
"Most People Are Other People."

That is the way a distinguished member of the hierarchy epitomizes the truth that most people think other people's thoughts, do other people's deeds, wear other people's clothes, live other people's lives.

Isn't it the truth? How much originality is there in the world? Not a great deal, when you shake it all down. And this age, which prides itself on originality, on "being different," has less originality of thought than most ages that we can recall from our knowledge of history. Why? Because this age has no use for history, and hence can not spot an ancient heresy when it reappears. And because this age is characterized by a conspiracy against thought.

What is the "originality" on which this age prides itself? The age-old practice of rebellion against convention. Have you noticed what it did to art? It brought jazz out of the African jungle, it imported free verse from the kindergarten, cubism from the steppes of Russia (the Russian hordes are half-civilized, of course; they wear overcoats). How original is the agnosticism of Darrow? the Hallaluja emotionalism of Aimee Semple McPherson? the filthy literature of the sewer school?

Originality, to be something, must be based on truth. The man who discovers some new truth hidden in an old truth has contributed to civilization, to culture. Such men are rare, and most of them, curiously enough, have "Saint" prefixed to their names.

Come back, then, to our original proposition: Most people are other people. "Best brains" are rare. Most of us will go through life following patterns. We have to do it; we might as well be content with our lot. But there is no reason why we should not follow the best patterns. If we are going to be other people, why not be the best people.

Here, then, is a field for originality in this day and age. Find the truth wherever it lies, find the greatest amount of it we can, and conform our lives to it. The originality in the process is quite relative, of course; a better word is singularity. The popular thing nowadays is to find all the error one can, and conform to that; the world is stuffed with people who, in being other people, insist on being the worst people instead of the best.

Where find truth? A good place to look for it is in the Catholic Church, "the pillar and ground of Truth." It holds intact all the revelation God gave to man, plus all the sound thought of the ancient philosophers - of whatever school of thought. It respects history - it doesn't feel that it has to repeat other people's mistakes in order to know what's wrong; it even respects experience - it doesn't have to repeat its own mistakes.

When the Catholic Church tells you something is wrong, you can save yourself headaches and brown tastes and burnt fingers by taking her word for it that it is wrong. When she tells you, "This do, and thou shalt find life everlasting," go ahead and do it. And it isn't because three hundred million people can't be wrong that this is so; it is because Christ said to the Church: "Go ye into the whole world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be condemned."

PRAYERS: Deceased - an uncle of John Yeiser; a friend. Art McGee, '31, underwent an operation for appendicitis this week; a brother of Harold Weinand is very ill; an aunt of Tom Graves is ill. Three special intentions; three thanksgivings (one of them is No. 11 from the Depression Novena). The 7:00 Mass Sunday will be offered for the repose of the soul of Ted Scholzen, '32.