
An Alumnus Goes Dead On His Feet.

"Dear Father: Your November 8th Bulletin was headed, "'How Can People Be So Dumb?'" Down in the fifth paragraph you state:

"The Home. How many Catholic men entering matrimony regard the soul of the woman they choose for a life partner? Most of them, no doubt, but if even at Notre Dame we find Catholic boys ignoring this important matter in the choice of girl companions, what can be expected of the less privileged. Intoxicated by the sight of a pretty face - even though it be kalsomined - they forget that the future guardian of the faith and morals of their offspring must have spiritual qualities of sound endurance if she is to show them how to save their souls. Mixed marriage is, of course, often the root evil when the children have no religious training."

"If you mean exactly that, then anyone that is not a Catholic is an evil influence and someone to be avoided lest they drag us on the wrong road. If that is the Catholic attitude then Catholics are as prejudiced and narrow-minded as many of the bigots are towards us. The mere fact that some of the Notre Dame boys go out with non-Catholic girls, in my mind, is nothing wrong in itself. If you contend that it is, then you must not be the least bit interested in converting people to the faith...."

There is more from this alumnus, but it adds nothing that is important to a discussion of the principles involved. He acknowledges that the problem is a personal one, and is so earnest about it that he permits the use of his name in a Bulletin reply. (Quite naturally we will not avail ourselves of this permission.)

Catholics courting non-Catholics have a tendency to see red whenever mixed marriage is mentioned. If this alumnus had not lost his temper over the statement of a very obvious fact regarding such marriages, he would have finished reading the Bulletin before writing his letter. And he would have read the following remarks:

".... Thank God, non-Catholics are beginning to question the wisdom of this Godless education against which Catholics have protested in a very practical way for the past hundred years, but we still have a fearful score to pay before we check the criminality let loose by a century of godlessness.

"... In estimating Catholic life we must never lose sight of the fact that in this country we are outnumbered four to one; that is, for every Catholic there are four non-Catholics. This does not mean, of course, that all non-Catholics are evil influences working against our moral and spiritual life - God forbid - but it does mean that against the Catholic ideas and ideals implanted by the Catholic home and school there are many potential evil influences wearing down the standards of the weak. Even Catholics of excellent background succumb at times to the false standards of the worst elements of their environment...."

The attitude of the Bulletin towards non-Catholics in good faith is so well understood that perhaps the most ardent fans on our mailing list are not of the faith. It is so well understood that when we make reference to non-Catholics we do not consider it necessary to add in a footnote what we have said many times, that good non-Catholics make us ashamed of ourselves by the beautiful lives they lead - without all the helps the Sacraments give to Catholics. We try our best to follow the example of Our Lord, Who never temporized with error, although He was kindness itself to those in error. -- But with the Catholic Church we must always point out that a non-Catholic mother is not equipped as a rule to make good Catholics out of your children. Experience bears out this a priori judgment; if you don't believe it, read the testimony of your fellow-alumni in the Religious Survey of the Alumni.