

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
January 24, 1933

Cardinal Newman On The Same Subject.

There was a heavy demand for extra copies of last Thursday's Bulletin, "Why We Pray For Conversions." (There is a new supply at the rack.) This leads us to believe that you may be interested in what Cardinal Newman had to say - ever so gracefully - on the same subject. (Cardinal Newman, as you should know, was an Anglican clergyman at Oxford who became the most famous convert of the nineteenth century.) In his sermon, "Prospects of the Catholic Missioner," he addresses himself thus to the non-Catholics in his audience:

"O, my dear brethren, if any be here present to whom these remarks more or less apply, do us not the injustice to think that we aim at your conversion except for your own sake alone. What good would you be to us? A charge and a responsibility. From my heart I say it, you relieve us from care and anxiety by remaining where you are; were I actuated by any selfish policy, I should be well content to leave you in your error. But I cannot bear to think that pious, religious hearts, on which the grace of God has been so singularly shed, who so befit conversion, who are intended for heaven, should be relapsing into mortal sin, and losing a prize which once was within their reach.

"I will not believe that you will always disappoint the yearning hopes of those who love you so much in the recollections of the past. Dies venit, dies Tua, the day shall come, though it may tarry, and we will in patience wait for it. Still the truth must be spoken, and the rule of God's dealings magnified; - we do not need you, but you need us; it is not we who shall be baffled if we cannot gain you, but you who will come short, if you be not gained.

"Remain, then, in the barrenness of your feelings, and the decay of your love, and the perplexity of your reason, if you will not be converted. Alas, there is work enough to do, less troublesome, less anxious, than the care of your souls. There are thousands of sinners to be reconciled, of the young to be watched over, of the devout to be consoled. God needs not worshippers; He needs not objects for His mercy; He can do without you; He can of the very stones raise children to Abraham; He offers His benefits and passes on; He delays not; He offers once, not twice or thrice; He goes on to others; He turns to the Gentiles; He turns to open sinners; He refuses the well-conducted for the outcast; 'He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He hath sent empty away.'"

"He Goes On To Others."

It ill befits the Bulletin to onlarge upon a thought of Newman, but a lowly illustration from your daily experience may help to drive home the point that the graces you reject are given to others. Where sophomores dwell - or seniors mayhap - one may find a dozen or two copies of the Bulletin lying in the corridor, unread. But from the mailing room of the Bulletin 1200 copies are sent out daily all over the world to others who have asked for them - Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Some 200 of these are sent to schools where they are posted on the bulletin board or used in religion classes. Perhaps the Bulletin is a crude "grace", but it is your medium of instruction, and what you reject God gives to others - as ever.

The Dillon Chapel Comes Out Of Obscurity.

Six times so far this month the number of late Communions in the Dillon Hall chapel has reached a new high. If examinations were held oftener the whole school would come to learn of its facilities. The record-breaking days and their totals are as follows: Jan. 6 - 192.... 10 - 199.... 12 - 218.... 19 - 226.... 20 - 247.... 23 - 280
PRAYERS: A friend of the University is critically ill. Three special intentions. Another thanksgiving (the fifth) for a favor granted through the Depression Novena.