

The Hunger That Upset The World

Isn't it awful after you've had a cup of coffee, when you sit at the table and wish you had a cigarette and the one beside you looks up and your back fairly cracks, because you've given up cigarettes for Lent?—Lent is hard to watch a lot of cigarettes going the rounds, with your mouth practically aching for a crisp cigarette covered almond, to have to say, "No, thank you"—because you aren't eating candy this Lent? Is there anything more that than that without butter, coffee without sugar, or cold cakes, rolled out of the can for the unappetizing time?

Sure!—It's Lent. We're all miserable, with our lean fare of fast and abstinence.

But we have only ourselves to blame. Adam started it all back in the Garden of Eden by taking no having his own way. That crime almost wrecked our race. Every temptation is a temptation to that wretched hunger when he had him to taste the forbidden fruit; every headache, every cold, every pain, every last twinge recalls the fact that Adam rebelled against God and that we are his flesh and blood.

Of course, we ourselves aren't doing much to help matters. We carry on our own little rebellions—some of them not so little, day after day, against the same God who offered to forgive Adam's sin. We will have our own way; we will do as we please, without regard for the Ten Commandments, Church Law, or common sense. As we keep adding to our misery and piling it up—because, with sin, the more you have, the more you want, and the more you get, the more miserable you become.

So with each year's Lent, we put our feet down hard on our own neck. It sounds queer, doesn't it?—but it's almost as hard as that to say NO to our considerable habits of life. Remembering Adam's hunger, so tragically shared, we go hungry ourselves; mindful of our own selfishness, we turn against ourselves and become, for at least six weeks, the enemies of our own bodies.

There's nothing sadder than to exhale a last "drag" on the night of Shrove Tuesday and, saturated with nicotine in every pore, to sweat off for Lent. The last comes Wednesday morning, and every day after that, as with all our Lenten resolutions. It's hard, but we need it, and it's paid for our souls.—Rev. Richard Glaser.

101 Radio Stations

New York—Radio Station WJVE here is the 101st station to be added to the chain which carry the Sacred Heart Program. The program is broadcast each weekday, Monday through Saturday, at 7 A. M. A special Sunday series is broadcast over WMCA on Sunday.

TIMELY ETERNALS

By Rt. Rev. Mgr. Peter M. H. Wynhoven

Editor-in-Chief, Catholic Action of the South

SELFISH PARENTS

We happened to meet two friends on the twentieth century Limited, between Chicago and New York. Their invitation to come into their drawing room was accepted. The main conversation drifted to the subject of friendship. One mentioned that his friendship was more-or-less selfish.



In the heat of the argument, he went so far as to assert that even mother love was not free from this taint. To prove that mother love can be selfish would call for much argument. But, to show that maternal interest is not always genuine and unselfish would not be difficult, in the case of many a parent. From casual observation, it seems that fathers and mothers not infrequently are motivated by their own selfish interests. The division between personal parental pleasure and convenience and the real welfare and best interests of their children is, after all, unfortunately, too much influenced by the thought and the desire to keep the home of least resistance. The children's benefit is often unconsciously relegated to some dark corner. Hence, one cannot escape the conclusion that parents are sometimes more considerate of their own temporary satisfaction than of their children's permanent welfare.

When a mother goes regularly to her position, or sits around aimlessly, she may succeed in finding success for her so-called frustrated nerves, or, still better, get her name in the paper occasionally; but her name in dark print may not make it bright in her children's hearts in the days to come, for she steals time from them. She is a plain daylight robber. The third father who thinks his physical reserve can be built up only at the club or in a burlesque place, every time he has a chance, is a self-absorber. He may win some money, or he may make profitable "contacts" at his diversion, but he squanders precious values for his children, in whose play and work he is little interested.

Judas money is saved, and destructive economy is practiced, by sending children to free schools, where character training is neglected, and the moral law is ignored. There are parents who refuse to send their children to make possible an education that would lift their sons and daughters for God and man. No, they would rather save, in order that Marassa

The practice of religion and church attendance is considered a recommendation of life by selfish and selfish parents. The parent who treats the moral and the divine laws lightly has a heavy weight on his conscience, which, eventually, will reveal that he has sold his soul. However, God is not unkind. The man who forgets God is not a loyal father in his own children. He ignores them not only in the danger of temptation, but also in the danger of their spiritual life. And for what? Simply to save himself a little trouble, a little inconvenience, or to adapt himself to his own comfort in the indulgence of personal pleasures. Fathers think most of their children are in heaven or hell, or in purgatory every Sunday, but they are not giving their children a Christian example which will help them to the permanent good.

It may be stated that all these arguments are too technical, and that, irrespective of any philosophical, parental love is the best, the most day-to-day affection on earth. As proof, it is quoted that one parent, seeing his child in the lowest danger, would sacrifice a second, or give a widow's thought to his own misery, by trying to rescue the youngster, with in the face of certain death. A mother will rush into a burning building, or plunge into the water, to try to save her baby, at any time, under any circumstances. This is true—but what does it prove? A mother will do the most thing for her child.

The mother instinct is the same in people as it is in animals. The question, however, is why should people be allowed to give their young ones by the nose, to get that one and done do, and no more?

Parenthood carries most serious obligations. Parents love that is marked only by physical attachment, or manifested by actual interest, is not worthy of them. There is a soul on business, and in each child, which one day will be registered by God. Constant, intelligent and studied care must be given our children correctly and successfully. This care will be given only when parents are inspired by a rational love that will prompt them to forget about themselves and spare nothing to give their children the best in the development of character and soul.

Because the Chinese people considered it indecent to appear bareheaded in public, Pope Paul V permitted missionaries to wear their hair while saying Mass.

UNBELIEF

"For God has shut up all his miracles that He may have mercy upon all."

St. Paul, Romans 11, 25
Go to your empty Dairy,
I'll have no part of Him.
The world is good enough for me,
I'll enjoy myself the interior.
This body's an ephemeral cloud;
You've seen a person dead,
And then you talk about a God.
Would He allow the worms to tread?

Drive all your fabulous passions;
Fling your holy jewelry;
Give the stupid poor your name,
And come for help in me.
I'll laugh right in your pleas face:
Why don't you pray for me?
I could use some so-called grace
From that convenient Dairy.

I promised I would pray for him
That he would see the light,
And now he chants my Hymn
Of God and His great might.
He came to me with fearful eyes,
And fell upon the ground,
God's mercy helped him realize
The Truth of what he found.

He tried to avoid Him every-
where.
He looked at all creation,
All things showed His loving care,
And His Administration.
When he came to know Him,
A conscience showed:
He felt just like a Church
And gave Him all his love.
—David L. Davis

Books Reviewed

THE NEW BOOKS OF THE YEAR. Edited by H. G. Wells. London: George G. Harrap & Co., Ltd. 1932. 25s. 6d.

The idea that the world is being ruled by the few is not new. It is a fact of life. The few are the rich, the powerful, the influential. They are the ones who make the decisions, who shape the future. The many are the masses, the common people, who are ruled and controlled. This is the nature of the world, and it is a fact that we must accept.

Mr. Wells' picture is not a gloomy one. He believes that the masses can rise up and take control of their own destiny. He believes that the future is in their hands, and that they can create a better world for themselves. This is a message of hope and courage, and it is one that we should all heed.

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