
Prayers.

John Redgate and Robert Strickel ask prayers for relatives who are quite ill; two deceased persons and an urgent special intention are recommended to your prayers.

The Imitation Student Chaplain.

Again the natural value of the confessional, which was discarded four hundred and ten years ago by Martin Luther, is stressed by a non-Catholic. The New York Times reports Dr. Hugo Stressman, Dean of the University of Berlin, as saying that student suicides are not likely to come in epidemic form in Germany because the German universities have "studentenpastoren", or student chaplains, for the benefit of the students.

"In Germany it has been recognized by leading educators that the students have problems of their own which must be faced and solved," said Dr. Gressman. "Therefore a number of the universities have appointed what are called 'studentenpastoren,' representatives of the clergy, whose sole duty it is to act as advisers and friends to students in the university.

"The students know that when they have any disturbing problem, either financial, spiritual, sexual, or mental, they can always find a friend and guide in this university chaplain, usually a man who has undergone rigid tests for his sympathetic understanding of human nature and his general contact with the environment of university youth."

That's a very nice idea, and we have it wholesale in the universities in this country, and we find that they have as many as a dozen such chaplains in universities whose students are ending their lives in this year of Our Lord; and until that chaplain is endowed with power to say "I absolve you," such things are going to go on.

There is no doubt that the "exteriorization of sin," or open discussion of hidden faults, is beneficial to the mind; but that is not half the battle. The point these psychologists miss is this: the battle is not merely between conflicting emotions; it is between wayward conduct and an accusing conscience. There are just two ways of attacking the mental tangle caused by the accusing conscience: one way is for the advisor to lie about it, and say that there is no sin; the other is for the one with power to say there was sin there, but it is taken away. The psychoanalyst may get by with the first method if his subject is pretty dumb, but he can't silence an alert conscience that way; the second method has been followed by the Catholic Church for centuries -- and it works because it is a divine institution.

It is very interesting to see human reason reestablishing the institution so long calumniated as the foulest blot of the Catholic Church.

Surveys Today.

The printing office promises a new supply of Religious Surveys today. When you get your copy read Chapter VI very carefully from beginning to end. The selection of a single item for publication without its atmosphere has left the New-Times to protest against the idea. And don't confine your reading to that one chapter. Check yourself against your companions; give yourself a rating.

The New Questionnaire.

The questionnaire for this year's Religious Survey, the seventh, will be prepared during this week. Suggestions a-plenty have been offered in previous years, but more will be welcomed now. What do you want to know about the content of the student mind? On what questions do you want student opinion? Matters of conscience have been excluded from previous Surveys, and in all likelihood they will be excluded this time; but all suggestions will be given consideration.