

Gaps for Fri., May 10:
7:30-8:00; 8:30-9 (0);
10:30-11:00; 1:30-2:00.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
May 9, 1935.

Ill, father of Joe
Callahan; friend of
student. 8 sp. ints.

Heart-to-Heart With Philbert.

When I left you last time, Philbert, your face looked like a big question mark. The statement that a true mystic will always be an active man didn't seem to agree with your philosophy.

Right, Stooge, go ahead with your information. I'm not yet convinced.

Well, since you care to listen, I will. The twelfth century, for instance, is simply called the century of St. Bernard of Clairvaux. St. Bernard was advisor of the kings and popes of his time and played a decisive part in all political and ecclesiastical affairs. Nothing slow about him! Yet he practiced and even taught mysticism. Mysticism was the very reason for his activities.

It would do you good, Philbert, to read over several times the twelfth chapter of St. Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians. In it he points out how closely all validly-baptized persons are united with Christ and with each other. "You are the body of Christ," he says, "if one member suffer anything, all the members suffer with it; or if one member glory, all the members rejoice with it."

Saul before becoming Paul persecuted the Christians, you remember. Our Lord appeared to him and said: "Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" What do you suppose that "Me" signifies? In the last judgment a separation of the souls will be made. Consider the grounds upon which the separation will be made. "Come ye blessed" or "Depart from Me, ye cursed" for "As long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to Me."

I think, Philbert, that these words contain the strongest motive for being active, for doing good and for avoiding scandal and sin. The closer to God, and the more a person loves God, the deeper will be his understanding of this intimate union of the members of the Mystical Body of Christ. Now, the true mystic is as close to God as he can be on earth and he, therefore, minds above all the business of his Father in Heaven working for him. That explains Daniel O'Connell's words: "My heart belongs to the Church."

Too bad, Stooge, that it is not your privilege to speak at the Geneva Conference telling the delegates about the Mystical Body of Christ! It would give them an entirely different concept of international relations, wouldn't it?

That's an idea, Philbert. Of course they wouldn't listen to me. But it is true that on this basis an international peace would be an easy thing. Justice and charity would rule the world. The early Christians were better acquainted with the spirit of Christ and His doctrines than we are, and what was the result? You are interested in history, Philbert. Why, then, don't you read the Acts of the Apostles? The fourth chapter tells you "that the multitude of believers had but one heart and one soul, neither did anyone say that aught of the things which he possessed, was his own, but all things were common unto them."

Now I see, Stooge, there seems to be more practical importance to mysticism than I thought.

That's just the point, Philbert, we don't think. After due reflection, I came to the conclusion that we students frequently have our Catholic religion more in our knees than in our hearts. We practice our religion externally, but its beauty and transforming power often escape us. We don't make an effort to grasp the wonderful meaning of our religious doctrines and therefore there is little fire and little love in our hearts.--Stooge, you gave me a lesson. What surprises me is that you did not mention Mass and Communion. Have they nothing to do with mysticism?--We'll meet again, Philbert. Meanwhile, I'll get more dope on the subject.