

How Would You Try To Convert A Non-Catholic Girl Friend?

In answering this question recently, many of you admitted it stumped you. In a number of cases the question proved very practical, since some of you associate with non-Catholic girls. A large majority of you agree that the most effective means would be the power of good example. Others stress the ideal of purity in courtship-- only the kind of affection becoming a Catholic gentleman. For too many the task would be too difficult. Some simply said: "I wouldn't try."

"That is something I would like to know. How about a Bulletin on it?"

"That is the last thing I would attempt."

"I wish I knew. I am in love with one and neither of us favor a mixed marriage."

"I wouldn't try. If I marry at all it will probably be a non-Catholic, and I refuse to spend my life quarrelling."

"I'm doing this job now. I started wrong. I've changed to the 'good example' system."

"I don't believe in trying. A girl's religion is her own business-- not mine."

"I think I would try to teach her to love the Blessed Virgin."

"I wouldn't, unless I intended marriage. I guess I would marry her regardless."

"Appeal to her reason, if she has any. If she's not reasonable, everything is off."

"I wouldn't bother. That sort of thing is too dangerous."

"I would try to make her love my religion as a very real part of me."

"I tried it and flopped. I just asked her to see my religion's point of view."

The following letter will be a source of edification and encouragement to those who feel they must face this problem. This letter was received only a few days ago by one of the men on the campus and well shows the effectiveness of good example and respectful reasoning. Though, in this case, the young lady, was not a non-Catholic, but rather a Catholic who had fallen away from her Faith, the problem for this Notre Dame man was essentially the same as the one in the question.

"Even my religion has been found again in you... you and your ideals that shine like stars and bespeak of a striving for everything that is pure and upright and strong and beautiful... a seeking and a finding of God through purification of one's own self, own thoughts, own attainments. And I come to the unadmitted realization that I came back to this religion, the Catholic religion, through happiness and in happiness. When for at least two years, I'd been preaching to myself and to whom ever else would listen that this same religion-- these churches with their crucifixes-- were simply for people who had been humbled, who were poor, who had suffered a great wrong, the perennial solace seekers-- those with mighty petitions-- disgustingly simple people-- people with emotional fixations... and I would stoop to none of it!

"Then you came along and in your very human and intelligent explanation and in your own living-- and-- most of all in your love for me... showed me and helped me reach the place saved for me-- for us-- in the Catholic Church.

"I wonder sometimes how I can have been so blessed. Somewhere, someone must have been praying for me; surely I cared little about prayers, or what happened to me in the last few years...

"In you I have found everything-- I have found myself again."

PRAYERS: (deceased) great-uncle of Vincent DeCoursey (How); Vincent J. Eck '15; Mr. J. Elmer McCaffrey; brother of Bernie Nowicki. Ill, aunt of Vince Duggan (Sorin); C. P. Craine (Detroit); Mrs. and Mr. W.F. Kelley; wife of Joe Petritz; aunt of Norus Ryan (Morrissey); aunt of John Webster (Lyons). Five special intentions.