholic people easy marks.

Once more let us say, demand the credentials; ask for the Bishop's permit. If these are not forthcoming call the police. It is the only way.

We are informed that solicitors are canvassing in the vicinity of Niagara Falls and on the Canadian side. Also in the vicinity of Watertown, N. Y.—Buffalo Union and Times

CELTIC SCHOLAR

OF WORLD-FAME HAS BEEN RECEIVED INTO CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mrs. Hutton, the world-famed Celtic scholar, has just been received into the Catholic Church, in Dublin, Ireland. The news has been heard with much interest in Irish literary circles.

Mrs. Hutton is one of the most intellectual Irish women living. She is profoundly learned in both Celtic and classical lore, and her translation of the great Irish epic, "The Tain," from old Irish into English verse, is a monumental work. In addition to her intellectual gifts Mrs. Hutton is one of the most charming of women, unassuming and gentle.

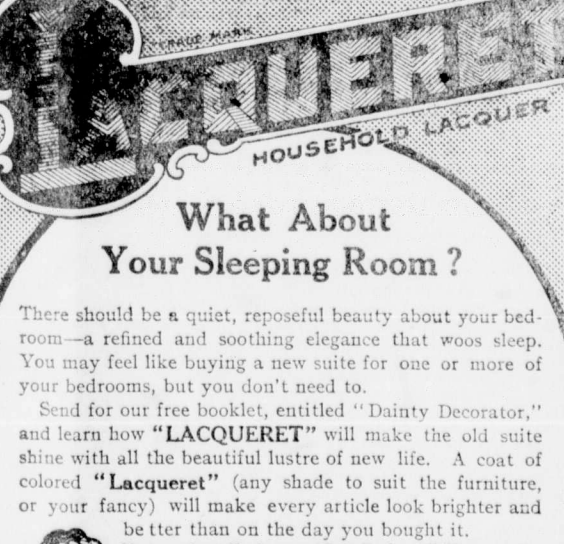
Mrs. Hutton is the daughter of a noted Protestant divine and author of the Rev. Dr. Drummond. Both her own and her husband's connections are intensely Protestant as well as Unionist. Her Irish sympathies had already marked her out as one of strong individuality in such surroundings, and her religious convictions now emphasize her independence of thought. She is a widow and has an only daughter. Before her husband's death she lived in Belfast and she is still a member of the senate in the Queen's University in that city. She now resides in Dublin.

Annie Hutton, who was the betrothed of Thomas Davis, the Young Irelander, was an aunt of Mrs. Hutton's husband. Davis died during the engagement, and his fiancée never married, remaining devoted to his memory. She was the only one of her family to share Davis' political views. Like Mrs. Hutton in her generation she stood alone in upholding patriotic ideals in an alien atmosphere.—Catholic Sun.

Real Hero

Our esteemed contemporary the Intermountain says that on his wedding day he was subjected to the usual alleged funny pranks of his "friends." But the young man did not see the fun of some of the pranks, and so he swore out warrants against twenty of his "friends," charging them with subjecting himself and his bride to a hazing process.

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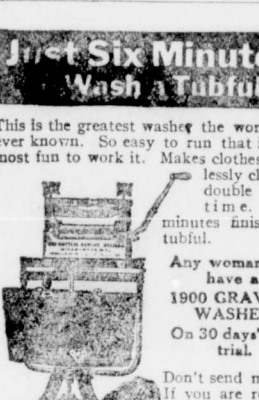
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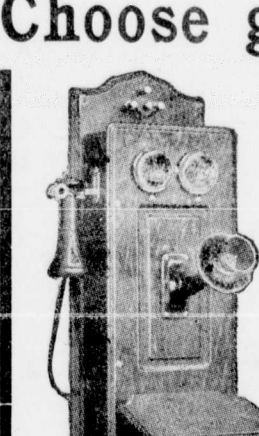


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