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The Fine Art Of Buttonholing.

Two statements by two converts deserve mention. Both testify to the power of Catholic good example. Charles Hedelund, former pastor of All Saints' Episcopal church, who began saying the Rosary eight months before coming into the Church, credits the example of Catholics as "sincere devotion":

One may be sure that the first seeds of the desire for the Church came from an observation of my Catholic friends so deeply in love with the faith that they were totally unaware of the fact that they were sharing it with others.

Clare Boothe Luce (February Catholic Digest) isn't talking about the seamstress next door, nor the tailor down the block, but the neophyte Catholic apostle who goes about buttonholing his non-Catholic friends, giving them intellectual arguments they don't understand. Not he makes the most converts.

Rather it is the charity of him who goes out of his way "to give evidence of Catholic compassion and sympathy, who does non-Catholics, in distress, some service or kindness that was not to be expected. . . A virtuous Catholic life is a daily lesson in the catechism to the unbeliever. . . An open Catholic purse, a ready Catholic shoulder, a helping Catholic hand, and a loving Catholic heart are the Catholic doctrine--in action."

Unless we are convinced of our Catholic faith--only deep convictions produce fruitful action--all our heavy arguments will be like so much dead weight. We ourselves must know God, love Him and serve Him. We can't love someone we don't know, nor can we serve one we don't love--unless we're caught in the draft. . . we'll have to serve Uncle Sam whether we love him that much or not.

Who's A Liar?

Love of neighbor, even though secondary in value when compared with the love of God, is nevertheless first, as Saint Thomas says, in the order of time. Love of neighbor, who is the visible image of God, is the indispensable first proof of our love of God.

Why? Because Our Lord said: "By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love one for another."

St. John puts it another way. "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."

Love, divine or human, if its' the real stuff, is never an inactive force. By its very nature it must act. The service of fraternal love? The good example we've been talking about.

Orate Fratres.

Shortly after the Offertory the celebrant turns to the congregation and says: "Pray, Brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty." It is all of us who offer the Holy Sacrifice which is the Perfect Sacrifice of the Mystical Body. This as well as other plural expressions used during Mass emphasizes the role of all--no one is a spectator; all are participants. . . The 9 o'clock High Mass each Sunday will be sung by the entire congregation. We ask all who attend to participate. Bring your missals. Sing out. Your cooperation is necessary.

Prayers: (deceased) father of Bob Hunter (Wal). Ill, mother of John Mooney (Dil); Injured, Bob Kelley, '48; uncle of Ken Schwarz (Ly); Sr. M. Alphonse, O.S.F.; Mother M. Euphrasia, O.S.F.