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SATURDAY, SEPT. 20, 1908.

The Blessing of the Graves.

"There is a tear for all that die.

A mourner o'er the humblest grave."

These lines are suggested by the beautiful and significant ceremony of the "blessing of the graves" to take place to-morrow at Holy Sepulchre cemetery.

The resting places of the dead have an irresistible attraction for all whose loved ones may have preceded them, and it is well-morbidly apart—that this feeling should exist.

It is something to be near even the lifeless clay of those to whom we were bound by ties of affection and blood; we feel that they are not entirely gone—that we can do something for them—that the very act of standing by their grave in the beautiful words of the poet Moore "Will still keep their memory green in our soul."

And if the shades of the departed are conscious of this tribute of ours, what a joy and consolation it must be to them when we participate in such a ceremony as to-morrow's, and our voice mingles with thousands of other supplicants in the heartfelt prayer "Requiescant in pace."

Only religion can elevate and sanctify grief. She teaches the emptiness and selfishness of the sorrow that can overlook the true eternal interests of those whose loss we mourn.

She would have us prove our love by forgetting ourselves and thinking solely of those who may need the help we are able to give, and whose exclusion from the enjoyment of the Beatific Vision, may, if we forget them, be prolonged.

The ceremony of to-morrow is pregnant with meaning, and the church invests it with all due solemnity. Robed in the vestments of mourning the clergy, with the venerable Bishop of the diocese at their head, will wend their way through the grounds, chanting the "Vespers of the dead," the "Miserere," the "De Profundis," and other psalms appropriate to the occasion, while the Bishop, as he passes, sprinkles the graves with holy water.

It were strange indeed if one could take part in such a pious function, amid such surroundings, and with that immortal cry of supplication wrung from the heart of David (the Miserere) falling on his ears without being profoundly stirred.

The whole ceremony is a magnificent object lesson. Men and women who were present last year, will be absent to-morrow; they knelt to pray when last there, they lie there to be prayed for now. Many who will attend to-morrow, will do so for the last time.

"My hopes are with the dead, anon With them my place will be; And I with them shall travel on Through all futurity."

In Catholic countries the "blessing of the graves" is a venerable and cherished custom, but is observed on the feast of the Commemoration of All Souls, in November. Few would imagine, if in Paris on that day, that it deserved the irreligious reputation it bears, as they saw thousands of men, women and children on the street cars, and in elegant equipages, making their way to Pere la Chaise and the other cemeteries, their arms laden with flowers and immortelles, to take part in a ceremony identical with that to be celebrated here to-morrow.

Arrangements have been made with a gentleman, who has lately returned from a trip to the German "Waterland" to write a series of special articles on the larger cities and other points of interest there. The first of these will appear in our next issue.

Carmel and Its "Carmelite."

(Written for The Catholic Journal by Veritas.) On the summit of Mount Carmel in Palestine, the historic retreat during his earthly life (it is held that he has not yet paid nature's great debt—death, and must again return to earth whence he was taken in the fiery chariot) of the great prophet Elias, is situated a convent of discolored Carmelite friars.

The order claims, and reasonably, that Elias was the first barefooted Carmelite, and that no more suitable place could be devised for a house of their "contemplative order" than this lone promontory in the Levant with its pious associations.

Despite the significance of its name, "vineyard of the Lord," Carmel is to-day a wild, desolate, barren, sun-scorched spot. From time to time attempts have been made to establish there colonies of Americans and Europeans with a view to reconstituting the mountain's ancient reputation for fertility and vinecultivation.

But unless the German colony founded at Haifa in 1869 be excepted, little success has attended these efforts. The industrious Teutons, who are protestants, and who refer to themselves grandiloquently as "Templars" seem to be able to "make both ends meet," but they are the first to do so in Carmel's modern history.

Once upon a time, and within the last hundred years hamlets were dotted up and down the promontory, but the warlike Druses have altered all this. Up to quite recent years their visits to Carmel were for the two-fold object of making a pilgrimage to El Muharakah the supposed site of the altar at which Elias was able to confound the priests of Baal when he called down fire from heaven to consume the prepared sacrifice, and secondly to exterminate all other fellow-Christians in the neighborhood.

The convents of the Carmelites—the present one is the fourth—have come in a ceremony as to-morrow's, and our voice mingles with thousands of other supplicants in the heartfelt prayer "Requiescant in pace."

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Send us your job printing.

Five Minute Sermon

The First and Greatest Commandment. Christ has told us that the second great commandment is to love our neighbor as ourselves; that is, we must love him sincerely, ardently and effectively, but always for the love of God.

The same divine Teacher taught us the way to practise it when He said: "Do unto others as you wish them to do unto you." Hence St. Augustine, explaining this maxim, says: "Whatever good we wish for ourselves, the same we must procure for our neighbor, and the evil that we fear we must prevent from befalling our neighbor."

God has commanded us to love our neighbor as ourselves, but always for love of Him, in regard to Him, with eyes fixed on Him alone. Therefore he who loves and gives abundantly to his neighbor through human sensibility, through natural goodness of heart, or through philanthropy would not satisfy the precept. He would deserve the praise and the gratitude of men, but he would merit no supernatural reward.

We should therefore learn that our first and greatest duty is to love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves. We are to learn further not to question or cavil with God on the maxims of religion. Lastly, we are to learn how great our confusion will be, if, like the Pharisees, we dare to impugn anything that redounds to the glory of Jesus Christ.

Weekly Church Calendar. Sunday September 27—Goepel, St. Matt., xxii, 35-46—SS. Cosmas and Damian, martyrs.

Monday 28—St. Wenceslaus, martyr. Tuesday 29—St. Michael, Archangel. Wednesday 30—St. Jerome, pope confessor and doctor.

Thursday October 1—St. Remigius, bishop and confessor. Friday 2—Holy Guardian Angels. Saturday 3—St. Maximian, bishop and martyr.

Forty Hours Devotion. The Forty Hours Devotion will be held in the following churches next week: September 27—St. Michael's, Rochester, Watkins.

Smart Hats For Fall.

The Dunlap Hat and the Meng & Shafer Special blocks for fall now on sale

- The Dunlap..... \$5.00
The M. & S. Guaranteed Non-breakable Stiff Hat..... \$3.00
The M. & S. Glove fitting in Stiff or Soft..... \$1.95
The M. & S. Natty in Stiff or Soft..... \$1.50

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A Word About Fall Gloves.

Our importations of new fall gloves are here, opened, and ready for distribution, likewise purchases from domestic manufacturers.

For years we have made a very special study of the glove business, looked into all the details of making; noted faults and eliminated them; picked out the good points of this glove and that glove and embodied them in our product.

- Ladies' Kid Gloves. 75c "Trilby"—two clasp glove kid, black, and assortments of brown, tan, gray, mode; one row embroidery.
Ladies' Walking Gloves. \$1 "Marie"—two clasp pique sewn walking glove; assortments of tan, brown and red; one row embroidery.
Men's Gloves. \$1 Men's full out seam glove; one clasp, embroidered back; assortments of tan.
\$1 Men's half pique sewn one clasp kid glove in assortments of tan, brown and red.
\$1.25 Men's full pique sewn one clasp kid glove; assortments of tan.
\$1.25 Men's full pique sewn kid glove; one clasp; assortments of tan.
\$1.50 Fowne's one clasp full out seam men's gloves in assortments of tan.
\$2 Fowne's out seam men's gloves in tan with one horn button, and in white with one pearl button.
\$2 Men's single clasp very fine kid gloves in assortment of tan, embroidered back.
\$1.85 Dent's one clasp full pique sewn men's gloves in assortments of tan.
Misses' Gloves. 75c "Edith"—two clasp misses' kid glove in assortments of brown, tan, mode and gray.
\$1 Misses' two clasp kid glove in white and assortments of tan, gray and mode.

Sibley, Lindsay & Curr Co.

HOLY FAMILY.

The altar boys and choir singers who were in attendance all through vacation were given an outing last Tuesday afternoon by the pastor. There were 34 children who were allowed to partake of the pleasant trip.

No Catechism instruction for the children will be held next Sunday afternoon on account of the blessing of the graves at Holy Sepulchre cemetery.

Monday morning a high mass was celebrated for a good intention, the day being the feast of St. Mathias, benediction was given after mass.

Tuesday and Wednesday morning at 7:45 o'clock a requiem mass was celebrated for the deceased Mrs. Cath. Froehler. The mass Wednesday was offered by the Christian Mother society.

A pedro party will be given by Flower City Council C. W. B. L. at the school hall, Thursday evening, Oct. 1. All are invited to attend.

FRENCH CHURCH. A number of friends surprised Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Hudon of North St., on Monday evening the occasion being their fifteenth wedding anniversary. Pedro was enjoyed after which luncheon was served.

The Rhea Dramatic Club will play Josiah's Courtship, at the school hall Thursday, Oct. 22nd, for the benefit of the church.

Beware of Ointments for Catarrh that Contains Mercury. as mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces.

Hall's Family Pills are the best.

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