

## RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.

Jan. 12, 1925.

### Conscience and Cowards.

After a vacation period the Prefect of Religion receives many letters and many calls---the calls are more satisfactory. Very often the letters have to do with certain practices and prohibitions of the Church which were found either ~~irksome~~ or hard to explain. The burden of complaint that they exist, or do they always bind. It is the eternal conflict of principle and practice.

### Religion and Readiness.

One definite effect of religious practices should be to give an interested inquirer an intelligent explanation of them. The ability to do this is rightly expected of a College man---especially a Notre Dame man. Haziness or hedging may, and often does, give rise to taunts with the result that one may either excuse, minimize or even abandon the practice. It is then only a step to attack the principle. The Church---meaning Christ, of course---is thereupon denounced as arbitrary, illiberal, a robber of reason.

### Cornering Calumnies.

A great layman, recently a convert, G.K. Chesterton, has this to say on the point:

"By this time it must be obvious that every single thing in the Catholic Church which was condemned by the modern world has now been reintroduced by the modern world, and always in a lower form. The Puritans rejected art and symbolism, and the decadents brought them back again, with the old appeal to sense and an additional appeal to sensuality. The rationalists rejected supernatural healing, and it was brought back by Yankee charlatans, who not only proclaimed supernatural healing, but forbade natural healing. Protestant moralists abolished the confessional, and the psycho-analysts have re-established the confessional, with every one of its alleged dangers and not one of its admitted safeguards. The Protestant patriots resented the intervention of an international faith, and went on to save an empire entangled in international finance. Having complained that the family was insulted by monasticism, they have lived to see the family broken in pieces by bureaucracy; having objected to fasts being appointed for anybody during any exceptional interval, they have survived to see teetotalers and vegetarians trying to impose a fast on everybody forever."

### The Holy Family.

Did you miss the announcement that yesterday was the feast of the Holy Family, the model of all Christian families and fail to offer your Holy Communion for your own family? If so, you can do it tomorrow, the octave of the Epiphany. "Honor thy father, and forget not the groanings of thy mother, Remember that thou hadst not been born through them, and make a return to them, as they have done for thee."

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