

Calendars and schedule sheets available at the pamphlet racks.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
January 29, 1958

Public Holy Hour tomorrow at 4:45 as usual. Drop in for part or all of it.

A Healthy Mental Attitude

"It is downright easy to love those people who praise the Church, who say the Church is a bulwark against evil, and the foundation of truth. It takes some doing to love those who say the Church is the work of anti-Christ; and that the only thing worse than Communism is Catholicism.

"Yet, you have to love these people, too, hating their error, trying to refute it, but always loving the people.

"I think I've found a way to do it and I pass it on to you. I think the way is through empathy: the projection of one's own personality into the personality of another in order to understand him better. For example, I always think that the bigot doing the shouting could be me. I got lucky; I got lifted up by the seat of my pants and deposited into God's One True Church. I met the right people. I read the right things. God's grace caught me at a time when I was willing to cooperate.

"For you maybe it was different. Maybe you were born into the Faith. All you had to do was arrive. Then a good father and mother took you over to the Church -- you were baptized, you were a Catholic.

"But it could have been different with us. I could have missed meeting good Catholics, and met only bad ones. I could have read things that would have turned me from the Faith, instead of towards it. I could have rejected grace when it came to me.

"Or you might have been born of parents who taught you from your earliest days that the Catholic Church was the Scarlet Woman, the devil's own church.

"Then the bigot on the street might have been me, or he might have been you.

"So, whenever you hear someone defame the Church, speak evil against Her, stop awhile before you get angry, and remember that fellow could be you but for the grace of God. It isn't easy to get angry with yourself. So, you don't get angry with this fellow. Instead, you want him to know the truth, to understand where he is wrong; you want to offer him love to replace his hate.

"If you understand that the bigot on the corner could be you, then you get the right attitude towards your duty to others. Your Faith is the most precious thing in your life, the priceless gift. If you were without it, then the kindest thing anyone could do for you would be to offer it to you. So, if you can understand that the man without it could be you, then you'll want to offer him the Faith. You'll not be content just to enjoy it yourself; you'll be anxious to offer it to others...

"The hope of the world is the Church. The hope of the Church is in men and women like you and me, if we can somehow learn to overwhelm the world -- not with wisdom, not with techniques and methods -- but with love."

-- Dale Francis

This is a timely thought for the month ahead. There is more than a little of St. Francis De Sales in its makeup. The gentle Bishop of Geneva did not convert all his Calvinistic neighbors. Neither did he alienate anyone by trying to shout them down with harsh diatribes. By his charity he generated more light than heat. Don't put all your hope in stentorian phrases -- and rattle your Beads a little; too.

PRAYERS REQUESTED -- Deceased: uncle of Brother James Edwin, CSC; mother of Ed Kowalski, '38; father of O. Donald Herron, '34. Ill: father of Ed Mertz of Dillon.