

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.

April 7, 1925.

What is Notre Dame For?

I.

"Why are those who drink, gamble, boast of exploits with women, enjoy rotten shows, etc., dislike attending religious services, and are anything but Notre Dame men, so numerous here, where Catholic principles are the keynote? Why must the authorities appeal to the decent element to control the lawless? Why keep those who do not belong in college?"

II.

"I am now in what might be termed a state of religious antipathy. For some time I have been gradually losing my connection with the Catholic faith. My life so far as I know has been better, and religion seems nothing but a farce. The future holds no prospect. Life is merely a matter of passive resistance."

III.

"I recognize many errors in the Church, but I am a Catholic in spite of them. In the same way, I am not in accord with many of the policies of the University authorities, but I attend here because I believe that the University has something to give me. I frankly state that I believe that many of the charges brought against Catholicism by its opponents are true; and that instead of decrying these men, we should attempt to correct the abuse. After all, the Church is administered by humans, and naturally it is not a perfect organization."

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Number one: Lacordaire insisted that one should never give up hope for a boy. There is a great deal of tolerance at Notre Dame on the part of the authorities when there seems to be hope of doing something for him, when he shows manly qualities along with vicious traits--- provided he is not spreading his own disease. And don't interpret this as reflecting upon the generality of those who are dropped from the University. Most of these cases are simply the necessary sanction of law and order in a large community.

Number Two: This is a case for a psychopath, rather than for a spiritual director. There is something wrong with some gland or other--- most likely the parathyroid---when a man makes a statement like that and remains at Notre Dame--- and backs up his statement with a lot of other inconsistencies throughout his questionnaire. And if psychopathic cases continue to come in on the Survey---several others have come in ---the University will have to establish an entrance examination to catch them before they go too far.

Number Three: This looks like a milder case of gland derangement resulting in pernicious egoism. It can be cured, probably without medical treatment, if the individual will expose his condition to a spiritual director. It is common enough for a fellow to come along and claim discovery of the things that everyone else has known all the time about the Catholic Church. One general argument he should keep in mind: if the Catholic Church were not divine she would long ago have succumbed to the weakness of her human agents.

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April 7, 1925 (Con't)

Prayers.

The thoughtful thing to do right now is to make an intantion to include in your prayers of the next week or two all the intentions for which your prayers will be desired; this will assure those who cannot reach you directly during the vacation that their requests will be met. In the meantime, be good enough to pray for the following: Two conversions, three deceased persons, eleven sick persons, five special intentions. James Quigley was called home yesterday by the illness of his mother.

John F. O'Hara, C.S.C.,
Prefect of Religion.