

FIVE MINUTE SERMON

PASSION SUNDAY

"Thou hast set thy tears in thy sight, as also in thy promises." (Ps. 119, 35)

God has promised to set our tears in His sight, to come to our assistance when we are in trouble, and to comfort and strengthen us with His grace.

What a night of agony must she have passed after taking leave of Him! She spent the weary hours in weeping, not in sleep, for never for a moment could she forget that He whom she loved most on earth was in the hands of His enemies.

After receiving these tidings she rose up and went out, accompanied by St. John, Mary Magdalen and other holy women. She was determined to witness the fearful sacrifice that her dearly-loved Son was about to offer for the sins of the world.

Her motherly heart shrank from the awful sight to be seen in the streets of Jerusalem and before Pilate's tribunal, but her love of Jesus gave her strength and enabled her to endure unspeakable anguish of mind.

Standing in the street leading to Calvary, she awaited with dread the coming of her Son. What a spectacle did she behold! As St. Bernard says, she saw Him, not in the glory of His majesty, but overwhelmed by shame, crowned with thorns, stained with blood, driven forward unmercifully by cruel ruffians, abused, ill treated and enfeebled.

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difficult, dangerous and unpleasant circumstances takes Jesus as his example, turning to Him in childlike, trustful prayer, he will often experience wonderful peace and happiness.

But when meeting Jesus affords us no consolation, His grace strengthens us through His promises. Prayer may have no perceptible effect upon us, but the thought of our Lord's promises will confirm our resolution to abide by what is right, to press forward without wavering, and not to let our inward dryness make us doubt God's grace, which will never abandon us in our efforts.

TEMPERANCE

LENT AND TEMPERANCE

"I'm going to swear off for Lent," we heard a man say to his companion, as they came from work.

How can any head of a family, with even a spark of manhood left, look at his own wife and children, starved and ill-clad, and yet keep on contributing to the saloonkeeper's income? One young man was brought to his senses—after losing reputation, work, and money in his orgies—by hearing the liquor-seller's children refuse to eat bread with their father a half an inch thick on it.

In the struggle he had the prayers of his good wife and little children to aid him. And he heard no angry reproaches for what he had been. Patiently, kindly, firmly, his wife stood by him till the victory was complete. Years after, when they were out walking, one holiday, they saw a wreck of humanity—ragged, sodden with drink—crumpled into a heap on the sidewalk.

THE POPE REFUSES DISPENSATION

A despatch from Rome states that Pope Benedict has refused the request of Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria-Hungary for the necessary dispensation for the marriage of the Austrian archduchess who is to wed Crown Prince Boris of Bulgaria.

When King Ferdinand, as crown prince, married Princess Marie-Louise of Bourbon-Parma, in 1893, the family of the princess insisted on the condition that the issue of the marriage be brought up in the Catholic faith. A constitutional amendment to this effect was passed by the Bulgarian Parliament.

the king died not apply to Prince Boris. There are no children from the second marriage. King Ferdinand and himself, it is reported, after being repulsed by Pope Leo XIII, recently made his peace with Rome.

Curiously enough, the chief object of the young prince's "conversion," which had been a marriage between him and the Grand Duchess Olga, daughter of Grand Nicholas, had "fallen through." The marriage was to be announced at King Ferdinand's coronation in 1912, but never was.

GENERAL INTENTION FOR APRIL

RECOMMENDED AND BLESSED BY HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XV.

SOLDIERS' WIVES AND CHILDREN

In the General Intention for July last we had occasion to study one phase of the war which is raging in Europe. The spectacle of the non-combatant population presented in Belgium, Poland and Northern France, sent a thrill of horror through the entire world.

This topic of non-combatants and their sufferings calls for ample development; for the war is becoming worldwide in its effects; its victims are no longer confined to Europe. There are millions of women and children who are living thousands of miles from the seat of war, who have never seen a shell or heard the boom of a cannon, but who nevertheless are enduring sufferings oftentimes as acute as those undergone in the war-zone; for they are weeping over losses already sustained, or they are living in suspense at the dreadful uncertainty of the future.

In Australia today and in Canada, as well as in Europe, there are millions living in agony of heart, mothers and children whose sons and fathers are gone to war and who scan the casualty lists each day in fear and trembling lest names near and dear to them may appear among the killed and wounded. Trusting in Divine Providence and in the efficacy of their fervent prayers, they live in hope that their own may be preserved from the missiles of the enemy.

To thousands of mothers, wives and children the dread tidings have already come which have changed the tenor of their lives; tidings which have turned their hope into fear and added to their suspense an element of sorrow. When the newspapers give the name of some dear one among the killed or the wounded a new form of martyrdom appears in a home. The laconic phrase, "Killed in action," or "Wounded," sends a pang through hearts which only those who have experienced it can describe.

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then, who stay at home to nurse their sorrow, real victims of the war? And do they not deserve our sympathy?

But there is something more pathetic still. Even the crippled soldier carrier within his bosom a throbbing human heart; he can still respond to sympathy; and the prospect of meeting him again keeps up the courage of those at home. But how many times since the beginning of the present war have the cables brought the sad news to families that a bullet or a bomb had done its fatal work, and that husbands and fathers had died in battle.

It is to those victims of the war, the heartbroken wives and mothers and children of the fallen, that the sympathy of our Holy Father is going out. He invites us during the present month to pray for them that God may strengthen them in patience and in submission to His holy will.

To weep with them that weep doth ease some deal; But sorrow flouted at is double death. To all those afflicted ones our own sympathy should be hearty and abundant. We are quite aware that sympathy is cheap, that it cannot give back sons to their mothers, or fathers to their children; but the touch of memory which makes all mankind kindred will at least help those at home to live down their sorrow; it may teach them that they have a nobler duty to perform than to sit down and weep.

And yet sorrow is a sacred burden; if borne in the right spirit it will profit both the mourner and the mourned. Besides, Christians cannot hope to be exempt from carrying their crosses; the war has provided the families of our fallen soldiers with theirs. And though the memory of the courage and the sacrifice of the men who have died will always be a precious heirloom, those at home will hardly ever forget that the memory was once bathed in tears.

Sympathy in a tangible form has already been shown to the families of our brave men who have fallen or who are still fighting at the front. Here in Canada a public spirit has been aroused, and vast sums of money have flown into the Patriotic Fund to meet the pressing needs of soldiers' families. But this is only a drop in the bucket; the Patriotic Fund and kindred works meet only the needs of the moment. Canada has undoubtedly a big problem before her in the years to come if she wishes to do her duty adequately towards those who have given their bread-winnings to fight her battles. And the longer the war will last the greater the problem apparently will be.

The one great truth that should bring about submission to God's will in the present strife, and this is only a drop in the bucket; the Patriotic Fund and kindred works meet only the needs of the moment. Canada has undoubtedly a big problem before her in the years to come if she wishes to do her duty adequately towards those who have given their bread-winnings to fight her battles. And the longer the war will last the greater the problem apparently will be.

Friends at home have at least the melancholy consolation of knowing that the stretcher-bearers, ambulance corps, hospitals, etc., will take their places and do their duty; but how much more satisfactory it would be if the gentle care that love and ties of blood could command were close by to nurse the stricken back to health. Many have already crossed the ocean to be near their wounded sons and husbands, to give them care and sympathy; but how many others are there—the greater number, in fact—whom circumstances prevent from flying to Europe, and who must pine away at home awaiting the arrival of unsatisfactory letters from the front to tell them how it fares with those they love. They trust that all may be well in the end, and yet the fear remains with them that death may ultimately claim their own; they trust surgical science, and the rest of it, and yet the fear is always lurking somewhere that they may have to see their own loved ones going through life crippled or mutilated in body and handicapped in so many ways. Are not those,

A truly militant Catholic is not so much one who fights for the faith against malice or ignorance as one who by means of the faith constantly fights against sin and love of sin in his own heart and soul.

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THE MYSTIC ROSE NEVER DIES

While reading Pontia, a drama written by the Rev. Father Felix, O. S. B., Rev. Father Kenzel, the famous Redemptorist Father, was so impressed by the mention of a rose that touched Christ's garment, as He entered Jerusalem, that he then and there conceived the idea of writing a play, in which this rose should live and become the medium of Christ's miraculous power.

Two years ago it was introduced to the people of London by St. Mary's Dramatic Society and ever since that time, the young ladies of the society have often heard the popular query: "When are you going to repeat 'The Mystic Rose'?" So they have decided to repeat it on the evening of the 18th of April in St. Mary's Hall, Lyle St. This play deals with the miracles of the life of Christ and is strikingly religious throughout, that Holy Week is considered the most appropriate time for its presentation, hence its production on Tuesday evening of that week.

THE PRESENTATION BROTHERS

THEIR INTRODUCTION TO CANADA

Walking through the city of Cork, Ireland, one day, a gentleman from Montreal met Rev. Brother Connolly of the Irish Presentation Brothers, accompanied by two of his former pupils, one a Catholic priest and the other a Protestant minister. The bond of union between these three, which was, after all, only the realization of the principles taught and the practices inculcated by the Presentation Brothers, struck the observer as so praiseworthy and so suitable a spirit for Canada, that he at once took steps to have a branch of that Teaching Order brought to Montreal.

His good intentions bore fruit, and to-day Montreal, as well as Sherbrooke, Cornwall, and other centres have High Schools together with Primary Schools under the direction of these teachers. So thorough is their work that in the few short years they have been in this country they have formed hundreds of young English-speaking boys for careers that were formerly practically closed to them.

While they are Catholic in religion, the result of their system is the broadening of ideas, more tolerance, less exclusiveness, and more harmony

between the different elements of our varied population in Canada. Montreal, certainly appreciates the Brothers, and it is hoped their numbers will be increased by a large influx from the ranks of young Canadians with a vocation for teaching.

DEATH OF FORMER PRESIDENT OF ECUADOR

Much regret has been expressed in Ecuador at the death of Antonio Flores, ex President of that republic. The press without distinction of party has proclaimed the nation's sorrow and its admiration for his personal character. He was a gifted writer, a learned lawyer and historian, a wise diplomat, but, above all, he was a practical Catholic, both in his public and private life.

A FALSE PHILOSOPHY

Recently the daily papers gave prominence to an address delivered beside the bier of a suicide by his son. The father had taken his own life because he could no longer bear the pain which racked his aged body. The son sought to justify the father's action by claiming that it was not unnatural for a person to take his own life under such circumstances.

DIED

O'REILLY.—In Sarnia, Ont., March 23rd, 1916, Mrs. Hugh O'Reilly, aged eighty five years. May her soul rest in peace.

WALTON.—In Pontiac, Mich., March 11, 1916, Charles Walton, formerly of

Point Edward, Ont., aged twenty-nine years, ten months. Interment at Sarnia. May his soul rest in peace.

WANTED

Everyone to use our flowers for home or church purposes. Last Easter our flowers decorated over 500 homes and churches. Easter Lilies 50c a doz.; Tulips 50c a doz.; Fleur de Lis 50c a doz.; Violets 50c a doz.; bunches Apple Blossoms 50c a doz.; something new, 25c a doz.; tissue paper carnations, 20c a doz.; June Roses, American Beauty Roses, made from finest crepe paper, 50c a doz. Shaded roses, the real thing, for 75c a doz. We pay postage or express charges on all orders. Will be sent the day we receive them. Write Brantford Artificial Flower Co., Brantford, Ont. 1954-2

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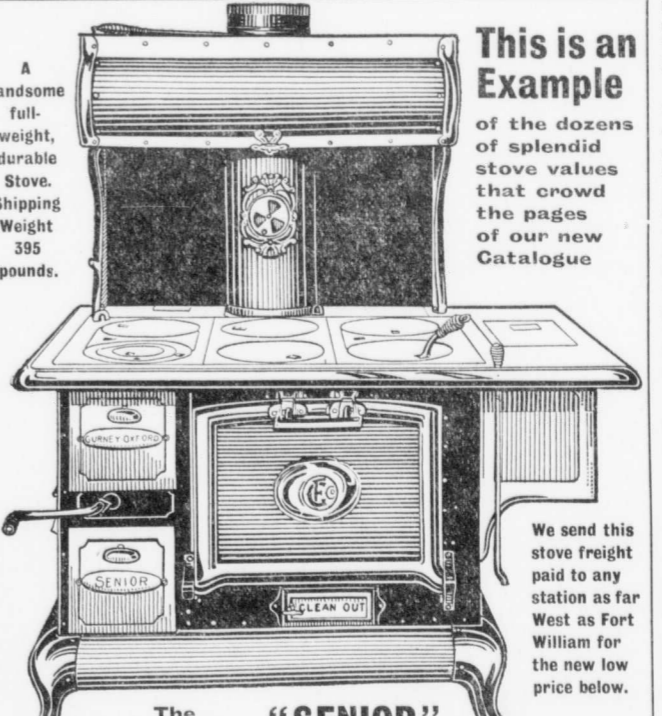
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