

Deceased: mother of Rev. R. University of Notre Dame
Woodward, C.S.C. Religious Bulletin

April 29, 1952

Be a daily Communicant during the month of May.

"Unless You Be Converted."

Our Lord gives us many lessons in humility. One day the disciples came to Him and wanted to know who the "big wheels" were in heaven: "Who thinkest thou is the greater in the kingdom of heaven?"

Calling to one of the children who stood on the outskirts of the crowd, Christ set him in the middle of the group and said: "Amen I say to you, unless you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

What Our Lord did not mean was that we should act like kids--we are to become child-like in simplicity, trustfulness and openness, but not kid-like in behavior.

Profanity and many other sins of the tongue are kid tricks, a hangover from the early highschool days when you wanted to be thought tough. They are usually thoughtless slips in the mouths of those who are trying to be thoughtful.

But for the professional profaner--the flannel-mouth--pray that God will give him sense. The courage and manliness his father failed to give him, and the cleanness and modesty his mother failed to teach him, can come through prayer and the reception of Holy Communion.

When his crudities disgust you, take him aside and tell him so if you like--in private. The most craven coward has enough silly pride to resent too public a correction. But "if good men do nothing," show no resentment, then these evil tongues who spout off their mouths will continue to spout off.

"By Their Fruits You Shall Know Them."

Sins of omission can be as serious as sins of commission. Failing to give good example can cause as much evil as giving bad example. Our Lord said: "Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit, shall be cut down, and shall be cast into the fire."

One could write a whole series of Bulletins on Edmund Burke's maxim: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." Francois Mauriac in THE STUMBLING BLOCK is rugged in some of his criticisms of Catholic practices but he does stress the need for good example:

Men have been deceived too often: today, they do not react to words, but to example. It is not God's word as it is explained, rewritten, and shaped for the taste of the day, it is the Son of man, it is the Word of Life seen, touched in the person of a poor man living among the poor and exactly like them--and yet in whose person shines forth that Presence before which the blind fall to their knees.

Saintliness Around Kitchen Sinks.

Uncanonized saints certainly must outnumber the canonized. If the Church is holding her own against "the virulent materialism which, in its Marxist forms, is disputing the empire of the spirit with her," it is largely due to the saintliness of her members. Francois Mauriac writes: The saints are the Church's strength; "I do not mean here the small number of beings elevated to the highest mystical states. One can say of saintliness that it is the most widely apportioned thing in the world, that it finds its way into very commonplace destinies, where it is manifested by nothing but acceptance of daily duties and trials." . . . This is the kind of hidden saintliness we find in the hearts of good Catholic mothers who assemble daily around the shrine of the kitchen sink and pray and slave for wayward sons.