

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
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Bachelors All?

A glance at the register of Holy Communions for Saturday leaves the impression that you are not interested in the Hovenas for a Happy Marriage. Well, if she burns the beans and waters the soup and tears the buttons off your shirt, after all, they're your beans and your soup and your shirt. If you can take it, Notre Dame isn't going to worry about it. But don't come back and weep on the shoulder of Alma Mater when the party gets rough. We can't do anything more than warn you.

85,000 Poverty-Stricken Churches.

From a report of the Institute of Social and Religious Research (via the Literary Digest) we gather the following facts about the decline of Protestantism:

1. There are 85,000 "poverty-stricken" churches in this country;
2. There is an oversupply of between 40,000 and 50,000 pastors;
3. The educational level of the Protestant ministry has been steadily declining, so that at present less than 30% of the ministers have both college and seminary training, and these 70% of ill-prepared ministers are serving 50% of the white Protestant churches and 25 to 30% of the white Protestant membership.
4. Even before the depression the average annual salary of a minister was only \$1,407.

While the "average annual salary" of \$1,407 is probably three times the average for priests, it is certainly not an inviting figure for a married minister. A report several years ago stated that there was a great oversupply of applicants for Protestant parishes paying \$5,000 a year or more, and an undersupply of applicants for parishes paying \$1,800 or less.

To account for the oversupply of 40,000 or 50,000 ministers, the report states: "The most conspicuous loophole through which untrained men get into denominations that have high standards is by first getting ordained in a denomination with low standards and then transferring to the denomination of high standards." Nothing could indicate more strikingly than this passage the dropping of the barriers of dogma which used to separate denominations - and the consequent absence of dogmatic teaching in Protestant churches.

From the facts as here presented by official Protestant sources Catholics may deduce an explanation of two phenomena:

1. The perpetuation of anti-Catholic bigotry, based on the most impossible falsehoods, is largely due to the 70% of untrained ministers, many of whom have not even a high school education.
2. The infiltration of modernism among the ministers of the larger urban centers can be charged to the seminaries which train these men. Scripture study, which constitutes the major portion of the seminary course, has become purely rationalistic in most Protestant seminaries; hence the graduates come to their work lacking a belief in the Divinity of Christ, the immortality of the soul, the existence of hell, and so forth.

These conclusions, which seem warranted by the facts, make the picture for the future of Christianity outside the Catholic Church seem blacker than the report would indicate. The future presents two prospects, both bad; the "in-between" fundamentalists are becoming less articulate every day.

PRAYERS: Deceased - relatives of Leo Schiavone, 32, and Mike Weidl. Ill - Philip Clarke (appendectomy); V. Arcadi (mastoiditis); relatives of Wm. Klima, Mike Weidl, Joe Menger ('25), John Carr, Wm. Cannon ('33), Ted Huebsch (Ex-'28). 4 sp. ints.