

Grotto...Adoration...
Easter Duty limit Sunday.
Confessions anytime.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
May 13, 1940

(R.I.P.) grandmother, C. Blomer
(Ill) father of Bill Scully
(Fr); cousin, R. Leahy.

On Developing A Christian Philosophy (III)

Catholic Youth must take hold of their social responsibilities, they must exercise their rights and privileges and perform their duties as members of the Mystical Body of Christ. This easy sitting in armchairs, philosophizing; this chatter about problems at the other end of the earth; these perfectly harmless and equally ineffective resolutions about this and that must finish.

June first, when the Sixteenth Annual Religious Survey of the University of Notre Dame rolls off the AVE MARIA press, its introduction will have this to say about developing a Christian Philosophy of Life:

"If our Catholic Youth are to do their part toward righting what is wrong with the world today, they must be led back to the basic idea that they are more than individuals; that they are members of one another, in Christ, and must live for one another as brothers, all happily serving their Father, God. No one can question the drift of many American Catholics from the social ideal contained in Christ's doctrine and practiced in the early Church. Instead of opposing "the world" which Christ said would ever be at odds with His followers, too many Catholics in modern times have sought to appease the world, only in the end to be assimilated by it. And the spirit of the world has always been selfishness.

"Surely Catholic life in the beginning was more communal and cooperative than we find it now. Christians at the time of the Apostles were, according to the Acts, evidently less selfish, more thoughtful of one another; notably in the use of property; freely they gave and freely they received according to their capacity and needs. And Christians later, in the Middle Ages, protected one another in their livelihoods through the guilds. Nowadays Christ's followers, like non-Christians, are only too often out for themselves."

"What is wrong? It cannot be Christian doctrine, for that is the same as in the time of Peter and Paul. And it is hardly lack of instruction, for our Catholics

learn from the time they are children that life has been given them to love God above all things and their neighbors as themselves for the love of God; to put it another way, to love God both in Himself and in the hearts of men. The trouble would seem to be that as centuries of growing individualism have rolled on, Catholics, while still professing to love God in Himself, have somewhat forgotten to love Him in men. Which is incomplete Christianity. St. John has summed it up in these words: 'If any man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar. For he that loveth not his brother, whom he seeth, how can he love God whom he seeth not? And this commandment we have from God, that he who loveth God, love also his brother.' (I John iv, 20-21.)

"What is wrong? This fact: the just indictment that it cannot be said today as it could be said of the early Christians, 'See how they love one another!' The objective of Catholic youth leaders in this pagan age must be to make Catholic Youth the greatest lovers in the world, the greatest fighters for right and deeds of good. Youth must be brought to the mind of Christ: to habitual, self-sacrificing thought of one another's interests to deep concern for the common good as well as their own; to effectual, warm-hearted love of one another's person.

"Of course there should be no exaggerated stress on the social implications of being a Christian. Our youth have their individual souls to save, their temptations to battle, their personal need of spiritual direction. And at Notre Dame these vital points of their Catholic life will always be the prime concern of the Prefect of Religion and his assistants. The Mystical Body of Christ will not thrive unless the individual cells are healthy and strong. But the cardinal point remains, each cell, each student must be convinced that his religious life consists in more than saying his prayers, offering the Mass, receiving Holy Communion, being chaste.....(More tomorrow.)

PRAYERS: (DECEASED) uncle of Jerry Carrier (Cav); Mrs. Dailey, Mrs. Merrick; father of Tom Johnson (Morr); sister (Nellie) of Messrs. Patrick and Thomas Peyton, C.S.C.; Doctor A. D'Alleva; (ILL) aunt of Fr. Gilbert, O.S.B. (Z); (OPERATION) sister of Harry Gattren
LECTURE: tomorrow at 8, Washington Hall; Wilbur Helm: "A Business Man Looks at Culture."