

The Price You Pay for the Modern Girl.

III.

Chesterton has a good line in his Forum article on Catholicism: "It is the only thing that frees a man from the degrading slavery of being a child of his age."

What a pity it is that the Sophomore Mind (which exists in children whether of five or eighty-five years) cannot conceive the blessing of liberty that lies in the soundness of Catholic dogma. Pagan philosophies change with the moon: Catholic doctrine goes on forever. Chesterton continues: "When the world went Puritan in the seventeenth century, the Church was charged with pushing charity to the point of sophistry, with making everything easy with the laxity of the confessional. Now that the world is not going Puritan but Pagan, it is the Church that is everywhere protesting against a Pagan laxity in dress and manners."

What does this mean in round numbers at Notre Dame? For a generation and more, secular universities have broken down moral concepts inherited from Christian revelation, and the present body of students of these universities conclude that there is no such thing as sin, and act according to that conclusion. And stupid sheep come to Notre Dame with the idea that if it's done at Yale it's the thing to do. "Collegiate" is the thing to be.

A student reports that during the Christmas holidays he had an argument with a Catholic young man who stated rather vulgarly that in the Catholic Church the function of woman is merely motherhood! Merely? God save the mark! God made woman because it was not good for man to be alone; and He said to the man and woman, "Increase and multiply and fill the earth;" and when woman is brave enough to bear the burden God placed on her, things go well with her and with the world.

What else is woman in the Catholic concept besides a wife and mother? That were function enough if well fulfilled; but since the day when the Church followed the example of God in honoring Mary as Virgin and Mother, woman has come into her own -- from the degradation into which paganism had plunged her -- and the noblest aspirations of the human heart have been evoked by her.

What does Notre Dame think of woman? Look over the windows in the Sacred Heart Church. You will find there more women Saints than men. Who but the Catholic Church, after the example of Christ, would raise a repentant woman to the altars of the Church? After Our Blessed Mother, St. Mary Magdalene leads the list. Come then St. Martha, her sister, a model housekeeper; St. Helena, mother of Constantine, who obtained from her son the liberty of the Church; St. Elizabeth, mother of St. John Baptist; the indefatigable St. Theresa, who ranks as a Doctor of the Church for her common-sense mystical theology; St. Clare, foundress of the Poor Clares, who turned back the Saracens from Assisi; St. Angela, who gave us the teaching Ursulines; and St. Rose of Lima, the first flower of sanctity in the New World.

Elizabeth, the Queen; Catherine, the philosopher; Cecilia, the noble; Genevieve, the shepherdess; -- the windows of your Church tell you what the Catholic Church thinks of womanhood; she holds it up to men for their inspiration. This you would trade for the pagan flapper? God forbid!

PRAYERS: Sick - John McSorley's Mother and sister, three other sick persons.
Deceased - two relatives of a student, the brother of an alumnus
Three special intentions.