

Third Sunday:
Mass of Exposition
Bengal Collection

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
May 19, 1933

Novena for exams
begins tomorrow

Choose Your School Wisely. II.

Education at Notre Dame is primarily moral. That doesn't set well with some people. The basis of moral education at Notre Dame (the foundation of Christian morality) is the Ten Commandments. These are rejected by the Individualists. For the protection of the student in keeping the Commandments we use discipline, and to strengthen his will for this supernatural action we use, as fully as possible, the Sacramental system of the Catholic Church. Individualists don't like discipline, and people who reject the Ten Commandments also reject the Sacraments.

Individualism reaches its peak at age 19. A recent report of the United States Bureau of Investigations showed that the number of persons arrested who were 19 years of age has exceeded the number arrested for any other age group. (The study covers 80,000 arrests, between January 31, 1932 and March 31, 1933.) Forty per cent of the criminals in the United States are under 25 years of age, according to this same report. This suggests that college students are at the "crime age," if there is such a thing, and it calls upon them to make a choice. Criminals are individualists par excellence. If you want to be an individualist, choose a school where individualism is the order of the day, where the Ten Commandments are taboo.

Is it fair thus to lump the criminal class and the individualistic professors? Why not? The professor who objects to the Ten Commandments may keep the last Seven very satisfactorily - as a humanist or a utilitarian or humanitarian or what-not - but he has cut the ground from under the feet of the criminal who objects to the Ten Commandments in a practical way. The fear of hell kept many a man straight in an earlier generation; the popular denial of hell has been followed by a frightful rise in the crime rate.

It isn't that the criminals have gone to college. No, it was the newspaper men who sat at the feet of the individualist professors and went out to create an atmosphere of agnosticism in the press. It was the ministers who went to college and went out to soft-pedal such doctrines as the divinity of Christ and the existence of hell. It was the novelists who went to college and then proceeded to paint a picture of carnal joy and successful brigandage. The atmosphere, once created, settled on the lower levels of society and anesthetized the moral sense.

(The college men in prison, in case you are interested, are there largely for crimes of theft, forgery, "blue sky" operations, confidence games, and other sins against the Seventh Commandment - the "respectable" sins.)

What are the prospects for moral education outside the Catholic schools? Well, a few days ago the Bulletin gave you the report of the Cincinnati Enquirer on the results of the Cincinnati meeting of the Religious Education Association. This report showed that 200 of the "most prominent" workers in the field would not define the term, "religious education." There is a popular demand for more of it, whatever it is; what are specific schools doing to fill the need?

The University of Chicago last Sunday announced a new dean of the Divinity School. He is Professor Shirley Jackson Case, the author of nine volumes on "early Christian history." In the last volume of his we noticed (January, 1932), Dr. Case informed us that "creative religious living must strive not to imitate, but to transcend all past and present standards, not even excepting the example and precepts of Jesus." How much do the Ten Commandments mean to a Divinity Dean who urges us to transcend "the example and precepts of Jesus?" Dr. Case has the approval of the Baptist Theological Union, and the Amen of the board of trustees, but we can't get excited over his transcendent religion. We wonder what appeal it will have to "age 19,"

PRAYERS: Jim. M. Healy, of the '30s (Fr. Healy's uncle), killed in an auto accident.