
Catholic Men The Hope of the Nation.

From yesterday's Chicago Tribune we take the following summary of Cardinal Mundelein's masterful address before Wednesday night's sessions of the Eucharistic Congress at Omaha:

Cardinal Mundelein lamented the neo-paganism of the modern world and asserted that the greatest influence for moral and Christian goodness is the force of example of the Catholic men of today. "A generation or two ago," he said, "the majority of the American people were believers; they clung to certain fundamental truths as necessary to salvation; but today even the preachers in the pulpit are shedding these one by one, like coverings that hamper their freedom. Revealed religion is receding into the dim distance; its place is being taken by an appeal to sentimentality on one hand or to rationalism on the other.

"As for morality, the alarming multiplication of divorces, the public approval given to the destructive birth control propoganda, the debased condition of the stage and of modern literature -- all of this is sufficient indication of a decidedly lowered tone of morality in the last few decades."

Cardinal Mundelein then contrasted this decline of morality outside the Church with the inner growth of Catholic life in Catholic men, calling attention to the fact that nowadays there are more men attending Mass than ever before, that the parochial schools are filled with children, that there are more vocations to the priesthood than ever before. These effects, which are plainly visible, the Cardinal traced to their supernatural source, the decrees of Pope Pius X on early Communion for little children, and frequent Communion for all Catholics.

The effect of frequent Communion is to strengthen the spiritual fibre of the Christian and render him impervious to the attacks of the enemy of souls. "Had we continued along the lines of wooden Christianity, with Holy Communion at Easter time and little more, how poorly we would have been equipped to meet the multiplied temptations of our day."

Cardinal Mundelein said that the example of Catholic men is sure to exert a powerful influence for good on those about them. "It means that history will repeat itself -- that just as in the first ages of the Church the example of the lives of the early Christians brought more converts than did the preaching of the Apostles, so, too, in this world of neo-paganism in which we live, the edifying life of you men as individuals, the evident influence of a supernatural influence showing forth in you as a body, will make others think, will attract them and induce them to seek the reason and cause of that peace and contentment they see in you. It is the secret and dearest wish of every good Christian to bring some soul to God, and I can assure you that there is no better, no surer way than by the force of example of the Catholic man of today."

This admirable exposition of your duty as active apologists for the faith fits in beautifully with your Mission of this week and next. It should bear fruit in a resolution to be - for the sake of others as well as for your own sake -- the right kind of a Notre Dame man, a daily communicant whose life is in harmony with such a practice.

Prayers.

Vincent Burke's father is quite ill. Three deceased persons; three special intentions. (Intentions for the Novena to the Little Flower may still be left in the box at the pamphlet rack.)

Lost: a wallet. It may be returned to the loser through the Prefect of Religion.