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What Price the Modern Boy? VIII.10. Selfishness. (Continued).

In the crude and somewhat unethical example given in yesterday's Bulletin there was an exemplification of the supreme test of friendship proposed and carried out by Our Blessed Lord. It is ethical to lay down one's life for a friend; it is unethical to lie for him. You will find few friends who will give their lives for you; many will lie for you. Many more, unfortunately for humanity, will lie about you.

Selfishness is a disease of the heart. When the instinct of self-preservation is allowed to go beyond the bounds of reason it absorbs one by one the noble instincts of true charity, it squeezes out the love of neighbor. Altruism is a poor substitute for the Divine Law of Charity. Altruism finds a selfish complacency in relieving the distress of another; the Law of Charity gives an unselfish motive: "Thou shalt love the Lord Thy God with thy whole heart and with thy whole mind and with thy whole strength and thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." The love of God comes first; the love of neighbor and of self flows out of the love of God. If this life were all, one might well grab what he could, but there is another life in which the cup of cold water will not go unrewarded.

It is a shocking commentary on home training and Notre Dame training to find on a questionnaire that a student has spent \$100 a month on himself and \$1.00 on religion and charity. It is outrageous to find a student spending \$100 for a dance and its incidentals and zero on charity. It looked good to see \$824 raised this year for Father Brooks, but it represents only 35 cents a man, and most of it was made up by large donations from a few. The average contribution per student in the Sunday collection is three and a half cents per man, with one-half of those present contributing. It is a public scandal to find a student spending on sin ten times as much as he spends on charity.

Notre Dame shares the blame with the home. She does not demand enough of her students. There is a blameworthy timidity about asking for money, about giving students an opportunity to be unselfish, to share with others less fortunate the good gifts God has given them. There has been an improvement in this of late, but it is still far from satisfactory. Notre Dame is frequently criticized for giving students an opportunity for Holy Communion all morning. While it is perfectly true that this encourages laziness and selfishness, the practice will be continued, for it also encourages devotion, and the late distribution of Holy Communion has brought tremendous sacrifice on the part of some students. Our Lord made Himself the servant of all, and kept no office hours.

Our Lord taught unselfishness by practicing it Himself to the most heroic degree, and by threatening with the fires of Hell those who are selfish. While every sin is selfish, Our Lord picked out the Corporal Works of Mercy as opening and closing the gates of heaven. Describing the Last Judgement, He said: "He shall say to them also that shall be on His left hand: Depart from Me, you cursed, into everlasting fire, which was prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave Me not to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me not to drink...."

Selfishness may attack the highest or the lowest; the man who graduates with a magna cum laude and three gold medals may never be a credit to the University, the man who is helped to struggle through may prove an ingrate. It is a black vice; it may remain hidden a long time; it pollutes what it touches. It is a trait of the modern boy, who thinks only of himself and of his pleasure. It bodes no good for the future.

Announcements.

First Friday tomorrow: Mass of Exposition, 6:30; Adoration all day; Benediction, 7 Prayers: A student's father is very sick; five other sick and twelve deceased persons. Three special intentions.