

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 15, 1933

Lenten Devotions.

The President of the University, Father O'Donnell, will preach at 7:00 this evening; his subject will be, "Our Enemy, the Devil." At 7:45, Father Clancy will continue his series of Lenten sermons.

The Family Tree of "Original Thinking."

If your girl friend in the freshman class at the University of Boloney has written that she has evolved some original ideas on the Son of God, you will be interested in a short article by Father Carroll in the current issue of The Ave Maria. The article bears the appropriate title, "Speaking of Rackets." We quote a section of biting sarcasm:

An exchange professor, heralded as ultra extreme in scripture criticism, from a well-known university, serves for some months at another well-known university. While acting vicariously he gives a highly technical lecture to deans, professors, associate and assistant professors, instructors, fellows, and invited guests. And he says: "My own mature thought on the subject of Jesus - and the most recent scientific findings are in accord - is that Jesus had the God complex. Alexander had the world-ruler complex; Napoleon had the Emperor-of-a-United-States-of-Europe complex. Jesus had the complex of Godsonship."

Sensation. Gasps. Truth at last!

"My own thought" - declares the associate professor of History of Economic Growth next morning to his mixed juniors - "on the person of Jesus Christ, supported by the latest scientific investigation, is that Jesus had the God complex. Alexander dreamed of world empire, Napoleon of a United Europe. Jesus had the ego of Godsonship." The boys and girls bottled this new vintage for future consumption.

One of them - a young man from a farm in Kansas - delivered an address to a group of freshman intellectuals who belonged to a society for sex study. "My own idea" - says Kansas - "on Jesus, supported by the facts in the case, is that Jesus had the God complex. Alexander dreamed of beating the world, Napoleon of a United Europe Jesus had the complex of Godsonship."

One freshman intellectual who heard this wind from Kansas told a group of girls at the freshman hop, through clouds of cigarette incense, "My own notion of Jesus is that He had a God complex, like Alexander and Napoleon. Yea, He had a God complex. Yea, that's my idea. He had the complex of Godsonship."

A chic listener said out loud, "Say, kid, that's my mental reaction, too. Sonny Boy, let's have the flask."

The process of "explaining away" the Son of God began with the Pharisees of His time, who attributed His miracles to "Beelzebub, the prince of devils." As between the Pharisees and the present generation of scoffers, we rather favor the Pharisees for brains. At least they recognized the facts as supernatural and didn't attempt to "naturalize" what went against the grain.

PRAYERS: Russell O'Shea's condition continues critical; complications prevented an operation this morning. Deceased: a brother of Dr. Keady, '20; three friends of students. Ill: an infant daughter of Clarence Bunce, '25; Joe Cahill, of Freshman Hall (in the hospital); Robert Primmer's mother; the mother of Frank and Richard Moody, alumni; three Holy Cross Sisters. Four special intentions.