FIVE-MINUTE SERMONS FOR EARLY MASSES

By the Paulist Fathers. reached in their Church of St. Paul the Apostle, Fifty-ninth Street and Ninth Avenue, New York.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. (Feast of the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin)

"Now there stood by the Cross of Jesus His Mother."—St. John, xix., 23.

A month ago Holy Church placed before us for our contemplation the triumphant entry of the Mother of Jesus into heaven, and invited us on the great Feast of the Assumption to glory in our Blessed Lady's triumph and rejoice in her joy. To day Holy Church places before us for our contemplation the sorrows of the Mother of Jesus and invites us to mourn over her sufferings and sorrow in of the Mother of Jesus and Invites us to mourn over her suff-rings and sorrow in her sorrows. One is the feast of hope, the other the feast of faith; one is of heaven, the other is of earth. Atd our Blessed Lady's sorrows, being of earth, come close to us and teach us a practical lesson—sainurpure as we are in a vale of

lesson—sojourners as we are in a vale of Sorrow is in very truth the monarch of this lower world, and sooner or later every soul is sure to feel the touch of his sceptre. There is nothing that men find so difficult to understand and account for as the mighty vale of sorrow that rises up from generation to generation throughout the whole wide sea of mortal life, and extends to its most distant shores. What is the reason of all this suffering that exists in the world around us? is a question that has been asked day after day and year after year, and century after century, since the first human tear fell upon the unconscious earth. And the attempt to solve the enigma of mankind has founded schools of philosophy and philanthropy and systems of religion and methods of life from the dawn of human history and before it to the present hour. Yet the reason of sorrow, though it has escaped the search of mankind, is not far to seek—it is sin, and sin is everywhere. On any other theory than the religious one of the probation and Fall of man this present existence is a dark and hopeless riddle. But even Christians, to whom this explanation is the first lesson of their faith, seem to lose sight of it in their practical views of life. We have not the heart to meet the stern truth face to face and recognize that our life in this world is not a season of joy sceptre. There is nothing that men find so difficult to understand and account for truth face to face and recognize that our life in this world is not a season of joy but rather of sorrow—that we are not here to loiter through the light of a long

nere to lotter through the ight of a long summer day, but to endure and to labor in darkness and storm. And this is the great lesson of the feast of to-day. Picture the Mother of Jesus in her early childhood, when, a fair vision of innocence, she rested in the arms of St. innocence, she rested in the arms of St. Ann; behold her growing up a spotless flower in the Temple of God; contemplate her in the tranquil purity and beauty of her girlhood and the bright hopes it inspired. And then behold her, a Virgin Mother, sword pierced in the Temple, a fugitive in a foreign land, a distracted pilgrim seeking her lost Son, the mother of a persecuted, betrayed and convicted man, the saddest follower in that sad procession to Calvary, meeting her Son face man, the saddest follower in that sad procession to Calvary, meeting her Son face to face on His way to death, standing by His gibbet, the witness of His ignominy, the sharer of His suffering, the partner in His sorrows, the sentinel by His cross, the mourner over His bier, the guardian of His tomb, and learn from her that suffering is the portion of all who follow faithfully in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ and secure His salvation. For "Unless you take up the Cross and follow Me you cannot be My disciple."

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perchée is hers. Me of Pitent, the editor of United Triend, was the desired to the official to the desired to the desired to the desired to the desired to the official to the desired to the official to the desired to the official to the desired to the desir "A slight and yet heroic incident of the

A TRUE STORY.

Nearly a century ago, when West Virginia, thinly settled and cleared, was a favorite fighting ground of the Indian tribes, there lived near the Kanawha Falls a settler of Dutch extraction named Van Bibber, a man of some note and distinction in those early times. His homestead stool Bibber, a man of some note and distinction in those early times. His homestead stood below the Falls; and opposite to it, on the other side of the river, was an overhanging rock of immense size, jutting out about a hundred feet over the seething whirl-pool caused by the falls, and rising to nearly one hundred feet above the water. This rock was one the scene of a remark. This rock was once the scene of a remarkable adventure, which exhibits what women's love will give her courage to achieve for the defense and rescue of those to whom she is united in the tenderest bonds of affection. Van Bibber was one day returning from

an expedition into the dense forest on the cpposite side of the river to his home, when he unfortunately crossed the path of when he unfortunately crossed the path of a party of Indians returning from some distant fray, and dressed in the full glories of the warpath—paint, feathers, and wampum. A moment more, and they were in hot pursuit after him, and the settier, though possessed of great agility, and heing a swift runner found himself unable to gain the bank of the river before the flying steps of the savages had enabled them to double on him. And cutting off all approach to the water, he was driven to the summit of the overhanging rock, where by the aid of his hanging rock, where by the aid of his rifle, he kept the enemy for a few mo-

ments at bay.

He stood up bravely in full view of the savages both above and below, who yelled with triumph at the prospect of his speedy capture. Across the river before him lay his home; and as he looked, he saw his wife emerge from the house, and as he looked, he saw his wife emerge from the house, and a but he rough with her babe nest. startled by the noise, with her babe nest-led in her arms. She stood as if petrified with terror and amazement; helpless, as he thought, to render assistance. Sud-denly, borne upon the light breeze, to his ear came the clear tones of her voice: his ear came the clear tones of her voice:
"Leap into the water and meet me!"
And laying her babe on the grass, she
flew to the little landing, seized the oars,
and sprung into the skiff alone. Well
for her that her arms were strong, and
that so many of their hours had been
passed on the sunny river, which flowed
with hundreds of eddies in its rapid current past the wall of their home.

There is no indecision of weakness in

There is no indecision of weakness in the steady, firm stroke of the oars which bears her rapidly on her dangerous course. Her husband must be rescued, and there is no human arm but here to save him. Nerved by love to double exertion, the brave women steadily nears the middle of the river.

the river.

"Drop lower, wife."

"Lower yet;" and with the last words,
Van Bibber sprung from the crag, and
descended like an arrow into the water.

With every pulse beating wildly, the
devoted wife rested on her oars to see him rise to the surface, while her frail canoe danced like a cork on the top of the swirling waves. Ages seemed to pass in that awful suspense. Had the fall injured him? Had he struck the boulders which lay, as she well knew, in multitudes under the water, carried down from the falls above? Would he never rise? Her eyes tried in vain to penetrate the depths of the water; and, in an agony, she swept the canoe still farther down the stream. A moment more, and his head rose suddenly near her, and all her mind was directed to helping him climb into the shelter of the canoe, amid the shower of arrows and shot which the baffled Indians poured upon their escaping foe.

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The following interesting incident is related in United Ireland, and as it will no doubt prove interesting to our readers we reproduce it here. Mr. O'Brien, the editor of United Ireland, was the defeated candidate referred to:

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| The following interesting incident is related in United Ireland, and as it will no doubt prove interesting to our readers we reproduce it here. Mr. O'Brien, the editors of United Ireland, was the defeated to incomplete the period of the brave woman saw that, after the period of water, Van Bibber was more dead than alive. Everything depended on her strength being maintained till she could attain the bank; and with a heart which almost stood still with fear. heart which almost stood still with fear the devoted wife bentonce more to the oars with her whole powers of mind and body. God be thanked! She was success ful: And after their desperate adventure, the exhausted husband and wife landed

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