
"Am I My Brother's Keeper?"

With these words Cain answered the Lord's inquiry, "Where is thy brother Abel?"

You, too, at the Last Judgment, may be asked a somewhat similar question. What has become of your roommate, your pal, your classmate? Are you accountable in one way or another for his spiritual downfall?

Look into yourself fairly. See whether by your example or by your lack of interest you have not in some way contributed to his downfall.

Our Lord said, "A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another." By this Our Lord did not mean sentimental love, but rather that we should be interested in our neighbor's spiritual and temporal welfare and happiness.

You are often in an excellent position to reach those who, for some reason or other, do not heed the admonitions of priests. And your cooperation will bring forth much fruit. And your indifference may cost some close friend the salvation of his soul.

For example, you see one of your friends do something wrong. You are not really his friend if you do not admonish him. You may answer, It is not my business. But it is not only your business, it is your duty to do so. Do you think you are to be a yes-man, a sickly smiler to your associates?

You can easily call the attention of a friend to his obligation of studying, of using time profitably. Wasting time, remember, failing to appreciate the sacrifices of parents, is a serious matter. It will be extremely serious to the student himself when he leaves school.

Another friend of yours may not know the way to the chapel. Bring him along with you. Show him that the chapel is not a place of horror but a haven of peace.

Another one may come from some place where Catholics are looked upon as poison ivy, where priests are strangers even to Catholics themselves. Invite him to go with you to some priest's room for a friendly visit. The ice once broken, he may want to study the Catholic religion, or, if he is already a Catholic, he may open up on important points.

Still another whom you knew to be a frequent communicant as a freshman may go now only seldom--at Easter time so that he will not be black-listed. Put a half-nelson on him and take him along to Confession some night. Shake him up in the morning. Make him go to Mass and Communion. Don't mind what he says. He will thank you sheepishly by nine o'clock.

We are approaching the holy season of Lent. All of us have sinned, God knows, and all of us must do penance. Have you a friend who imbibes too freely? Suggest the pledge, at least for Lent. Become a lay apostle for Lent. Win souls to Christ. ~~To~~ your actions join your prayers. When adoring the Blessed Sacrament, ask Our Lord to help you make the souls of your friends know Him better and love Him better.

There are a thousand ways in which you can fulfill that commandment to love your neighbor as yourself, a thousand ways in which you can help your fellow student and thus be a real apostle of Christ. By your example, by your efforts, by your suggestions you can help realize on Pope Pius X's sincerest desires. "What the Church needs," he once said, "is a group of laymen, virtuous, enlightened, determined and really apostolic."

PRAYERS: Ill, Joe Sullivan (St. Ed's.); Paul Mueller (Lyons); Bob Malarney (St. Ed's.); Ed Kirby (Sorin); Father Fogarty; relatives of Joseph C. Clark; wife of Joe Bach '26; grandfather of Dick Fitzgerald (Dillon); mother of J. Kunz (Walsh); grandfather of R. G. Rowland. Five special intentions.