
Questionnaires.

If there are no questionnaires on the mail table in your hall please call at 141 Sorin for a new supply. The ones sent home to the folks, to the girl, and to the old high school make heavy inroads. There are enough for all purposes; having them about suggests filling them out.

The Internal Impetus.

The first benefit from filling out the questionnaire comes to the student who does it. For the past eight years it has happened each year that many students after writing out their answers -- and facing themselves frankly for the first time -- have come in for a complete overhauling. And looking back over these years we can recall many cases in which this process marked a turning point in the life of the student.

How Can An Atheist Trust a Priest?

"My girl is an atheist but a logical thinker," said a student on his questionnaire a few years ago. The lad was spoofing, of course, either consciously or unconsciously, but he was stating the one thing that an atheist is not.

Now it can easily be admitted that there are many Grade E brains that cannot follow a third or fourth premise and are consequently atheists because of defective intelligence, but the case of the two-bit atheist we find now and then at Notre Dame is different. He should at least be able to see a dilemma. Here it is:

If the Catholic Church is not the true Church then priests are either the very dumb or the greatest knaves in the world. Certainly a man of sufficient intelligence to make the college entrance requirements would hardly admit that they are dumb if he comes to them for instruction in Advertising, Algebra, Astronomy, and everything else down to Zoology. Consequently he must believe they are knaves, for he knows that they have specialized in Religion, and should know more about that than they do about any secular science. And if knaves they must be very dangerous knaves, because the more the crook knows the more dangerous he is.

Of course, they don't believe anything of the kind, and their atheism, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, is simply a defense mechanism to offset their fear of confession.

Questions.

40. What does Notre Dame really aim to give the student, and why?

Ans. Read the foreword to the recent Religious Survey (the Seventh).

41. Was Adam the first man, or were there other creatures made in the image and likeness of God before Adam?

Ans. Adam was the first man. This is revealed. It is bound up with the doctrine of original sin.

42. Why do we get so much religion in the History of Western Europe? I'm sick of it.

Ans. Because the History of Western Europe is the story of the cauterizing of a decadent civilization and the taming of barbarians, and the Catholic Church was the agency that performed both feats. Take religion out of that history and you have nothing left but dissolute banquets and some skull-cracking contests between Goths and Huns.

43. Can we be saved if we miss our vocation?

Ans. Much could be written on what constitutes a vocation. If you follow out your natural inclinations in a spirit of conformity to the will of God, and cultivate the talent God gives, be assured that His grace will not be lacking.