

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions



Perpetual Help Wafers

By REV. CLARENCE SEIDEL, C. S. S. R.

Editor's Note: This is the sixth of a series of articles by Father Seidel, Redemptorist missionary, on the miraculous picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

By Perpetual Help wafers we mean those tiny tissue-paper pictures of Perpetual Help which are given to the sick to be swallowed in time of sickness.

Composed as man of body and soul, matter and spirit, he is not content with acts of a purely spiritual nature in the exercise of his religion.

True or false? Some there are, however, who, Puritan-like, vigorously object to this swallowing of little pictures.

This is a good example of the type of objections often offered to those who practice this pious and harmless devotion; and to enable such lovers of Our Lady to give a reason for the faith that is in them, we will examine his statements and answer his questions, so seemingly unanswerable.

He asks, if this is not "the superstition" condemned by the Council of Trent, of those who recognize in images some hidden virtue or power—precisely as the savages believe in their fetishes, and the Indians in their amulets? Respectfully though emphatically we reply that it is not the superstition condemned by the Council of Trent.

When that superstition, did those, who swallow these tiny tissue-paper pictures, believe that in them lies "some hidden virtue or power," as the Council presupposes; but they do not. They do not believe, to use the words of that celebrated Council (Denzinger, No. 986), "that any divinity or power is in them for the sake of which they are to be worshipped, or that anything is to be asked of them, or that any trust is to be put in images (Pa. 124-151)"; but they do believe that "the honor shown to them is referred to the prototypes which they represent, so that by kissing, uncovering to, and kneeling before images, we adore Christ and honor the Saints whose likeness they bear."

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Study Club groups and women's organizations will benefit in acquaintance with the ways in which they make use of the CATHOLIC PERIODICAL INDEX.

By means of this index, Catholic magazines may easily be consulted on any subject, thus becoming permanently useful in reference libraries.

Under the heading National Council of Catholic Women, are listed the year's magazine articles on the N. C. C. W. in general.

The Fingerprint On Our Brain

(Continued from Page Two)

ing Heavenly Father: so beautifully I cannot resist quoting these lines from the "Rose Garden."

"I remember," says Saadi, "being pious in my childhood, being in the night, addicted to devotion and abstinence. One night I was sitting with my father, remaining awake and holding the beloved Koran in my lap, whilst the people around us were asleep. I said, self-righteously, 'Not one of those people lifts up his head, or makes a genuflection. They are as fast asleep as if they were dead.'"

"My father replied, 'Darling of thy father! Would that thou also wert asleep, rather than disparaging people.'"

"Then that parable from the Morals of Derriches, Story 78; which says that a young man of noble nature and intelligence, but fallen in with evil companions, found himself after a night of revelry lying in sick exhaustion, along the road. A religious devotee, passing by on his way to the temple, drew away in contempt from the disgraced youth, who looked after him and said sadly: 'Though I lie here in the gutter so ignobly, yet try to pass me nobly by.' There is a page so like Our Lord's own lofty thoughts, as to have warmed His Heart."

"I saw a holy man of the seashore," says Saadi. "He had been wounded by a tiger. He suffered much; no medicine could relieve his pain; but he constantly thanked God the Most High, 'Praise be to Allah,' he said, 'that I have only fallen into the teeth of a tiger, and not into sin.'"

"O heart of man, naturally supernatural!" "O Cor humana, naturaliter supernaturalis."

So, too, modern free-thought, in its saner moments, is forced to see the moral principle in human life; if Christ says in so many words, that he who seeks his life shall lose it, the pistol in the hands of Hedda Gabler annotates his statement and the writhing of Emma Bovary as the poison takes hold underscores it.

Nowadays, I imagine in a case of disputed ownership, the discovery of a fingerprint on the article in question might help to indicate the true owner, the previous possessor: man is in this world very much of a lost article, but he has upon him a Fingerprint, not superficially, not accidentally, but upon his very brain,—deeper than that,—in the very core of his spiritual faculties—mind and heart and will,—lies man's instinctive moral sense of right and wrong, of justice and equity and retribution. It lies there, like the Fingerprint of God set as a seal upon His work; it does more than lie there like a symbol, it is like the print of a finger so deep and real as to have become the very fibre of man's moral nature.

Be sure, my fellow-creatures of God, that when mankind—Christian—Pagan—Heathen—Ancient—Modern—mankind—speaks the language of morality, that you hear the accents of a child of God and not the hollow wailing of a moving pillar of dust blown by the wind of chance down the ways of chaos.

Household Hints

All that is required to make green dressing is the addition of a little vegetable coloring such as juice of spinach, or vegetable coloring that is sold at very reasonable prices.

Irish Celery is simply celery that has been quartered, instead of being taken apart by the stalk, and put in cold or ice water for several hours or over night to curl.

Carefully made toast, swabach and stale bread may be given to young children. On account of the difficulty in digestion fresh breads, they are excluded from children's diet.

at length the particular activities or interests of any organization, it is indexed not only under the organization's name but also under such headings as Girls' Clubs, Parents and Teachers' Associations; Religious Education—Vacation Schools; Social Service; Sociology, Rural; Study from a Catholic point of view. Its great variety of subjects may be exemplified by the following—headings selected from only the A section: Adolescence; Advent; Africa—Native Races; Agricultural Colonization; Alms; America—Discovery and Exploration; Angeles; Anglin, Margaret; Anishakob Mountains; Arctics—Many important subjects are subdivided according to countries, e. g. Catholic Action—Italy; Unemployment—United States, etc. A similar arrangement enables one to study year by year the activities and condition of the Church in all parts of the world, by the long series of topics beginning Catholic Church in Abyssinia, and ending Catholic Church in Zanzibar.

Catholics who are active in placing Catholic periodicals in libraries, should arrange also for subscription to this index. Librarians are much more likely to subscribe to any magazine and have it bound, if it is included in such an index and therefore permanently valuable. It is hoped that the Catholic Periodical Index will soon be recognized as indispensable in public as well as Catholic libraries and will thus introduce Catholic periodicals to new and increased usefulness.

The Catholic Periodical Index is compiled and edited by the Catholic Library Association; many Catholic librarians and others contribute volunteer labor and support. The bound volumes are published and sold, on a service basis, by the H. W. Wilson Company, 950 University Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Frankly Admits Soviet Opposed To All Religion

(Continued from Page One)

opinion religion is a superstition and means bondage for the people. The leaders now in power want to root it out for "the good of the common people." Christian festivals are tabooed and the only places in which children still learn of Christmas and Easter, are some of the older school-books. In fact, the youth of Russia today is frankly irreligious. The terrible teaching and fierce persecution of the revolutionaries has had its natural effect.

The second reason lay in the close connection of the Russian established, (Greek Orthodox) Church of pre-war days, with Czarism. The Czar was the head of the Russian Church and the chief spiritual ruler was often a general of the army. Moreover, theopion, said Mr. Fisher, that the Russian peasant was a deeply spiritual man is a myth. He was rather a pagan, though this statement will be flatly contradicted by those who know the Russian Mousjik or peasant more intimately than Fisher does. We are not concerned here with the validity of the second "Reason," except to say that the peculiar relation between the Czar and the Church of Russia has been fraught with evil. History shows this all too plainly.

But it is depressive to realize that millions of Russian people are forced in that unhappy country to have their thinking done for them by the enemies of God and Revelation. For in spite of Fisher's enthusiastic account of the "economic progress" of the workers and peasants the nation is unhappy. A careful listener to the speech could easily detect the note of uncertainty that clung to the lecturer's enunciation. He studiously avoided any reference to the lot of women and children, to honing conditions and family life under the new regime, though he had ample time to do so. He did not say that the people were better or really happier. All he could advance for the Soviet cause was "improved economic conditions."

SODAL TALK

The catch-word of the season seems to be "probation." You know that no one is received into the Sodality just for the asking. The applicant must prove that he or she really wants to become a Sodalist and that he or she will be an active member. There must be no "dead wood" in the Sodality. There must be initiative, generosity and willingness, desire for personal sanctification and "pép."

With this in mind, many of the parishes are having their probation meetings now for the instruction of applicants and acquaintances with the applicants. Sacred Heart Sodality held its meeting Wednesday night. St. Andrew's Sodality started its probation with twenty-four applicants.

St. Andrew's Sodality held its meeting March 10. Plans were made to raise a ten-dollar contribution toward the Sodality Convention expenses. The Committee in charge of this project includes: Miss Claire Schifferli, chairman, and the Misses Loretta Nasson, Marguerite Duell, Grace Schifferli, Martha Mandery. The Committee decided upon a card party for the members of the Sodality and a roller-skating party to raise the desired contribution.

St. Andrew's Sodality has also adopted the devotion of the Living Rosary during Lent.

Nazareth Academy Echoes

(SOCIALLY LENTEN PRACTICE)

A smile is such a little thing; Yet what joy it will ever bring When one's lonely, when one's sad When one's happy, when one's glad, When one's gloomy, when one's gay, When one's falling day-by-day— Its friendly message—fill the air, A smile finds welcome everywhere. —Marjorie Scheffner.

LAGGARDS I know that there are fairies, So winsome and so light— Who spend the daytime sleeping And play about at night. Yet though I stayed awake last night And to my window crept, I didn't see a single one— They must have overslept. —Jean Fischette.

NIGHT STAR

Bright star, night star, Tell me a tale, please do! A tale of snow, and midnight sun, And ponies, and bronchos, too, Of palm trees under southern moons And colored boys singing melodies, Of wheat fields out in the blazing sun, And war captains telling of deeds well done. Bright star, night star, Tell of your travels near and far. —Ruth Walsh.

These, of course, should be heartily welcomed, and with other people of the world, the Russians were entitled to them. But what of the bitter awakening which is sure to follow? An athletic people will work out its own downfall. Surely, the Christian nations of the world have reason to pray for Russia.

St. Jerome's Sodality is doing a wonderful thing Monday, March 20. It is giving a Fathers and Daughters' dinner. You know St. Joseph's day is Father's Day for the Sodality and they are celebrating on Monday night. St. Jerome's has also formed their own committee and expect to be doing great things in very short time.

Father Francis L. Baffa, the representative of the Sodality, Central Office in the Holy Family, Rochester, gave the Alumnae Retreat at Nazareth College, on Saturday night. The Sunday afternoon conference of the Sodality meeting was held with him. Representatives making the retreat from parishes and parishes attended.

He gave us the slogan of today— "Back to the Parish!" He also told us that one Sodality is a superb training school in the west was made up of three nuns and they were doing truly marvelous things. More power to them say I.

Are you planning to attend the weekly convention in May? Start working up your enthusiasm, for it won't be a success unless you are there.

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