

University of Notre Dame
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Robots and Prayer.

At the Century of Progress Exposition a mechanical man gave lectures on the chemistry of the organism. The fact that chemistry and physics are exemplified in an organism is no argument, of course, that man is a mere machine or chemical laboratory. Everyone knows, though, how easy it is for a human being to act like a machine, to act from force of habit.

Habit is the fly-wheel of life. It keeps both the good man and the bad man going. To the statement: "Habit is second nature," the Duke of Wellington's rejoinder is famous: "Seven times nature, Sir." The habitual "set" toward virtue helps; but a man's nature may be sluiced out with the flow the other way. The sad story of the influence of habit on energetic self-mastery is summarized by St. Augustine: "Per- version of will creates libido (or lust, or violent desire); submission to libido creates habit; non-resistance to habit creates necessity."

Have A Heart.

Habit can be good, or bad. It is a bad thing when it takes the heart out of sacred actions -- our prayers -- and leaves little but a dull, mechanical formalism. "Have a heart!" God wants us to have a heart. He wishes a soul in prayer, -- a mind, a will, all our strength. "This people honoreth Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me," -- Matt. xv. 8. "Thou shalt love the Lord, thy God, with thy whole heart and with thy whole soul and with all thy strength and with all thy mind." -- Deut. vi. 5.

With All Thy Strength.

When you take holy water, do not leave it a mechanical, automatic action. Don't be a religious robot. You are about to come into the Sacramental Presence, to appear before Divine Omniscience Whose knowledge pierces more than the x-ray, to appear before Divine Holiness Whose Incorruptibility necessarily abhors corruption. Have a heart, a heart of love, of contrition. "Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean." -- Matt. viii. Be full of confidence and love.

When you bend the knee, do not leave it an automatic action. Bend the knees of your heart as well. Faith, love, holy fear.

Don't merely "attend" Mass. The liturgy puts you into the Mass. The very nature of sacrifice puts you into the Mass. "Accept, O Holy Father, ...this host...on behalf of all here present..." "Therefore, O Lord, we Thy servants, and likewise Thy holy people,...offer unto Thy supreme majesty..." Let the Mass speak to you. For instance, when the sign of the cross many times is made over the Sacrifice, "with thy whole heart" adore the "Lamb standing as it were slain" (Christ alive, yet in sacrificial condition -- Apoc. v. 6), become a sin-compensation for us. In the elevation, see a shield of mercy lifted over a sinful world, but don't just "attend" Mass. Offer It with the priest, your public representative, know the ends of sacrifice.

With All Thy Mind!

Cardinal Gibbons gave his imprimatur to an act of contrition appearing under the caption, The Golden Key of Salvation. Such is perfect contrition. Practice yourself in the unselfish love of God. Try to go with the prodigal from attrition to contrition. Get your New Testament. Read Luke xv. 11-32. See the parallel. Put yourself in the prodigal's shoes. Have a heart towards God!

At the request of the Capital District Club, a Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Frank Maher's father will be offered up at 7:15 Tuesday morning in the Dillon Hall Chapel.

PRAYERS: III - the mothers of Father Francis Maher, C.S.C. and Professor Langford.