

Prayers: (deceased) sister University of Notre Dame
of Rev. James J. O'Brien, esc; Religious Bulletin
mother of Louis Janssen, '48. May 23, 1950

Ill, father of George Wit-
teried, Jr., '49; mother of
Jim Rogers (Sor). 3 sp. Int.

"I Accuse Myself . . ."

. . .of having omitted my sins of omission--of having been satisfied for baggage on the journey to eternity with the wrong I have not done--of having been a Catholic by reaction, not in action--of having considered Catholic morality solely as a form of mortification and not as a system of life, as a suppression and not an expansion, as a brake and not a dynamo, as a railing and not a springboard.

. . .of having considered what good there was to be done as a duty rather ill-defined, optional in nature and quickly discharged, of having persuaded myself that the eternal wrath of God was provoked solely by impiety and sins against the Holy Virtue, and of having dubbed "good Catholic" a man who goes to Mass on Sundays, performs his Easter duties and gives his neighbors no reason for gossip--and "excellent Catholic" a man who entertains the clergy at his table and carries a candle in the procession--and "exemplary Catholic" a man who thunders behind closed doors against the enemies of order and sound ideas.

. . .also, of having described as "angels" and "saints" members of the gentler sex who belong to "respectable families" and dress in white or sport a confraternity pin without thereby ceasing to be above the average or worldly-minded.

. . .of a marked inclination to think that, in performing the least pious or charitable work, we do EVER SO MUCH MORE THAN DUTY REQUIRES OF US, or at any rate that we do so is the superlative degree of our duty.

. . .of having stereotyped my religion in a prescribed number of ritual acts and prohibitions, in a social attitude at most, and so having kept it in the rut of routine, the circle of a caste or the confines of a party.

. . .in general of having failed to realize that all the sins which are described as sins of commission have their roots in, and are themselves in reality, sins of omission. . . .

. . .of having worried God with my own interests without first concerning myself about His. I accuse myself of having solicited His help like a pagan, solely in order to obtain successes or cures, especially when, after every human means had been tried and failed, supernatural intervention seemed to be either a trump card in the game or the last card to play

. . .of having neglected the appeals which the Liturgy makes to my sensibility and my imagination to help my soul to worship, of having taken no such interest in the seasons of the liturgical year, or in the colors of the vestments, or in the rites of the ceremonies, or in sacred art or poetry

. . .of being ignorant, wilfully ignorant, of the prayers said at Mass, satisfied merely to attend--instead of taking part--telling my beads, turning the leaves of a commonplace prayer-book, or humming still more commonplace hymns--of having been satisfied even to stand there like a sentry, and of having thought that I was worshipping God by sitting like an orderly through twenty minutes every Sunday at the latest and shortest Mass, of having prayed at Mass and of having had Masses said only with a view to my personal needs . . .

(--From MY SINS OF OMISSION by Jacques Debout--)

One special grace of Pentecost is fortitude. The Holy Ghost transformed weak, fearful apostles and disciples into men of courage and strength, who went forth to preach Christ's message of salvation in the Marketplaces of the world and from its very rooftops. Pray for that same grace to be forcefully articulate in thought, word and deed . .