

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
January 21, 1952

Campus Retreat?

Inquiries have been made whether a retreat would be held on campus for students not going home between semesters. . . If a sufficient number assert their willingness to make such a retreat arrangements will be made. If you are interested slip your name and address under the door of any one of the three offices of the students chaplains: 107 Cavanaugh, 107 Howard, or 117 Dillon. Do this tonight. The first proposed conference will be in Dillon chapel Friday night at 7:30.

Fraternal Charity III.
(According to St. Thomas)

The third consequence that follows upon the precept which commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves is that our love of him must be holy. That is called holy which is directed to God. Whatever is set aside for divine worship and dedicated to God's service is called holy.

When one man loves another as himself; there must be a close degree of friendship between them, or, as St. Thomas calls it, an intercommunion. In so far as the two persons are united together by loving each other as they love themselves, they are considered as forming one--one behaves to the other as to himself.

St. Thomas explains the several ways in which two persons may be united: by blood relationship (born of the same parents); by social ties (fellow citizens under the same ruler; by professional or business bonds.

The neighborly love existing between such groups of men, united by these various bonds, may be praiseworthy and good, but their fraternal love cannot on that account alone be called holy. Only that love can be called holy which is directed to God.

All men, in so far as they naturally aspire to happiness, are united in their inclinations toward God, the Beginning of all things, the Source of all happiness.

But, we must remember that in the right order of things the general good must be preferred to the particular good. A part is, by a natural instinct, governed by the good of the whole. The hand, for example, is exposed to danger to protect the head. An infected finger may be amputated to protect the hand.

In the kind of union, or intercommunion, we have been speaking of, and one in which all men are united by their natural tendency towards happiness, each man must be considered as a part, and God, in whom the happiness of all consists, must be regarded as the universal good of the whole.

Therefore, according to reason and natural instinct each man orders himself toward God as a part is ordered to the whole. This order is made perfect by charity whereby man loves himself for God's sake. When man also loves his neighbor for God's sake, he loves him as himself--his love thereby becomes holy.

All this is plainly expressed by St. John: "This commandment we have from God that he who loveth God love also his brother." --1 John 4, 21.

St. Thomas' last point is this. The precept to love our neighbor as ourselves teaches us that our love must be practical and productive of good works. When a man truly loves another as himself he will show his love not only by good wishes but by practical benefits. St. John says: "My little children, let us not love in word, nor in tongue, but in deed and in truth." --St. John (1 Epistle 3, 18)

Prayers: (deceased) father of Bob Burke, '36; Maurice Feldman, '29; Bern. Bloemer, '32; father of Bob Lang, '42. Operation, Mis: Ann Marron; appendectomy, Hank Mayer (Sor)