

Religious Bulletin

December 6, 1930

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Free Advice.

To DR. ALEXANDER BEIKLEJOHN, once President of Aneherst, now in charge of the experimental college at Wisconsin, who stated recently that "youth... is the same today as it has been for a thousand years -- plastic and ready to learn," and that if it is not listening it is because, 1. "The Christian Church.... does not know what it is saying;" 2. "We don't know whether to retain the old customs of the home....;" and 3. The schools are in a rut, for "We are strong on methods and procedure and technique, but when you ask the schools 'what kind of a man do you want to turn out?' they do not know;"-- and who gives the following advice to the schools: "The thing we need most today in the schools is a gospel -- a sense of something that ought to be done."

Exactly. We need a gospel -- the Gospel of Christ -- and we need it applied universally. You could save yourself much experimentation by studying what that Gospel has done where it has been applied -- in the Catholic Church. You will find, for instance, that,

1. The Catholic Church knows what it is talking about;
2. The Catholic home knows its functions and fulfills them;
3. The Catholic school knows very definitely what kind of man it wants to turn out. (For information on this point read the Report of the Prefect of Religion -- Notre Dame, 1930).

To DR. ALEXANDER FLEXNER, formerly a director of the General Education Board (the Carnegie Foundation), whose new book on Universities is reported to contain a condemnation of "centers of quackery" for padded enrollment, correspondence and home study courses, lax academic entrance requirements, and "easy rubbish which may be counted toward an A.B. degree":

More power to your right arm! The fight the Catholic schools have had to wage almost single-handed to maintain sound standards of education -- traditions from the glorious universities of the Dark Ages -- has been a discouraging one because the "vested power" of educational associations has changed old-fashioned, sound policies by the threat of non-recognition of credits. Read "Untutored Educators," a Religious Bulletin reprinted in the Report of the Prefect of Religion (Notre Dame, 1930), pages 74 and 75.

To THE EDITOR of a certain magazine, who, arguing from the bright principle that "we get more out of life... when we live in accordance with our own will," tells the Yale Club of New York (which is investigating the week-end problem) that it is none of the business of the university where its students are on Sunday, provided they really know what's going on in classroom Monday:

You are giving aid and comfort to the enemy just when Yale (and the other universities associated with it in building up Personnel Departments) has about decided to get back to the character-building idea in education, the idea on which all the old universities were founded. Russia is having a swell time living according to its own will. For ourselves, we have always had a sneaking suspicion that we get most out of life when we live according to God's Will (whether it is shown to us directly by conscience or indirectly by legitimately-constituted authority), and we are going to continue to train boys on that principle at this old-fashioned university.

Catholics Must Hear Mass Monday.

Monday is a holyday of obligation -- the greatest feast of the Blessed Virgin that occurs during the school year. This is her school. You must hear Mass and you should receive Holy Communion. The Masses are as on Sundays -- 6:00, 7:00, 8:00 and 9:00.

PRAYERS: A student's mother is ill. Three special intentions and a thanksgiving.