

FIVE MINUTE SERMON

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

"He was transfigured before them." (Matt. xviii, 2)
Our Lord was transfigured before His three most highly favored disciples, Peter, James and John, on a lonely mountain whither He had led them.

He was transfigured before them, that His subsequent Passion might not make them waver in their faith. He was transfigured before them that, when afterwards He should hang upon the cross, they might see in Him not a weak, dying human being, but God incarnate, revealing His majesty most gloriously in the humiliation and shame of His suffering.

He was transfigured before them, that His Passion was His form man, and we feel the truth of this fact deep in our hearts, and it is confirmed by a sort of affection, very common at the present time, which aims at imitating pain, and makes people delight in fancied misfortunes and imaginary sufferings, so that they delude themselves and others with the idea that they are lonely and forsaken, hoping thus to make themselves interesting to themselves and others, and to have at least the appearance of being transfigured by pain.

Real pain not only transforms us in the sight of others, but a soul that actually suffers is transformed by manifold kinds of experience, dearly bought but very precious, and by a kind of steadfastness and courage derived from pain.

Before His transfiguration on Thabor the face of Christ shone as the sun and His garments became white as snow, and when afterwards He was transfigured by the infinite love with which He suffered on Calvary, His head was crowned with thorns in token of His transfiguration by suffering.

At that moment the angels in heaven exulted, crying: "Praise ye the Lord, for His mercy is great, and of His goodness there is no end." But on earth there was a solemn silence as when the spirit of God moved over the waters at the creation, for now the great work was accomplished which should cause a new race to rise from the waters of baptism, free from the dreary darkness of sin.

As a crown it reminds us that He who wears it is a King, the King of righteousness, and in heaven it has been changed into a crown of glory. As Jesus on the Cross beat His head, crowned with thorns, many graves of just men were opened; and when He comes as Judge, wearing the crown of glory, all graves will be opened, and all the just will rise again.

Our own crown of thorns will often inspire us with sympathy for the sorrows of others. He who has suffered much himself knows how to comfort and help others, and thus his crown of thorns is also turned into a crown of mercy.

Christian justice, and is led on by it to virtue and away from evil. It is better for us to suffer and to be united with God than to live in pleasure and amusement apart from Him. Every sorrow ought to remind us of the justice of God, Who in His love leads us to Heaven on a thorny path, in order that eternal suffering may not be our lot hereafter.

Let us, therefore, profit by the thorny crown of suffering, and never forget to live so as to please God, and then our crown will some day obtain for us the crown of glory, transfiguration on His holy mountain, and complete fulfillment of all that He in His infinite love has promised us through Moses and the Prophets and the holy apostles.

THE TRUTH THAT LIBERATES
The motto of this journal is to be seen upon the title page and reads "Veritas liberat vos—the truth will make you free."

By command of Major General O'Ryan, of the National Guard of New York State, an official bulletin has recently been issued giving the results of the prohibition of the use of liquor on two recent occasions in military service, stating facts concerning the relation of alcohol to health and urging officers to lead by precept and example in the encouragement of sobriety.

In the summer of 1913 the use of liquor in any form was prohibited at the Infantry School of Application at Peekskill, and all student officers, as well as instructors, put on honour not to use liquor on or off the post during the school period. So beneficial to the individuals concerned and to the work of the school were the results attending this departure from former custom, and so marked was the sentiment of approval among the officers affected, that a similar regulation was prescribed and followed at the Schools of Application for the other arms of the service, established by various division orders since that time.

THE CHURCH COVERED THE GLOBE WITH INSTITUTIONS OF MERCY
William Lecky (in European Morals)
" As time rolled on, charity assumed many forms, and every man's house became a center from which it radiated. By the monks the nobles were overawed, the poor protected, the sick tended, travelers sheltered, prisoners ransomed, the remotest spheres of suffering explored.

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most cases great personal sacrifices. Their interest demands there should be some substantial recognition by the state of their sacrifice and service, and while awaiting such legislative recognition, there is much that can be done of permanent and immeasurable value to the future of our young men, by raising the standard of moral, physical and mental training applied to them.

Good For Children
Mothers! Physicians agree that flavor and the body building elements of grains lie in the dark parts usually thrown away. So also do the lime salts which your child needs to harden bones and teeth.

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bridge his faith seemed (he says) to strengthen in the conviction that the Protestant Church was the true Church. At that time he had not thought whatever of enquiring into the claims of the Catholic Church which acknowledges the Pope—the only Catholic one, in other words. He argued complacently that as the Bay of Biscay is part of the Ocean, so the Church of England seemed to me to be part of the great ocean of the Catholic Church and Faith."

It was not very long, however, before his ship of Faith split against the fearful rock of multi doctrinism, or in other words, against the darkness consequent on there being no illuminating authority to guide his ship when adverse currents set in to his destruction; and while he noted that many sects which professed to belong to the same "Catholic" Church as himself were teaching different views authoritatively, he also saw that there was only one Catholic Church which everywhere taught in the same way and the same truths.

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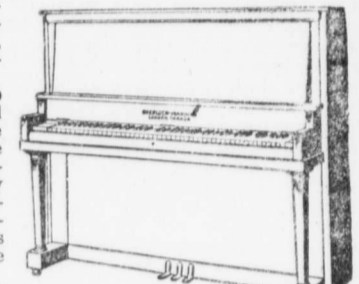
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