

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

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Notre Dame, Ind.

THE CCD IS THE CHURCH IN ACTION-TO WIN SOULS FOR CHRIST

"Give me, in every parish, a handful of laymen -- alert, well-informed, devoted -- and I will change the face of the earth." -- St. Pius X

Notre Dame has a unit of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. Until this fall it even had an office -- or shared an office -- in the LaFortune Student Center.

On campuses the history of organizations is that they wax and wane depending on their personnel, leadership, and circumstances. For the past couple of years interest in CCD here at Notre Dame has been on the wane largely because of a misunderstanding of the peculiar objectives of a campus unit.

The CCD is organized on parochial, diocesan, and national levels, and its objectives are the instruction of children in Christian doctrine in places where Catholic schools are not available or are not adequate to take care of all Catholic children. A university unit, therefore, must modify its objectives in order to provide an apostolic outlet for students who are interested.

And Catholic university should be interested. Yearly the number of children unable to get into Catholic elementary schools and of teen-agers unable to get into Catholic high schools is growing. The American hierarchy sees in the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine the solution to the problem of growing school population and limited financial resources. Success of the program depends largely on well-trained volunteer teachers.

Hence the university CCD unit is stressing preparation of teachers for these parish-centered Christian doctrine classes. Notre Dame students have an opportunity to prepare themselves for this very necessary apostolate -- and participate in it -- by joining the campus CCD which is affiliated with the unit at St. Mary's. During this spring semester a training course consisting of two one-hour sessions a week will be given at St. Mary's. Once the training period is finished the participants will be certified as CCD teachers and be given an opportunity to teach CCD classes in some of the parishes in the area. By the time the student graduates he will be an experienced teacher ready to assume an active role in his parish CCD.

Those who are interested -- and as future Catholic parents many of you should be -- should get in touch with Jack Gerken in 213 Stanford or Tom Gordon in 249 Sorin. You may also leave your name with the University Chaplain, 116 Dillon. Don't delay. The classes at St. Mary's are already under way.

QUOTES: "Fringe" Devotions and A Student Profile

Visitors to America often note the healthy, robust stress Catholics here put on the Mass, rather than on what may be thought the "fringe" of Catholic devotional life. All to the good. Yet, is there no danger whatever lurking in our hard-boiled, unsentimental, cerebral approach? Granted, "the Mass is the very center of the Christian religion" (as Pope Pius XII insisted); but in the same encyclical he reminded us of the true Catholic attitude toward "those gems of holiness" -- whom we should imitate, as they imitated Christ -- the saints.

Our problem today is that of finding a way of treating the saints that is meaningful and suited to modern tastes. For example, can "devotion" to the saints fit into liturgical patterns, or must it be shrunk to rare, surreptitious little invocations?

A uniquely delightful and relevant book which will solve these and other problems has just been published: My Namesday--Come for Dessert, by Helen McLoughlin (Liturgical Press, 320p. \$2.75). In a gay, mature, and unjargonish way, it shows the meaning of the saints in Christian life and how they can be made a joyous part of family and personal piety. In fact, it should be just the book to revive the wonderful old custom of celebrating namedays. While this may not be the meat-and-potatoes of Christianity, it is at least the dessert.

America, (Feb. 16, 1963)

In Your Charity

Please pray for the following.

Deceased: Judy Sciba, secretary in the radiation lab; aunt of Tom Brejcha of Morrissey; Carl Esser, '35. Ill: George Blaha of Breen-Phillips (appendectomy); father of Bob Moylan, Off-Campus; grandmother of Dan Murphy of St. Ed's.

Students in general are more idealistic and ethical in their outlook than their elders, but they become curiously withdrawn when it comes to censuring anyone -- especially their own peers -- for wrongdoing.

I recall a situation, some years ago, when a student was frequently observed by other students breaking into cigarette machines in their dormitory. All of the observing students refused to testify in any way in the matter, and no action could be taken by the authorities other than to order the removal of the cigarette machines. Cheating is quite common, and a curious dualism pertains here. Listen to the student: "Nobody is just honest or dishonest. I'm sure everyone here has been guilty of some sort of dishonest act in his lifetime. But everyone here would say he's primarily honest. I know if I were really in the clutch I'd cheat. I admit it -- and I don't necessarily consider myself dishonest because I would."

The secularism of students is both widespread and deep.....Today, there are students who openly or secretly agitate on Catholic campuses for the limitation, alteration or elimination of courses in theology and philosophy because, as one student put it: "Obligatory courses of this kind interfere with the proper business of a university." ...the secularist spirit is common, well-known to, and generally uncensored by, peer groups regardless of the attitude of authorities, religious or otherwise.

Weston M. Jenks, Jr., Catholic Mind
(Dec., 1962)