

Religious Bulletin
March 6, 1929

St. Gregory The Great Writes a Bulletin.

The Gospel of last Thursday's Mass gives the story of the rich man and Lazarus, the beggar who sat at his gate, denied the crumbs he begged that fell from the rich man's table. Lest you forget the denouement of the story, be it said that when the poor man died he was carried to Abraham's bosom, while the rich man was buried in hell.

St. Gregory's Homily on this Gospel (the 40th of his series on the Gospels) runs thus:

"Whom, dearly beloved brethren, whom are we to understand as signified by that rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day, whom, I ask, are we to understand, but the Jewish people, who had all the outward life of religious ordinances, and who turned the treasure of the Law they had received to show and not to use? What but the herd of the Gentiles is figured in Lazarus, full of sores? Whosoever turneth himself to God and is not ashamed to confess his sin, hath his sores on the skin, for in a sore on the skin breaketh out the corruption, which is drawn from within.

"What is, then, the confession of our sins but the breaking out of our sores? The corrupt matter of sin is healthily opened in confession, instead of remaining in the mind to rot it. Open sores on the skin bring the poisonous matter to the surface, and when we confess our sins, what do we but to open up the evil that there is lurking in us? But Lazarus desired to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table, and no man gave unto him; even so did that proud people scorn to admit a Gentile to the knowledge of their Law.

"The teaching of the Law moved them to pride, and not to love, as though they swelled with self-importance at the thought of their riches, and the words which some Gentiles caught of their knowledge were as crumbs falling from their sumptuous table. On the other hand, the dogs came and licked the sores of the beggar that was laid at their gate. Sometimes in Holy Writ, under the figure of dogs, preachers are understood. A dog's tongue healeth the sore which it licketh, and so do holy teachers, when we confess our sins, and they speak to us, mollify by their tongues the sores of our souls." (Translation of the Marquis of Bute.)

Substitute the term "Notre Dame men" for "Jewish people" in the above Homily, and examine your conscience accordingly. A non-Catholic came seeking instructions last week, and one of his first observations was: "The worst enemies of the Catholic Church are those who say they are Catholics and don't follow the teachings of the Church. If the Church tells you not to eat meat on Friday, you shouldn't do it; and nothing disgusts me more than to see a Catholic miss Mass on Sunday."

The Gentile world of the time of Our Lord was not more in need of instruction than is the non-Catholic world of the present time. Catholic college men should be in a position to give such instruction. Will the Gentiles seek it of you if your life does not lead them to believe you can give it? You have the Truth, but if you do not make use of it, it will be more tolerable in the Day of Judgment for the Gentiles than for you. (Read Francis Thompson's "The Hound of Heaven.")

Lenten Devotions tonight.

Father Carrico will preach at the Lenten Devotions at 7:30 tonight.

Prayers.

Father Walsh's convalescence is somewhat retarded, and prayers are again requested for a speedy and complete recovery. Three special intentions.