

High Mass, 9 Sunday, for  
repose of Eugene Kelly,  
old student, who died in 1927.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
September 25, 1937

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From A Conversation In The Caf.

Two students sat together at a table. Said one leaning across towards the other: "I cut out this clipping from a little magazine called the Liguorian. It hits the spot. Many fellows would be helped a lot if they only read it carefully and reflected." The second student picked up the excerpt and began--

Human respect is a vice that flourishes most luxuriously in a democratic country like ours. Where all men are considered, in theory, equal, it is natural that the principles and practices that are current and popular exert a powerful influence over the individual who does not want to be different from his fellows. To succumb to that influence is to lose one's individuality and very probably one's soul. It is necessary, therefore, to recognize its meaning and appeal.

1. Human respect means that excessive regard for the opinion of men that leads one to act contrary to the principles of faith or Christian morality. It is slavish subservience to man-made standards of conduct; it is a cowardly fear of being criticized by men for something that in itself is good and pleasing to God.

2. Human respect may influence one in a negative way; i.e., may lead to sins of omission and to neglect of practices that one knows are necessary or good. The man who misses Mass because he is in the company of non-Catholics and does not want them to remark about his religious loyalty is a slave of human respect. The man who doesn't admit his faith when it is being criticized or condemned, or who doesn't pray or attend Catholic devotions because doing so would make him different from the crowd, has a soul enslaved by human respect.

3. Human respect often influences men in positive ways. There are those who take part in unclean conversation and smutty story telling only because this is a means of keeping in well with a certain crowd. A large percentage of those who practice contraception to limit their families are influenced solely by human respect; they have a craven fear of what others think and say.

4. The surest remedy for human respect is a realistic meditation on the last judgment. There each man and woman will be judged not by the standards of the age in which they lived, but by the immutable principles of the law of God. There the craven and the coward, the slave and the weakling, who has knowingly rejected God and served men, will cry out for the mountains to cover him; and the company of all his ilk will not make less bitter his shame.

There is no one who is free from the danger of human respect today. The society of equals in an irreligious land tends to create and foster its own principles and standards of conduct and morality; it tends to ostracize those who refuse to conform. The individual Catholic must be willing to be ostracized; willing to be different in his loyalty to the divine truth that has been revealed.

The second student said to the first: "Human respect here on the campus seems to keep a fellow in the right paths rather than in the wrong ones. But in a radically different environment, ah there's the rub..."

Mass Servers Needed.

See Brother Boniface in the Basement Chapel of the Main Church any morning. Or consult the Rector of your hall.

PRAYERS: 5 special intentions.