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READY TO BE CONFIRMED



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By A. E. THAIN

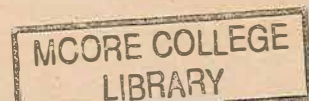


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NOTE

This little book was prepared for a mission in Canada. Its simplicity makes it equally suitable for young people in England and elsewhere.

Made in Great Britain

AN OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

IN the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray (all together).

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast called us to Thy service: Help us to get ready in our hearts and in our minds for the coming of Thy Holy Spirit. We want to be strong and pure to serve Thee all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Heavenly Father, we ask Thee to bless all who pray for us, all who teach us, and all who take care of us. Guide them and strengthen them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

INSTRUCTION

DEAR LORD, we thank Thee for all Thy love and care. Help us to show our thankfulness by trying in all things to please Thee, who art our Saviour and our Friend. Amen.

BLESSING

DECISION

Joshua 24

Joshua called all the people together and told them the story of God's goodness to them.

Things that happened when they were just children.

Then he said, "You must choose now. Will you serve the Lord?"

Without waiting for their answer he said, "I have chosen. I will serve the Lord."

The Church calls us now to tell us of God's goodness to us. We shall learn what wonderful things He has done for us.

Then we must choose. Will you serve the Lord?

We must feel like Joshua—"I will not wait to see what others choose. I will serve the Lord."

If you choose to serve God, He will give you special help in Confirmation.



My Christian Name is

It was given to me when God received me into His family at my Baptism.

My Christian name reminds me that:—

God loves me.

God calls me to a wonderful life in His family, the Church.



To have a healthy body I must:—

Have good food,

Use my body properly,

Give up what is bad for me.

Because I am God's child I promised:—

To believe what is true,

To do what is right,

To turn away from all that
is bad.



So that I may have a healthy spirit
and be strong to serve Him well.

God made

All the world

For us to enjoy

All of us

To love and serve
Him



I Believe in:—

God the Father Almighty,
Maker of Heaven and Earth.

God came to us

Jesus Christ
is the
Son of God.

He came to
win us
back to God.



I believe in:—

Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

Jesus Christ, Son of God,

Was born in
this world of
the Virgin Mary,
a human Mother.

So He became
Man
as well as
God.



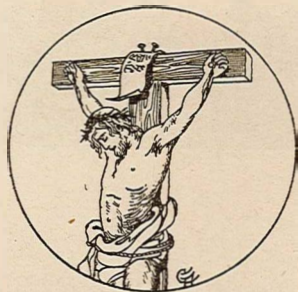
Jesus Christ

Was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary.

Jesus Christ
gave Himself

To GOD

Loving and
serving Him,
though men
killed Him
for it.
Offering
even His
life
to God.



Jesus Christ is my Saviour.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.

To MEN

Loving and
serving them
even when
they
crucified Him.
Offering His
life
for them.

Jesus Christ won

His battle with Sin and Death.

He rose from
the dead.

He is alive
for evermore.



Jesus conquered sin for me,

Jesus can conquer sin in me.

Jesus rose to life again for me,

Jesus opens the gate of life to me.

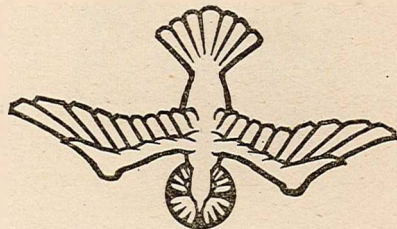
God comes to help us.

We
need
help.

God comes to help and
strengthen us, as Jesus
promised.

God
knows
our
need.

This power of God
within us is
the Holy Spirit.



I Believe in the Holy Ghost.

THE HOLY TRINITY

God the Father
God the Son
God the Holy Spirit } are not three separate different
Gods.

The One Great God has shown Himself to men in
these three wonderful ways.

When we speak of God from our complete knowledge
of Him as Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier we use
the simple name "God" or the name "Holy Trinity"
which means Three and yet One.

This is a mystery we cannot fully explain.

S. Patrick used a shamrock to remind people of this
great mystery. (Like our clover-leaf).

Remember also a lantern with coloured glasses in
it. One great light shining out in different ways. Or
water, ice, and snow, three things different and yet the
same. But most of all the prayer on the next page
will help you.

PRAYER TO GOD, THE BLESSED TRINITY

O GOD the Father, who didst create me and all the
world,
Help me to love Thee.

O God the Son, who didst redeem me and all mankind,
Help me to love Thee.

O God the Holy Spirit, who sanctifiest me and all
the elect people of God,
Help me to love Thee.

O Holy, Blessed and Glorious Trinity, Three Persons
in One God.
Help me to love and serve Thee,

Amen

REVIEW LESSON. THE STORY OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

1. God the Father made me and all the world.
 - a. He made it good, and gave men the gift of Spiritual Life.
 - b. Men spoiled His world and lost His gift of life by SIN.
2. God the Son redeemed me and all mankind.
 - a. He brought new life into the world for men.
 - b. He offers that new life to me.
3. God the Holy Spirit sanctifies me and all the elect people of God.

(That is, He strengthens and feeds that new life in me. As the new life gets stronger in us we are "being sanctified.")

His goodness continues today.

Through His Church He offers us:—

The Bible—The life of Prayer—The Sacraments.

In these He gives His gifts to me.

GOD TEACHES US

The first four Commandments teach our duty to God.

The last six Commandments teach our duty to men.

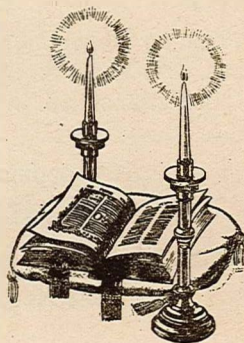
They are written in the twentieth chapter of the Book Exodus, in the Bible, verses one to seventeen.

Jesus summed them up when He said:

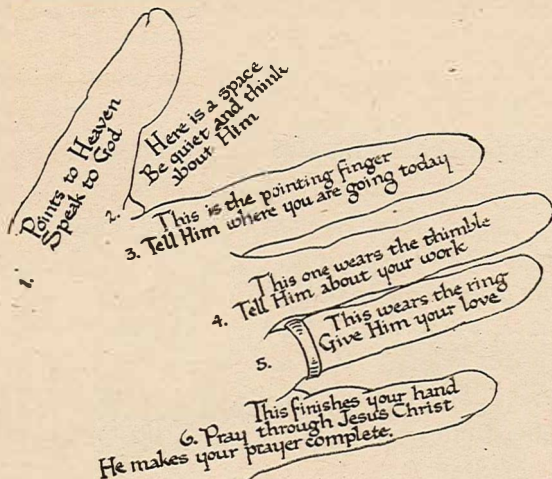
“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind and with all thy strength: This is the first commandment,

And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”

Mark 12, verses 30-31.



A Pattern for Morning Prayer



At night-time point 3 at yourself. Tell God where you have been. Ask forgiveness for your sins. Ask Him to take care of you all night.

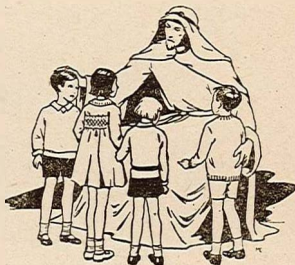
PRAYER: ONE WAY GOD HELPS US

God loves us and wants us to talk to Him about all things.

God wants to speak to us.

This friendship with God we call Prayer.

Jesus taught us to pray and gave us the beautiful prayer which we call The Lord's Prayer. Use it often, say it slowly and thoughtfully.



It is the great prayer of the Christian Family, the Church. Notice that it does not say *My* Father but *Our* Father. It is not just a prayer for me but for us. When we use it we pray for the whole Christian Family.

MEDITATION. THINKING ABOUT GOD (A kind of prayer)

1. Read a passage from the Bible.
2. Think about it. Try to have a picture of it in your mind.
3. Learn a lesson for yourself from it.
4. Make a good resolution to go and do some good deed because of what you have learned.
5. Thank God. Go and do the deed.

DO NOT TRY TO HURRY. GIVE
GOD A CHANCE TO LEAD YOUR
THOUGHTS.

This is sometimes called "The Holy Ladder." By it God comes down to you and you climb up to Him.



Learning to see with the eyes of Jesus.
Learning to hear with the ears of Jesus.

A great many people go through this life as though they were blindfolded. They miss the best things.

Jesus lived with His eyes open to see the love of God in every good thing round about Him.

Jesus lived with His ears open to hear the voice of God telling Him about the Father's plans for the world.

You will find the whole world different and so much more wonderful if you learn to see and hear Jesus.

Never forget you live in a world God made, with a Heavenly Father who loves you.



THE SACRAMENTS: ANOTHER WAY GOD HELPS US

“A Sacrament is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace.”

All through our life we use outward signs that people can see to express inward things which they cannot see. We shake hands, raise our hats, etc., to convey the friendship, love and respect, that is in our hearts.

God has chosen some outward things that we can see and feel to help us receive spiritual gifts that we cannot see with our eyes.

| | | |
|----------------------|---|--|
| In Baptism | He uses Water and the Name of the Trinity | To give us forgiveness and new life. |
| In Holy Communion | He uses Bread and Wine | To give us Spiritual Food. |

SPECIAL HELP FOR SPECIAL TIMES

There are five other sacramental acts the Church has given us to help us

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Penance | For forgiveness | When we are in sin. |
| 2. Confirmation | For the gift of the Holy Spirit | When we want to serve God. |
| 3. Holy Unction | For the healing of Soul and Body. | When we are sick. |
| 4. Holy Matrimony | To help us | When we marry. |
| 5. Holy Orders | For grace and authority | To serve as Deacons, Priests and Bishops. |

These are precious helps, freely offered to humble people. Through them all shines the love of God who wants to help His children.

CONFIRMATION

(Being made strong by God's Holy Spirit)

In the Bible we read that when people had been made the children of God by Baptism the Apostles came and laid their hands upon their heads and they received the Holy Spirit.

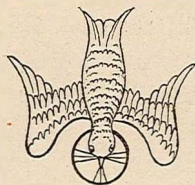
Read about this in the eighth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles.

The Bishop comes and lays his hands upon us and prays for us and we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

This is God's gift to us.

He gave us new life in our Baptism.

He wants to give us strength in Confirmation.



USING THE GIFT

The Bishop at our Confirmation prays that we may
“ Daily increase in God’s Holy Spirit more and more.”

It is only if we use God’s gift that He can become stronger and stronger in us. The life with the Holy Spirit is a life of growth. Growing more like Jesus.



The Saints are all examples of men and women who have used God’s gift and grown in the power of the Holy Spirit.

They were the ordinary people.

They received the Holy Spirit.

They became Christ-like people.

God gives us His wonderful gift so that we may do the same. (No gift has any value till it is used.)

HOLY COMMUNION. THE LORD’S OWN SERVICE

a. A Remembrance

The Jews had a service called the Passover.

In this they remembered the goodness of God who delivered them from slavery in Egypt.

The night before Jesus was crucified He arranged a Last Supper with His disciples and instead of following the Passover service He gave them a new service in remembrance of their deliverance from the slavery of sin and death. In it we remember, and show forth to God and to men Jesus and all He did for us.

He said “ Do this in remembrance of Me.”

We gladly and thankfully obey His command.



HOLY COMMUNION. THE LORD'S OWN SERVICE

b. A Communion

Jesus took bread and broke it and said,
"This is My body which is broken for you";
"Do this in remembrance of Me." He gave each
one a piece.

Jesus took the Cup of wine and blessed and said
"This is My blood which is shed for you and for
many for the remission of sins. Drink ye all of this."

Just as ordinary food strengthens our bodies so in
Holy Communion Jesus Himself comes to feed our
spiritual life.

We receive not just bread and wine but a Holy
Sacrament through which He gives Himself to us.
We are made one with Him.

The Altar is the meeting place of Jesus and those He
loves. We humbly meet Him, and receive Him.

HOLY COMMUNION. THE LORD'S OWN SERVICE

c. A Sacrifice

Just as in our prayers we say to God the Father,
"We only come to You through the love of Christ
and His work as our Redeemer," so in this service we
say to God by the actions Jesus gave us, "Do not
look at our unworthiness but look what Jesus did for
us."

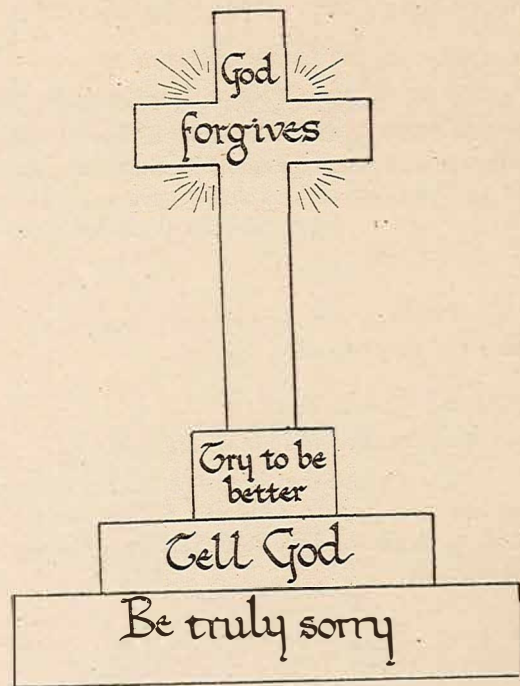
Jesus gave Himself for us in deeds of love and kind-
ness and His very life upon the Cross.

We have remembered all of this.

We have received His life within ourselves.

Now we give that life in us, taking our place
by the side of Jesus, to God the Father and to all
mankind in deeds of love and Service. No matter
what it costs us.

"Here we offer and present unto Thee, ourselves,
our souls and bodies, to be a living sacrifice."



When I have sinned:—
Three steps I climb, that take me back to God.

JESUS CALLS US TO HIS SERVICE

Jesus does not ask us to serve Him by ourselves. We are to be members of His Church. The fellowship of those He has redeemed.

He does not ask us to serve in our strength. He offers us all we need for our life and work.

Read Hebrews 11, verse 32 to 12, verse 2.

We are members of a great fellowship. Thousands of people of every country, in every age, have accepted God's love and help and served Him well. They have fought the good fight in their day. Now they watch us to see how we will carry on.

Seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses—God—with His Holy Angels—and the spirits of just men made perfect—Let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our Faith.

“Be thou faithful unto death.”

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