

The Passing Scene

Over the past ten years or so, we have experienced momentous changes in our Catholic practices. And we are assured that this is only a beginning.

It seems such a short time ago that we were still bound by the strict Eucharistic fast: to receive Communion, we had to abstain from all food and drink (including water) from the previous midnight until Communion. (How many a priest grew prematurely gray, assuring the scrupulous that water, swallowed accidentally while brushing their teeth, did not break their Eucharistic fast!)

How many years we went to Mass, and watched the priest go through his silent motions and prayers up at the altar, as though it were solely his Mass, with the rest of us merely passive spectators who, despite our passivity, managed to receive some share of graces that flowed in quiet mystery from the sanctuary. . . . Silence was the expected congregational characteristic.

Perhaps, the reason novena devotions to this or that saint were so popular, was that they gave people a chance to pray aloud together and to sing out together. Then, as the dialogued Mass came in, these novena devotions seemed to fade out. True, in many parishes they still carry on, but not in the church-packed manner of two decades ago.

Many changes have come. More changes will be introduced within the next three months. Still more are scheduled for the next several years.

In the midst of all these changes, there are certain devotions that we should not allow to lapse. One of these is our recitation of the rosary.

Daily recitation of the rosary is like a daily review of God's plan for our salvation. It portrays special events and circumstances in the life of Jesus and of Mary, His closest follower, from the Annunciation to her ultimate crowning as Queen of Heaven. It is a guide for us less ardent followers; it is a prayer to make us more ardent followers, to help us through the joys, the sorrows and glories of our own path to eternity.

Meditation on the mysteries of the Rosary is a good preparation for Mass; it is an excellent review, afterwards, of the Mass. And it still remains the means requested by Mary herself for overcoming the threat of atheistic communism.



Published by The Catholic Centre of the University of Ottawa, Canada,
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89 LE DROIT, Ottawa

Vol. 12, No. 40

Our Parish Bulletin

Twentieth Week after Pentecost

October 4 - 10, 1964

Every devoted father will recognize himself in the father who is described in today's Gospel. The Gospel tells us that he was a royal official — but he himself does not claim any particular distinction or prestige for himself. Whatever glamour might be attached to him has no significance. The important fact is that his son is sick, is dying, and will Jesus please, please, come down and heal him? Please?

Even when Jesus seems somewhat annoyed and asserts, "Unless you see signs and wonders, you do not believe", that father could not be deterred. His plea was earnest, direct, full of faith: "Come down before my child dies."

Jesus' answer was man to man: straightforward, direct: "Go your way, your son lives" and the response of that father was characteristic of a man's faith: "The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and departed."

This whole Gospel carries a message for men, especially men who are fathers. It is, in its entirety, a man to man dealing. It portrays the fact that this man to man relationship is not the effeminate, sissy thing that so many unthinking men casually assume religion to be.

It portrays the paternal concern that a de- goes, so, also the family usually goes too. There is considerable significance in the fact that these two statements are linked in one sentence: "And he himself believed, and his whole household."

Jesus is heedful of the prayers of fathers. His whole life was dedicated to the wishes of His own Father — a name that God Himself deigns to let humans share with Him.



Photo: "Miller Services, Toronto"

voted father has for his children. It even indicates to fathers when they feel incapable of helping their children—and what father doesn't often feel that frustration!—that is the time especially to seek out Jesus' help.

It portrays the role of leader that the father should retain in his family circle, for, as he

Immaculate Conception Parish
Chapel Point Rexton South Branch

Rev. Herbert Gratatan Pastor
Rev. Donald Brown, Sunday Assistant.

20th Sunday after Pentecost Oct. 4/64

Catechism Classes and Devotions are cancelled for today.

Month of the Rosary: When a family prays together says Father Patrick Peyton, it recognizes its dependance upon God; it begs for God's help to make that family every-thing that it should be. In the home where the Rosary is said devotedly, there cannot be an unfaithful husband or wife; mothers and fathers will be aware of their great responsibilities; children will love and respect their parents. Is the price of TEN MINUTES too much for all the happiness and joys that this prayer will bring into your homes?

Parish Mission: There will be a Mission here in Rexton from November 8th - 15th. The Missionary will be Father Vezina, Redemptorist Father. We urge you now to pray in a special way for the success of the mission.
A Mission is an invitation from our Lord, a tonic, and a time of special grace.

an invitation from our Lord: Come with Me and rest awhile. it was Our Lord who preached the first mission and it is He who invites you to make this mission.

There is a promise of marriage between William Frederick McLaughlin, son of the late William McLaughlin and Francis Mary Hudson; and Mary Doreen Arseneault, daughter of Lawrence Arseneault and Emerise Williams of this parish. 1st publication.

a tonic : to make your life happier and holier. Happier because goodness alone can give happiness. Sin never has made anyone happy. Holier, for God did not create you merely to save you. He made you to sanctify you. We can say that God the Father's work is done - He has created you; God the Son's work is done - He has paid the price of your redemption. But the work of God the Holy Ghost is not yet completed. His work is to sanctify you, and that work is still in progress. It is supposed to be going on now, and this mission is to help you in that work.

a time of special grace: It is for the preacher of the mission to put before you matter for thought and meditation. It is for you to reflect, and to ask those special graces you need.

I will be absent from the parish for the next ten days. If the services of a priest are required, please contact the Priests in Richibucto, Tel. No. 4230.

Thw following masses will be sung by Fr. Brown in St. Louis:
Mon. Mrs Cleveland Amos - Mr & Mrs Guy Collins
Thues. Robert Buzzell - Cora & June Dysart
Wed. Mr & Mrs Daniel Murphy - Mr & Mrs Owen Murphy
Thurs. James Hanrahan - James & Davida Flanagan
Fri. Rene Nowlan - Mary Atkins
Sat. Thanksgiving - Mrs Alyre Robichaud.

High Mass today: Michael Hickey - Mary Hickey.

Banns

Christopher John Mew and Marie Denise Delaney
(2nd pub)