

1st Friday tomorrow.
Confessions till 10:00
in Dil., How. and Cav.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
October 6, 1938.

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Do You Want To Win Souls?

Then know and practice your Faith. The Bulletin has never come across any handbook about the Catholic Religion so popular and appealing as Radio Replies. Originally they were answers to questions broadcast by a Sacred Heart Missionary in Australia. They have been edited for American use by Father Charles M. Carty, of the Archdiocese of St. Paul. This is not an advertisement. It is merely publishing a conviction that Catholic students who want to win souls cannot school themselves better than by procuring a copy of Radio Replies from the Prefect of Religion.

To spread your Faith you must know it and love it and live it. That means a clear concept of the sacraments and the church. Matrimony and Orders are the social sacraments by which New Sons of God are brought forth to people Heaven and by which certain men are commissioned as officers in Christ's Church to act in his name, to make and administer the sacraments, to put divine life in the hearts of men. The other five sacraments look to the needs of the individual. Baptism initiates divine life. It grows stronger with Confirmation. The Eucharist sustains it. Penance heals it. Extreme Unction prepares it for greater glory.

All who live by this divine life of grace are united by the Spirit of God who dwells in them all. Those who are baptized as Catholics belong to the body of the Church; but every man who is just in God's sight and alive with supernatural life belongs to the soul of that Church. All together, these Sons of God, led by the Spirit of God, form one body,- a body which is more than an organization, but is an organism because it is alive; a body that is really God's because it lives by the life of God; a body that exceeds the bounds of time and space since it embraces not only the just on earth (The Church Militant) but also the suffering souls (The Church Suffering) and the saints (The Church Triumphant); a body which we do not see with our bodily eyes and which is therefore called mystical; a body which St. Paul tells us is Christ's Own,- not indeed His Physical Body (for that is the Head of this Mystical Body), but one, living body endowed with divine life, Christ's Holy Church.

The Mystical Body, like Original Justice, Original Sin, and Redemption God pertains to the whole human race. It is aimed to embrace all human society, every man, Christian or Communist, black or white. The Saints and Poor Souls are definitive members of Christ's Mystical Body, but just men on earth,- ourselves, unhappily,- may be torn loose from this body by mortal sin, for then we expel the Spirit of God: we die the death. What a peril, grave sin! All men living today, that shall live tomorrow are potential members, Americans, Bengalis, the Soviets. What a stimulus to the propagation of our Holy Faith! "Going forth teach ye all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

The Church is essentially missionary, because God, the Power behind the Church chose to be a Missionary from the dawn of time. Why this should be is the mystery of mysteries which we shall spend an eternity of beatitude to fathom. Why God, self-sufficient, should ever have made nothingness something, should ever have sent forth as it were His own Divine Goodness and Life, we do not know. We only know that somehow in His infinite Wisdom and Love He anticipated the tendency of good to diffuse itself and of life to propagate life; we only know that the rhythm of history has been God's ineffable Mission to put divine life in the hearts of men.

On the very day of Creation God shared His own life with the head of our race. In the Incarnation He renewed that life, so loving the world as to give us His only begotten Son. On the day of Pentecost He sent the Holy Ghost upon the apostles to extend that life through the centuries and into eternity. He united the members of the Mystical Body of Christ to their Head and quickened them with His divine life. Once again and forever, divine life in the hearts of men!

PRAYERS: (deceased) Fr. Shevland, brother of Ed. Shevland (Mor.). Four spec. ints.