

FIVE MINUTE SERMON

BY REV. M. BOSSAERT

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

EVIL SPIRITS

Our Divine Saviour became in all respects man like ourselves, sin alone excepted, and today's gospel contains a proof of this fact...

1. There are evil spirits. This is of faith, and confirmed by many passages in Holy Scripture...

Whoever, therefore, questions the existence of evil spirits, doubts the truth of Divine Revelation...

2. Our second lesson is that the evil spirits try to injure us, to harm us both in body and soul...

3. But however violently the devil may assail us, we can overcome him, if only we follow the example of our Divine Saviour...

"Be sober and watch," says St. Peter, and St. James writes: "Resist the devil, and he will fly from you."

our struggles and triumphs to become a day by day more like our Divine Saviour. Amen.

CHURCH UNITY AND ROME'S EPIPHANY

Bernard J. McNamara in America

Church unity is the great desideratum in the religious world today. The feast-crumbing Protestant sects realize that there must be some sort of union between them if they are to enjoy a few more decades of life...

Once in a great while, as happened a short time ago, the Catholic Church included in those plans for church unity. The press of the world gives wide-spread circulation to the fact that a committee is to wait upon the Pope to secure his views on this important subject...

Now the really surprising thing happens. Only a few weeks after the unity-seeking committee has left the Pope's presence, a magnificent pageant demonstrating the unity of the Catholic Church in all its fulness is staged in the City of the Popes...

And what better time could be selected than the Octave of Epiphany? The Epiphany is the birthday of Christianity among the Gentiles...

To give a vivid and eloquent picture of this real unity and universality of the Church was the reason that actuated the Venerable Vincenzo Pallotti to establish the series of solemn and diverse ceremonies that take place each year at Epiphany in the Eternal City...

who are careless about prayer and forgetful of the presence of God, who occupy themselves too much with worldly amusements, and are always eager for frivolity and gaiety...

Rome teach us clearly that, above the quarrels and jealousies that divide nations, there does exist a sacred chain of unity, the Catholic Church. She alone can persuade the nations to fraternize and associate in one large family in which the same faith lives, the same hope breathes and the same love burns.

It was in 1893 that the Venerable Pallotti conceived and inaugurated this practical idea of exemplifying the unity of God's Church. He anticipated the first move of Pius IX. and the splendid efforts of Leo XIII. looking toward the union with the Oriental Churches by being the first organizer of the popular movement towards the union so much desired by these saintly and learned Pontiffs...

So day after day, the splendid program of unity is carried out during the octave of the Epiphany. One day it is the Greek rite of St. John Chrysostom impressive in its beauty even though a little mystifying. The next day it will be the Armenian rite carried out in a most gorgeous manner. Then will come the Maronite rite, the liturgy of that splendid rite that escaped the persecution of the Persian and Moslem and found a place of peace on Mount Lebanon...

And what better time could be selected than the Octave of Epiphany? The Epiphany is the birthday of Christianity among the Gentiles. It commemorates the calling of the magi to adore the true Faith and the beginning of our emancipation from the slavery of paganism...

THE CONSERVATIVE MIND

The conservative mind is contemplative while the radical mind is analytical. When we analyze social facts one part of our mind beholds one aspect of things. In contemplation, however, we are submerged in vision, and reasoning tends but to disturb the comfort of our position without adding to its strength...

The conservative mind is the organ of responsibility and caution in human society. In it the spirit of a nation is lodged and reverent guardianship. The conservative mind is the trustee of civilization and the defender of its continuity. The radical mind with its acute sensitivities to injustice and with its fearless welcome for new thought and new ideals, prepares the way for the progress which is the law of life...

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and victories have a place in nature's cosmic plans. Not past but present wisdom can secure to conservatism the confidence that the multitude insists upon placing somewhere. Just now, the tempered radical mind seems to have the best of it. Perhaps, the fact that our chief executive has called himself "an animated conservative," conveys hope if not promise that the conservative mind of the nation will do its duty in the face of our problems...

A DANGER TO THE FAITH

Those who have read Rene Bazin's powerful novel, "The Barrier," will easily recall the strong scene in which Felicien Limerel, who has lost his faith in Catholicism, charges his parents with being largely responsible for that disaster. He cries out: "I had early Christian training; I recognize it. I received more religious instruction and saw more examples of faith among my masters than most of the men of my generation. That should have sufficed, and often has done, to build up a sound faith, but on one condition: It is that the family life should be in harmony with these instructions..."

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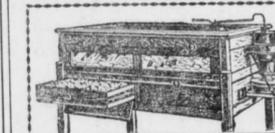
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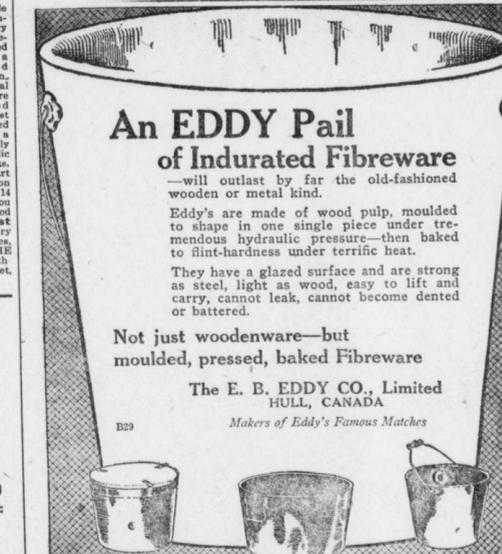
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