

Prayers: friend of Rudy Unger University of Notre Dame
killed in Korea; mother of Religious Bulletin
Prof. James A. McCarthy died. April 6, 1951

Ill, mother of Tom Zingales;
Mrs. L. Donatino. (Novena
for Fr. Butler ends tomorrow.)

Conscienceless Cussedness.

The Bulletin is in a state of infuriation. An off-campus student dropped into the office and reported the theft of his wallet, which not only contained his folding money but identification cards and other important records. All of which were needed for securing a job today.

"It happened while I was taking my shower in the Rock." This is not the first time such a theft has been reported. So the Bulletin--embarrassing though it is for a Catholic college campus--must publish a warning. Take no chances. Keep your valuables locked up.

The dictionary was as useless as a flat spare tire in trying to pick out a printable moniker for this low-grade kleptomaniac with his neurotic impulse to steal from men who live together in mutual self-trust. Without intending to offend the esthetic or to lambaste pious ears we'll settle for "stinker." By association of ideas there comes to mind the image of a skunk. Compare them, if you will; we'll take the skunk. At least he can be skinned and his pelt sold for a net profit.

Learn a Lesson.

If we as ordinary mortals can become riled up over an incident such as this, we wonder how Christ can be so patient, so merciful, when He sees so much cussedness in the world about us and in us. How can He restrain the thunder of His wrath. Must there not be scores of hidden saints living obscure lives of sacrifice and atonement?

In his first chapter St. John the Evangelist tells us, "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not." In answer to the Pharisees St. John the Baptist says, "There hath stood one in the midst of you, whom you know not."

Every day in every chapel there stands one in the midst of us, whom we know not. We cannot understand how the Pharisees missed Christ, why the Chosen People rejected Him, but they did. . . and so do we, if we do not go to Him--for forgiveness in Confession, for nourishment and strength in Holy Communion.

How long will Christ tolerate spiritual lethargy and downright apathy? Learn another lesson from the fig tree.

One morning Our Lord was walking from Bethania to Jerusalem. The Gospel says, "He was hungry. And seeing a certain fig tree by the wayside, he came to it, and found nothing on it but leaves only, and he saith to it: May no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And immediately the fig tree withered away."

The fig tree is the everlasting memorial to those who do nothing. The fig tree had committed no mortal sin. It was not growing in the middle of the road, blocking the roadway. Christ cursed it because it was doing no good, not producing the fruit for which it was intended.

In another Gospel story, the one about the rich man and Lazarus, Abraham did not reproach Dives for having done anything dishonest, or for not paying a living wage to his servants. Dives only dined and feasted lavishly every day and clothed himself in soft garments, which most of us might call the right of any man. Yet Dives lost his soul because he refused to recognize his social responsibility to the poor. He was damned not because he had no right to his "purple and fine linen," but because he failed to do anything about the conditions which made Lazarus a poor man.

Now ask yourself a pertinent question: "What am I doing to live up to my sacramental opportunities and to prepare myself to fulfill my social responsibilities?"