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A Thought for Lent: Memory Files

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NO. I

A THOUGHT FOR LENT

MEMORY FILES

"What a gloomy, unattractive thing you are, File, standing stiffly in your metal case. In offices and schools, you may be helpful, but your best friend would not call you beautiful."

"Have you forgotten your Scripture, Sir? Our beauty, like that of the queen's daughter, is within. Order is heaven's first law and one of the prime requisites of beauty, and you must admit that we put order into business, into correspondence, into memoranda."

"Why do you echo memoranda?" I asked. "Everybody knows that particular work of the Files."

"Pardon me, sir," said File, "you compliment everybody. Of course, we Files act as social secretaries. If I may be permitted to become personal, how about your memoranda? The Memory Files are the noblest in our fam-

ily. Please look up *A* and see if your highest aspirations and due apologies are recorded. Under *B*, what benefits for which thanks must be given, and what good books to read? Under *C*, is Church represented and cautions to be observed. *D* will remind you of duties and soul debts for which heaven is dunning you. *E* should register experiences from errors made and traced to their causes. *F* should have fewer faults to avoid and more favors to confer. Under *G*, put hundreds of graces but no grudges. Under—"

"Wait a minute, File. The alphabet is long, and you have already given me memoranda enough for life. That reminds me! The angels one day will examine my Files. Then I shall be grateful to you."

—FRANCIS P. DONNELLY, S.J.