Critically 111, Mrs. William C. Baker. 11 special intentions.

University of Notre Dame Religious Bulletin February 5, 1952

Educating the whole man imimplies educating him to bear his social responsibilities.

YOUR Catholic Press.

Each year February is designated as Catholic Press Month. It makes no difference whether we support the diocesan weekly, or other weekly and monthly magazines, whether we push The Sign, the Catholic Digest, the Catholic Mind, the Our Sunday Visitor, or The Ave Maria, our responsibility does not rest in keeping our subscription paid up.

Our problem is twofold. We must read these current publications, discuss what they contain and so develop our Catholic mentality. There is the Catholic answer and the Catholic approach to modern problems, whether these problems be moral, economic or strictly doctrinal. Catholic college graduates and undergraduates are expected to know what the Catholic mind is. To default on this responsibility utterly could be a serious sin of omission.

The other half of the problem is one of distributing Catholic literature. Certainly there is not now a problem of producing Catholic truth in print. Our Truth is plantiful, it is available. Spiritual poverty and spiritual ignorance is inexcusable. As Father Leo Boyle of the Catholic Information League in Philadelphia says, "Unless we start seriously to emulate the zeal and interest of our enemies, we will not be shaken from our lethargy by an onslaught which will overwhelm us--for it is undeniable that the children of this world have until now been wiser in their generation than us children of light. If they are so bold with error, why cannot we be brave with the truth."

Not From The Secular Press.

Are you able to detect the frequent misrepresentations and distortions in the secular press in matters pertaining to the Church and particularly the statements emanating from the Vatican? . . . What about the critical situation of the Church behind the Iron Curtain, in China and elsewhere? . . . Do you read the Propagation of the Faith articles in the Catholic papers? . . . What answer will you give to the attacks on the Church from PAOU, the Blanshards and others? . . . What do you know of the importance of the Lay Apostolate and how it affects you? . . . What has been the Catholic reaction to the argument focused on President Truman's action in proposing an Ambassador to the Vatican? . . . What do you know of the problem of the worker in the light of The Social Doctrine of the Church?

These and other great problems concern you and will affect you one way or another. It should be very evident now that you as well as religious and clerics must work out your salvation in a world that is in the throes of a critical social revolution that jars every element of your life.

It falls upon your shoulders to bear the responsibilities of Catholic initiative and leadership or else lapse into a conspiracy of ignorant silence. But you must know what you are talking about. It is the business of the Catholic Press to keep you informed.

Listen To The Authoritative Voice.

If you are to avoid the scandal of ignorance when you must be well informed, know what the Vicar of Christ teaches when he formally discusses social justice and its concomitant issues of property, ownership, employment, industry, profits, work, competition, monopolies, etc. What he teaches is not outside his sphere as Sovereign Pontiff. He is speaking officially because economic problems are basically moral problems. . . Plus XI: "There reside in us the right and duty to pronounce with supreme authority upon social and economic matters. . . and on all things that are connected with the moral law."