

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
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"Shock Troops of Catholic Action."

We appreciate this laudatory editorial from America:

"Good news comes from Notre Dame, a perennial source of good news. According to the annual religious survey, the students of the University maintain an admirably balanced attitude on the use of strong drink. Out of 933 students who answered a questionnaire, 394 thought that moderate drinking was perfectly proper, 116 reported that they never drank intoxicating beverages, 68 were of the opinion that temperance was a difficult virtue, 35 believed that any use of intoxicants was dangerous, and while 18 declared total abstinence to be 'foolish,' 35 held that it was 'advisable.' But the best index, perhaps, of Notre Dame thought and opinion on this important matter is the fact that nearly 1,000 students have signed total abstinence cards.

"We hope that all our colleges and universities will follow the example of Notre Dame in encouraging total abstinence. Any young man who contracts the habit of drinking, and by that we mean moderate drinking, has put himself under a handicap. It may do him no immediate harm, but it is always a source of danger, and it is difficult to see what good he can get from it. The generation now growing to manhood will have its drink problem to solve no less than the generation which grew to manhood ten years ago, when the evils of prohibition were rising to their height. An excellent beginning of a solution is total abstinence.

"Whatever our position on Federal Prohibition, or on any kind of legal prohibition, all Catholic fathers, mothers, and teachers feel safer about the future of the young man who from religious motives promises total abstinence than about the future of the moderate drinker. The total abstainer has learned to deny himself, and the habit of self-denial is an admirable safeguard. Like the fear of Hell, it will save when the love of virtue grows faint in the zero hour of temptation."

Will "all our colleges and universities follow the example of Notre Dame in encouraging total abstinence?" There is better chance of their doing so if we can raise that 33% to 50% or to 66%. Example did a great deal here in making a success of the campaign for the pledge: one motive proposed was, "to help other young people behave themselves." Catholic Action demands that we help our neighbor in this way.

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Shifting the scene from New York to the Rocky Mountains, we have a letter from the chancellor of a western diocese which says in part:

"Brownson Hall has several records at the University, but I believe that the action of that group, as noted in the Bulletin for March 28, is especially commendable and worthy of advertising. Too long, a spirit of apathy has existed among our educated Catholics of America. The action of this group in regard to the immoral movie situation, if followed out by more such united action, where abuses are creeping in or are already here, will no doubt be effective and will lead to other action along the same lines by other groups. May I offer a suggestion? Why not write energetic notes of protest to the 'prominent novelists' who step over the bounds of decency in their best sellers? I took the liberty of sending your quotations from The Bookman to the editor of The Register. The tendencies mentioned there are actually challenging Christianity."

The Bulletin to which reference is made appears in this week's Register. When may we announce that all the halls have signed protests against unclean shows, and have made their protests effective by staying away from improper performances? Let's see what Holy Year means to you. The producers act on the belief that you are fundamentally corrupt; we are appealing to you as fundamentally decent. If the producers are right, we stand corrected.