

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
February 7, 1931

Charity.

The first four days of this week were more fruitful in donations for charity than in prayers for the sick. The total received during those days was \$49.85. Since most of it was designated simply "for any worthy cause," twenty dollars of the amount will be forwarded to the two ladies in North Carolina whose plight was called to your attention during the football season. A letter received from them at that time says:

"Please tell the priests and students that I can never tell them how much I appreciate their kind gift to me, and my prayer is that God will multiply it and give it back to them ten-fold, for I am a great sufferer.

"We have been left penniless through misfortune. You can imagine how thankful we both are, for it is cold weather and we were in need of coal and something to eat. I have chronic gastritis and have to have a diet that will not hurt me; I suffer when I eat something that does not agree with me. And I also have a spinal disease that causes great suffering.

"I would have written sooner, but we have been having very cold weather here, and coal is so high this winter. I hope to hear that you have received this, for we both want you to know how much we appreciate your gift, for we are so needy in this cold weather. I suffer, but I try to be cheerful."

You may recall from a previous statement of the case that these poor ladies receive only five dollars a month from the county, and that the one who is well is able to make sixty-four cents a week caning chairs when she devotes all her spare time to the task. The prayers of these two ladies (they are non-Catholics) will surely reach high heaven in behalf of those who have befriended them. And if you want to continue to help them, your offerings will be forwarded.

Sinclair Lewis.

As a matter of policy the Religious Bulletin refrains from advertising by name the lower class of ex-professo enemies of God. Exception must be made today, however, to give answer to the numerous students who are asking whether or not the writings of Sinclair Lewis are "on the Index."

In the past, when reading was confined largely to people of somewhat cultivated intelligence and discrimination, the Sacred Congregation of the Index forbade by name only works containing subtle errors; the others were condemned by the general decrees which forbade "books derogatory to God, the Blessed Virgin, the Saints; defending heresies; villifying the Sacraments, the clerical or religious state, the hierarchy, the Church.... books professedly treating of, narrating, or teaching lewdness or obscenity.... and so forth." Perhaps, with the "plentiful press multiplying mediocrity," as John Talbot Smith put it, the Index will reach down to the indiscriminate reader and condemn Sinclair Lewis by name.

For a Catholic it is enough to know that this winner of what is now the ignoble prize was married (the first time), in the presence of a priest, to a woman who later lost her faith, her Minnesota accent, and her husband, in the order named; and that in order to advertize a new book he repeated the silly challenge of Ingersoll and Mangasarius, pulling out his watch and giving God five minutes to strike him dead. He is dead so far as Catholics are concerned: by their baptismal vows they have promised to renounce such creatures and "all their works and pomps."

PRAYERS: Deceased: Henry McKee's grandfather. Ill: Walter Kilgallon's father; Geo. Shidel's father and grandmother; Louis Hough, '28; the wife of Robert Dick, '29; a relative of Tom Ryan; three friends of students. Seven special intentions.