
The Sacrament of Penance - II.

Luke xv., 20.....

Perfect Contrition, Unselfish Love and Sorrow.

(The Parable of the Prodigal's Return, continued.)

O MY GOD, I AM
HEARTILY SORRY
FOR HAVING OFF-
FENDED THEE,
AND I DETEST ALL
MY SINS.....
MOST OF ALL BE-
CAUSE THEY OFFEND
THEE, MY GOD, WHO
ART ALL GOOD AND
DESERVING OF ALL
MY LOVE.

The Christian Prodigal from a motive of holy fear, realizing that he must not perish, resolves to establish himself in the love of God. His motives have been fear, hope, prudence. These are less unselfish than perfect love and sorrow.

And when he was yet a far way off, his father saw him, and was moved with compassion, and running to him fell upon his neck, and kissed him.

It is not difficult to imagine the scene now described in the Parable. The old man had trusted his son, had "put him on his own." Trust is a sign of love.

And the son said to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee, I am not worthy to be called thy son.

I FIRMLY RESOLVE
WITH THE HELP OF
THY GRACE TO CON-
FESS MY SINS, TO
DO PENANCE, AND
TO AMEND MY LIFE.
AMEN.

Alas, the younger son went wrong. And now fair weather friends forsook him. He faintly would eat the husks thrown to the swine. Wearily he trudged home..... Unfailingly, day after day, the old father scanned the horizon, watched the roads leading to the family domain. Joy that knew no bounds: the boy who was dead was alive! Yes, it was he, unmistakably he. Age forgot its decrepitude. With the speed of youth, forward goes the father. He always had gone more than half way. And the Prodigal -- no longer was it the empty stomach, the craving for security, it is not self at all. Broken-hearted, he falls forward at the feet of his father, no thought for self, and half cries in bitterest remembrance: Father I have sinned against heaven and before thee. I am not worthy to be called thy son.

And the father said to his servants: Bring forth quickly the first robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it, and let us eat and make merry:

Because this my son was dead, and is come to life again; was lost and is found. And they began to be merry.....

became a man, steadfastly He went to His work -- The Cross!

The Christian is not always motivated by holy fear. Unselfish love also takes hold of him. Take rewards and punishment away, there is loyalty and love for God's sake. Because he is weak, the precious metal of love is alloyed with a firmer, if baser one, to make it stand the hard uses of life. It was on his way to church, perhaps, that fear was uppermost in his heart. But he has come into the silence and unto God's presence. The sanctuary lamp tells him that his God, his Brother, his Friend, his Physician, has come nigh to him. "What a long way He had come! "God, a lowly babe, to man came nigh." And when He

Yes, he also, another prodigal, is at the feet of the God-man. The Son of God had watched every road of His domain, His world. He wanted this broken heart, this pledge of loyalty. That is why God made him free, so that man could give Him his heart. And the prodigal's heart leaps into his mouth and speaks: My God, I am sorry above all things because I did it to You! In that instant, even before he receives Absolution, he is clothed with the "first robe" of God's love.

The Blessing of Throats.

The blessing of St. Blaise will be imparted Saturday in the hall chapel at hours to be announced by the rectors -- and also at the following times and places: 7:30 a.m. - Brownson Chapel; 12:30-1:00 p.m. - Dillon Hall Chapel.

PRAYERS: Deceased - an uncle of Wm. J. Kennedy. Ill - Brother James, of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. Three special intentions.