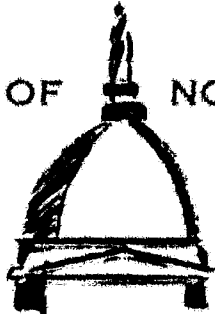


**RELIGIOUS BULLETIN**VOL. XLIII, NO. 26  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1964REV. LLOYD W. TESKE, C.S.C.,  
UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN - EDITORHOMeward

We shall go out across the darksome deep  
 When the long shadows fall upon the shore;  
 Our eyes will close serenely in sweet sleep  
 From which we will not waken anymore;  
 We will go out in quiet and alone  
 Away from all the things that we hold dear,  
 Leaving the loved ones that we called "our own"  
 To mourn our passing with a silent tear.  
 God grant that friendly breezes bear us far,  
 To the great harbor of eternity,  
 Beyond the shining of the farthest star  
 Where in the light of Eden we may be  
 Transformed from lowly children of the sod  
 Into the living image of our God.

T. E. B.

"T. E. B." was Father Thomas E. Burke, C.S.C. For many years he wrote polished sonnets, joyous lyrics, and humorous verse under these initials. He died last Thursday at the age of 78 in Holy Cross House (the Community infirmary on the bank above the student swimming pier of St. Joseph's Lake).

The poem above was received in the mail by several of his friends on Friday morning, the day after his death. The mystery of the voice from the dead was solved by Brother Peter, a nurse at Holy Cross House. The previous Sunday Father Burke had left instructions that the addressed envelopes on his desk were to be mailed only after his death. They contained this sonnet with his dying thoughts on death. As a post script to the sonnet Father Burke added the note: "Say some prayers for me; I need them badly."

IN YOUR CHARITY please answer Father Burke's dying request with a prayer for the repose of his soul. Also please pray for the repose of the soul of Father William Minnick, C.S.C., who died last Thursday evening in Holy Cross House and was buried Monday morning; and for the following persons deceased -- grandmother of Alan Cooper, Off-Campus; grandfather of John Battiston of Zahm; Donald Schettig, '30; father of Samuel E. Richards, '30; mother of Anthony E. De Simon, '41 and of Victor A., '44. Ill -- John Toohey (serious following spinal surgery); mother of Paul Fieberg of Howard; father of Ray Fox of Dillon.

About Books.....

FINDING GOD IN THE un-GODLY Though writers such as Hemingway, Faulkner, Yeats, and Warren could not, by any means, be classified as Christian, Cleanth Brooks in The Hidden God\* insists that there is much in their writings which ought to fill a thoughtful Christian with a sense of real exhilaration. Their work, in other words, "incorporates a great deal of residual Christianity." We frequently, says Brooks, dismiss their writings as being merely "sensational, violent, meaningless, or nihilistic," and yet as genuine artists they set forth a vision of life which can only engage the Christian imagination in a very vital way.

Hemingway, for instance, though he seems to have no religious commitments, nevertheless celebrates virtues which are ultimately Christian. These virtues look toward Christianity. They have everything to do with man's dignity as a free spirit. Hemingway's basic moral preoccupations are those of the Christian, "protesting against the modern dehumanization of man and asserting man's dignity as a being capable of moral choice."

Faulkner, likewise, as Brooks sees it, is a profoundly religious writer, his characters representing Christian concerns. The critic Randall Stewart once asserted that "Faulkner embodies and dramatizes the Christian concepts so effectively that he can with justice be regarded as one of the profoundly Christian writers in our time." Brooks wouldn't go this far, but he feels that Faulkner has the Christian conviction that man though capable of recognizing goodness, is not naturally good, and can achieve things of value only by self-

-----  
discipline. "Faulkner's noblest characters are willing to face the fact that most men can learn the deepest truths about themselves and about reality only through suffering; that suffering alone, "can be the means to a deeper knowledge and to a more abundant life.

Even Yeats, for whom Christianity had been "denatured by Victorian compromises" and "left defenseless by a theology which had drowned in rivers of vulgar evangelical piety," used great Christian themes. "Great Christian symbols run throughout his later work. The great Christian doctrines become the reference points for his generalizations or the grounding for his basic metaphors." His poems often vibrate with a quality that is thoroughly Christian. "Yeats takes the Christian symbols seriously by bringing them into direct relation to man's perennial problems." He restores to them an urgency of meaning.

Brooks, in other words, thinks that much of our literature that is most significant for the Christian reader today has been written by authors who are not members of any church and by some who frankly put themselves down as agnostics or atheists.

--Claude L. Boehm

"ASK AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE"

"Just eight more study days until Final Exams begin" Some, like early Christmas shoppers, began early to shore up knowledge against the day of reckoning; but others will dash about madly at the last moment snatching a fact here and a bit of knowledge there -- maybe doing even a little shop-lifting in their panic.

Those who have begun to prepare by studying are probably the same ones who have begun to prepare by praying. There's nothing wrong with that. Christ invited us to ask for the things we want, and help in examinations wasn't excluded. But study must be joined to prayer. No one should expect a miracle -- infusion of knowledge that never before entered the mind by natural, normal means. With study there are plenty of legitimate requests a student can make -- perseverance and the peace of mind necessary to apply himself diligently to the preparation for exams; a sharpening of the memory to recall in the examinations the things once learned; inspiration to study the things the prof might ask; yes, and even that God might guide the prof to ask the questions one is best prepared to answer. Shakespeare was thoroughly Christian when he wrote: "There is a destiny which shapes our ends." It isn't luck that helps pass an examination but God's Providence reaching into the minutest details of our lives.

What about the person -- hardly a student -- who has frittered away the whole semester, who like the Prodigal Son has wasted his substance, the hours, days and weeks of the semester which should have been devoted to study? Well, this Prodigal can pray too. He can approach his Heavenly Father begging for assistance and perseverance in preparation for examinations that at least a part of his inheritance of knowledge may be restored. He may not get the three's and four's he is capable of, but he may salvage some two's through prayerful study that is possible when he is united with God through sanctifying grace.

For many years it has been the custom for students to make a novena in preparation for examinations. A novena begun tomorrow, January 15, will end on January 23, the first day of the examinations. Of course, there's nothing magic about the number nine, but the making of a novena sometimes helps one persevere through nine successive days of Masses and Holy Communions. It adds the extra incentive to overcome spiritual sluggishness. And perseverance through nine days may set a pattern that will carry through daily Mass and Communion until the end of the semester -- and even into next semester.

\* \* \* \* \*

There is nothing which the legislator should be more careful to drive away than indecency of speech, for the light utterance of shameful words leads to shameful actions.-- Aristotle

Fresh from the Pad.....

TRAGIC IGNORANCE

Locked as we are in the prison of our own thoughts and feelings, we have difficulty weathering emotional storms and finding our way through clouds of confusion. Each of us needs to talk to someone who will help us understand ourselves. A university student, more than anyone else needs this type of understanding. Here on this campus hundreds of students are secretly aching for just this kind of experience.

Why don't you seek out someone to talk to? Why not seek counseling? You say you are held back by genuine human considerations: "What will he think of me?" "Will I fall in his estimation?" "Will he hold what I tell him against me?" You fear that your counselor will mentally chastise you or that he will try to remold you to his own image. But, being honest with yourself, you know that your concern about the counselor's personal opinion isn't the real reason why you avoid what you need and actually desire. You realize, vaguely, that through the understanding of the counselor you will meet yourself. And this facing up to self is the real fear. You want to avoid, at all costs, a head-on encounter with self.

In the warmth of the counseling relationship you have a splendid opportunity for growing in self-understanding. The priest-counselor is not a crutch. He is not a substitute for your own will power. And he certainly is not a decision-maker. Actually, in seeking counseling you talk not so much to inform the counselor as to inform yourself. It is only through trying to express the violent and deep feelings churning within you that you can begin to understand something of the unique person that you are. It's only as you wind your way through the murky darkness of confused feelings that any lights go on. And the clear bells of personal conviction ring loud and clear only as you personally sort out the shrill conflicts within.

The counselor's task is to try to understand you in order that you might come to understand yourself. He loves you as a human being of incalculable worth and respects your complete uniqueness as a person. Behind his attempt to understand you is his deep conviction that only insofar as you vitally live as a unique person that you are will you fulfill your destiny.

All of us need the opportunity for self-understanding. Some need the human warmth of a counseling relationship to make self-growth possible. A university student is dedicated (in varying degrees) to growth in many dimensions of knowledge: science, literature, art, and history. And to remain ignorant of the wonder, the goodness, and the vital dynamism of human nature as it is realized in an absolutely unique way in himself -- this is more than tragic.

--Father Baker, C.S.C.

P.S. Progress involves risk. You can't steal second and keep your foot on first.