

University of Notre Dame

Tonight, and every night
this week at 5:15, Unity
Octave devotions in Dillon.

Religious Bulletin
January 21, 1957

Holy Hour, and Sorrowful Mo-
ther Novena as usual this
week on Thursday and Friday.

Avon Boys Please Note:

Today as always, the Church has a number of enemies -- Paganism, Atheism, Communism, Bigotry, and -- even at this late date -- a blind fear of the Pope. But the greatest enemy of the Church, according to a survey of Notre Dame Alumni, is the bad example of Catholics in their daily lives. It is easily the leading obstacle blocking the spread of the Church.

Similarly, in answer to the question: How can a Catholic combat religious indifference among non-Catholics? - the cure most frequently suggested is this: By giving good example. In answer to a third question: How would you go about converting a non-Catholic relative or close friend? -- the answer was: By giving good example.

And the Alumni are right.

Genuine Catholic Action

You are aware that the Catholic world is mentally alive today to the need of Catholic Action. You know what Catholic Action means -- the actual participation of the laity with the hierarchy in winning men to the Church.

Does this mean that you are to mount a rostrum, write a book, found a hospital, in order to be an example of Catholic Action? Are you awaiting the day when you will get out before the world to wield your influence in behalf of the Church? Do you think that a logical and highly trained-mind and a glib tongue are the most effective instruments of Catholic Action?

If so, revamp your ideas. Non-Catholics may arbitrarily avoid your arguments; they may pick flaws in your theses; and eloquent words may die fruitless deaths on your lips. Most of them have neither the time nor the patience to listen. But no non-Catholic can insulate himself against the magnetism of a constant, exemplary Catholic life.

Even here on the campus today, you are an influence for, or against, devout attendance at Mass and the Sacraments. You are an influence for, or against, sobriety of life. You have a foul mouth or a clean one. You are a liar, or a man of truth. In your social contacts you are a gentlemen according to Catholic principles; or you are a social pagan. Your personal manners indicate that you are cultured, or that you are uncouth. And you will change very little after you receive your degree. As you form your character today, so will you act tomorrow.

During the Church Unity Octave, as we pray for the conversion of the world to "one Fold and One Shepherd," the matter of good example should not be side-stepped. The issue of conversions is up to us as forcefully today as it ever will be. You, yourself, by your daily life, are either with Christ or against Him. You are, by your example, either gathering with Christ, or you are scattering. For example: if you did not snub Baby Doll, you failed to take your stand with Christ and decency. And you gave bad example -- very bad example. The remarks in the Student Senate letter, and in the Scholastic editorial, put the issue right on the line, and left no room for you to doubt your obligation.

PRAYERS - Deceased: Stanley Walsh, '27; uncle of Prof. Vincent Smith; cousin of Paul Kerwin (O-C); sister of Bro. Cosmos, CSC; friend of Jim Naughton of Cavanaugh; father of Jos. O'Brien (Personnel Office); aunt of Bro. DeSales; friend of Fr. L.R. Ward, CSC; aunt of Ed Hanna of Cavanaugh; Joseph Smith, '16. Ill: Joe Harmon, '26; brother of L. L. Ward, CSC.