
The Other Husbandmen.

Last Friday's Bulletin mentioned the substitution of graces and showed scriptural authority for the belief that the graces one man rejects are given to another. The Mass of that day, you were told, was built around the Gospel story of the wicked husbandmen, who rejected the authority of their Master and killed His Son. You remember what the Son said the Master would do: "He will bring those evil men to an evil end; and will let out His vineyard to other husbandmen, that shall render Him the fruit in due season."

The vineyard is now for rent. This morning we made our Easter duty - some of us. There were others who rejected the grace tendered them. Their graces are now at the disposal of others. Which others? God knows. We shall see.

Yesterday's Gospel gave us the same theme again. It told the story of Our Lord's return to Nazareth after His first miracles. In the synagogue He told them why they would witness no miracles in this, His own city: their hearts were too hard. "There were many widows in the days of Elias in Israel, when heaven was shut up three years and six months, when there was a great famine throughout all the earth. And to none of them was Elias sent, but to Sarepta of Sidon, to a widow woman. And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them were cleansed but Naaman the Syrian." And when His own people heard these historic examples of the substitution of graces they were filled with anger. They carried Him to the precipice above the city and were to cast Him down when He turned and walked away through their midst - the only recorded miracle He performed in Nazareth.

Do you want examples from history? When the Arians, the Nestorians, the Pelagians, and the other heretics of the fourth and fifth centuries left the Church, God gave the faith to the barbarians from the north and to Ireland. When the Arians broke loose again in Spain towards the close of the sixth century, England received the faith. Boniface converted Germany while the Iconoclasts were destroying faith in the East; Cyril and Methodius converted the Slavs while Photius was effecting the Greek Schism. The first missionaries to the Indians in America calculated the number of baptisms they administered and from their figures we can prudently judge that there were more Indians gained to the Faith during the Reformation than there were Europeans lost to it. And in the present-day apostacy in Europe and America, the missions in India and China are flourishing as never before: whole cities, whole tribes, are asking for Baptism.

Do you want local examples? They are so many and so common that we take them for granted. They happened last week. They happened yesterday. They will happen today. If the sinner who rejects the graces is big enough, or the time wasted on him is enough, the one who accepts the graces is a non-Catholic seeking instructions. We have received seven men into the Church this year; it begins to look as though there will be seven more before June. They are the other husbandmen: they will render the fruit in due season. The Church loses nothing by the careless Catholics who spurn their religion - but they lose everything.

Announcements.

Mass for deceased parents - at 6:25 tomorrow in the church.

Mass for Father Lavin - at 6:25 Thursday in the church.

Novena for a Happy Marriage - it begins Friday, the First Friday.

PRAYERS: John Sagartz underwent an appendicitis operation yesterday; Norman Hartzer's brother had a serious operation this morning. Prof. O'Connell's mother-in-law is very low. John Fitzgerald's grandmother, deceased; a deceased aunt of J. Crunican; two friends of other students. Eight special intentions.