

THE STORY OF CHRIST

BY GIOVANNI PAPINI
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BUT I SAY UNTO YOU

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill... but I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother... shall be in danger of the judgment...

"But I say unto you, Swear not at all, neither by heaven; for it is God's throne...

"Not by the earth; for it is his footstool; neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King... He who swears to the truth is afraid, he who swears to the false is a traitor...

"Ye have heard it said, Honor thy father and thy mother, but I say unto you, he that loveth his father and mother more than me is not worthy of me...

"Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery, but I say unto you, that whosoever looketh upon a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery already in his heart...

"The bath with water from the well or from the fountain, the bodily and ritual bath, does not take the place of the essential inner purification...

"Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but I say unto you, that whosoever swears by the Lord's oaths...

NON-RESISTANCE

But Jesus had not yet arrived at the most stupendous of His revolutionary teachings. "Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: But whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also...

There could be no more definite repudiation of the old law of retaliation. The greater part of those who call themselves Christians not only have never observed this new commandment, but have never been willing to pretend to approve it...

There are three answers which men can make to violence: revenge, flight, turning the other cheek. The first is the barbarous principle of retaliation, now smoothed over and emasculated in the legal codes...

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Flight is no better than retaliation. He who hides himself redoubles his enemies' courage. Fear of retaliation can on rare occasions hold back the violent hand, but the man who takes flight invites pursuit...

TO BE CONTINUED

able for common men, the almost superhuman fascination of conduct so contrary to usual customs, traditions and passions; this example, this spectacle of power, this amazing miracle, unexpected like all miracles, difficult to understand like all prodigies...

But if this command of Jesus has never been obeyed or too rarely obeyed, there is no proof that it cannot be followed, still less that it ought to be rejected...

Canon Barry, writing in the London Catholic Times, speaks of the perpetuity and of the tremendous import of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass since the day, nearly two thousand years ago...

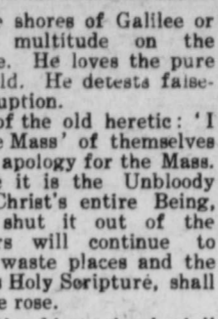
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SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE CONSISTENCY OF FAITH

"One Lord, one faith, one baptism." (Eph. iv., 6.)

The inconsistencies of man can not be numbered. Sometimes we are inclined to think that our courage is deplorable...

facts. Then, too, according to this theory, he need not believe anything that he himself has not really experienced...

It may be tolerant to believe as you like and to allow your neighbor the same liberty, but is a virtue that is not religious...

GENERAL INTENTION FOR OCTOBER

RECOMMENDED AND BLESSED BY HIS HOLINESS POPE PIUS XI.

The origin of the word "Jubilee" is disputed. It is most probable that the Hebrew word "yobel" meant a ram, a ram's horn...

For the sake of the comparison we wish to make, we intend to speak principally of experimental knowledge...

It is this same idea applied to things spiritual which forms the basis of the Christian Jubilee...

Now let us turn to the Almighty: Unfortunately there are many who think that God does them violence—not physical violence...

But as a matter of fact, does God really ask us to do violence to our intelligence in assenting to His truths? He certainly does not...

but Paul II. decreed that the Jubilee should be celebrated every twenty-five years...

It is not possible for everyone to go to Rome, and so the Sovereign Pontiffs, urged by the charity of Christ our Lord...

The Jubilee year usually begins with the first vesper of Christmas Day. Its inauguration is symbolized by the opening of the "holy door" of St. Peter's basilica...

This opening ceremony, then, indicates to us the object of Holy Mother Church in declaring the Jubilee year: the conversion of sinners and an increase of fervor among the faithful...

It is to be noted that the Jubilee is not a festival for the Jews only but for all the children of the Church...

The Jubilee should also arouse our respect and love for pious pilgrimages, or journeys that have as their prime object a spiritual aim...

It is for us then to respond generously to the loving intentions of Holy Mother Church in putting such a season of grace and spiritual profit within our reach...

Some would be likely to make the following objection. In the time of Boniface VIII, a plenary indulgence was an altogether exceptional favor...

of the Jubilee to gain what at other times we may win with less trouble? The first answer to this is that the granting of an indulgence by the Church does not mean necessarily that it is gained...

There is another consideration more important still. The essence of Christian life does not consist, as some pious but unenlightened souls seem to imagine...

The best preparation for the Jubilee confession and Communion is without doubt a more frequent and more correct reception of these sacraments from now on...

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CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

THE OPEN DOOR

There's a dear old Irish saying That is murmured o'er and o'er; "When misfortunes close around you Sure God leaves an open door."

QUEEN OF THE ROSARY

There is an element of poetry in many of the Church's devotions. She makes an appeal to the senses, the feelings, the heart of man as well as to his intellect and will.

Thus with the coming of the Springtime the month of May is dedicated to the Lily of Israel. Does not the period of promise, of new leaves and budding flowers, the harbinger of the fullness of summer belong to her, just as her birth was the promise of the coming of Him who was to be the complete redemption of Jew and Gentile?

Non-Catholics have not been tardy in proclaiming this fitness of Mary's honor, though failing unfortunately to perceive its supernatural fullness.

And Wordsworth, in one of his most beautiful sonnets, speaks of Mary as "our tainted nature's solitary boast."

Mother! whose Virgin bosom was uncrossed With the least shade of thought to sin allied;

Brighter than eastern skies at day-break strewn With fancied roses, than the unblemished moon Before her wane begins on heaven's blue coast,

Yet no poem ever dedicated to God's mother can compare to the beauty of the verse which devout Catholics of every rank in life recite so often to the Queen of the Rosary.

The statement is proved by the universal consent of Mary's clients. The Vicars of Christ, the Supreme Pontiffs, find strength and consolation in the daily saying of their beads; learned theologians and philosophers turn their weary thoughts from the subtleties of metaphysical disputes to the sweet simplicity of the rosary; the priest tired out from long hours in the confessional and other ministerial works or discouraged at the apparent failure of his efforts finds refreshment in the pouring forth of the repeated "Hail Mary, full of grace!"

But no matter what field of labor may be that of the anointed minister of God, no matter to what heights of sanctity he may attain, his beads are his daily source of help. How beautifully and simply does Father Abram Ryan express the sentiments of all his brethren: Sweet, blessed beads! I would not part With one of you for richest gem That gleams in kingly diadem.

Though devotion to the Guardian Angels holds so prominent a place in God's scheme for our salvation, not a few practicing Catholics are wont to say: "I sometimes pray to my patron saint, but not to my Guardian Angel, yet the Church has dedicated to them the month of October, just as May to Our Lady and March to St. Joseph, lest we should forget them."

The fact that Leo XIII. decreed that the Rosary should be said publicly every day of October for the wants of the Church brought no change to the old regulation. We were never told that the comparatively new devotion was meant to supersede the old one. They do not clash. Moreover, to give us, as it were, an opportunity of making up for past deficiency and forgetfulness, the Church has set apart the second of October for the feast of the Guardian Angels.

As September draws towards its close we begin to think and to say: "How quickly the days are shortening, it will soon be dark very early, the long bright days are over!" Human nature, created for light as well as for happiness, has an instinctive dislike and fear of darkness.

On which side of my bed stands my Angel Mother? And a nun related that a little girl, a newcomer to the convent school, being told at night to fold up her clothes neatly and put them on a chair beside her bed, stammered, blushing: "Would they not do as well at the foot of the bed? I always leave a chair for my Guardian Angel."

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

MONTH OF THE ROSARY

Say, dearest Mother Mary, can it be That, having May, thou claim'st October, too? The flowers of spring we plucked and gave to thee, And these sad leaves of autumn wilt thou sue?

When evenings first were lengthening, calm and warm, We lit thy altars gay with lily bloom; Now falls the night full swift, with lowering storm, And still thy tapers stay the advancing gloom.

'Tis thine, and ten times welcome, Mother, dear! This ripe and crisp October month is thine, What though our flowers and leaves be scant and sore? The Calendar of Love knows no decline.

Accept these autumn wreaths—our chaplets bright With crimson—yellow-stained, like sunset skies. O Star of Morn; be still our star at night, And bless our fading years, as thou didst bless their rise.

In our own country but recently we had that noble layman, Joyce Kilmer, soldier and poet, telling us of the beauties of the Marian song. He was a convert to the faith, and never did he cease to thank God for the precious pearl he had found.

When the United States entered the World War, though a married man and the father of four small children, he entered the army as a volunteer. Going over to France, he was not content to remain in a secure place, but sought out the dangerous task of making observations in No Man's Land.

Blessed little ones who start on the road towards heaven in so sweet a companionship! who cling to it by faith as they grow older. They will be led safely to the end of their journey, though, maybe, through many perils and many sorrows. As to the souls who carelessly ignore or at least neglect their Holy Guardian, they will never know what graces they lose in this world and what happiness hereafter, until it is too late.

In most convent schools there is a sodality of the Guardian Angels. But why is not this devotion mentioned more frequently by Catholic mothers and school teachers? It would soon make an impression on the children's heart and in time might strike deep roots there.

Out of the numberless multitude of heavenly spirits God appoints to each soul the one most suited by his own characteristics and individuality to understand it and help it. At the same time giving them special light concerning their charge and a love tender and enduring beyond all we may conceive. So much so that whatever may be our ingratitude and indifference towards them, nothing can tire or diminish their watchful care over us, not only because it is God's will, but because of the prompting of their own inclination. The angels are generally represented with wings to give us, it has been said, some idea of the promptitude with which they start hither and thither to do God's bidding.

Our Lord condescends to liken Himself in such tender words to the hen spreading her wings over her brood: "How often would I have gathered thy children together as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings and ye would not."

The very name: guardian, sums up all our Angel is to us, but to help us, as it were, to fathom the meaning of the word, the Church shows us pictures of the winged Angels: If anything frightens the little chicks they rush to hide under their mother's wings. If she sees any danger threatening them from afar she calls to them and they run to their shelter.

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written, lay them at the feet of their Queen—the *Domina Angelorum* of the liturgy—and ask her to endow them with some mysterious power, some hidden charm which will work on the mind and heart of their readers, that henceforth every one of them may love his or her own Guardian Angel.



Answers for last week: Top picture, Gospel END of Mass Sunday before; one under it, Gospel IN last Sunday's Mass.

Sta. MATHEW (man), MARK (lion), LUKE (ox), JOHN (eagle).



Answers next week.

Plant in your heart Jesus Christ crucified and all the crosses of this world will seem to you like roses.—St. Francis de Sales.

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