
The "Weaknesses" of the Catholic Church. II.

"Regarding the relation of the Church to the State,..... the attitude of the Church came as a result of its belief that there are two governing bodies in the world, the Church and the State, and as the former looks after the spiritual needs while the latter deals only with material things, the Church, having the major interest, should have precedence in conflicting situations, and have the right of decision."

Reply. - To make a point of this, Mr. Moore will have to prove that a man's body is more important than his soul, and that should be hard to do for a secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association, for it would be a repudiation of the whole of Christ's life and teaching - it would leave them meaningless - utter folly.

Now if Mr. Moore had looked a little deeper into the propositions he laid down, he could have conceived an entirely different view of the strength and weakness of the Catholic Church. He found that it has existed for twenty centuries.... therefore it must have known Christ.... and since Christ was God and promised that His Church should not fail it must have been founded by Christ..... and its strength must lie in its Divinity.

And the weakness of the Church lies in its human members - twenty millions of them in this country. Christ said that He "came to call not the just, but sinners to repentance." Therefore a necessary mark of the true Church is that it hold in its bosom the weak, sinful sons of Adam. That it disposes of the means Christ gave it for the sanctification of sinners is evident from the galaxy of saints who have shown us how to live, many of them penitents who have shown us how to come back to God. But this Church must have its weaknesses as long as there are sinners left in the world.

Lax Catholics are entitled to no comfort from the fact that they are a necessary mark of the Church of Christ: the graces they reject will rise to accuse them at the Last Judgment, and theirs will be the greater torment. But when the outsider looks at the Catholic Church, let him not be scandalized that there should be bad Catholics.

The Grippers' Corner.

"Sophomore": 1) Notre Dame takes her football seriously because it is a man's game; she took it seriously for thirty-five years when it was a liability instead of an asset financially, just as she took her art seriously when she unyoked the oxen to pay for paintings. 2) An inkling of what the Bulletin will say if we have another 1928 season may be gleaned from the Bulletin of 1928; the bound volume is in the library. 3) The spiritual mission of Notre Dame football is discussed in the introduction to the Religious Survey issued last spring.

"Thirty-seven Bucks": Your silence makes you accessory to the theft and to the situation the University is trying to correct. Your letter has gone to the Prefect of Discipline; if you will lay the facts before him he will see that your property is returned.

"Can't Take It": You have an appeal from the corrector to the professor, from the professor to the dean, from the dean to the director of studies, and from him to the president. If there is any injustice, the University will not tolerate it, but it cannot right wrongs of which it is in ignorance.

"Bozo's Brother": Save your excuses for the Last Judgment. You are answerable to God for missing Mass on Sunday. And if you want the Last Sacraments, better hear Mass. Murderers, thieves, adulterers, drunkards, often get a break on this - but not the men who miss Mass or eat meat on Friday. That's the common experience of priests.

PRAYERS: Vincent O'Neil's father is ill. A deceased friend of a student. It is Vince Turley, not Prof. Terley, who is ill in St. Joseph's Hospital. The mother of Paul Ryan, an alumnus, is gravely ill. Four special intentions. Mass Friday, 6:25, Scrin, for Bob Rohrbach's father (For. Comm. Club).