

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
October 6, 1931.

"Incrassatus Est Dilectus et Recalcitravit."

On the Feast of the Guardian Angels, last Friday, the Holy Father was moved to issue an Encyclical Letter on the depression, in which he pleads especially for the little children who are suffering for the sins of the fathers. It is a touching appeal for a crusade of charity, and for true charity, which is necessarily a combination of the spiritual and material, with the spiritual coming first.

In his magnificent Canticle for the Observance of the Law, Moses pointed out to the Jews that their sins were the cause of their afflictions. Israel had been favored above all peoples: "The Lord alone was his leader, and there was no strange god with him. He set him upon high land, that he might eat the fruits of the fields, that he might suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the hardest stone. Butter of the herd, and milk of the sheep with the fat of lambs, and of the rams of the breed of Basan; and goats with the marrow of wheat, and might drink the purest blood of the grape." --- But.....

"Incrassatus est dilectus.... The beloved grew fat, and kicked: he grew fat, and thick and gross, he forsook God who made him, and departed from God his Saviour."

Could you ask for a more perfect picture of our situation? Prosperity brought strange gods and strange ways of living. New philosophies were invented (all of them as old as sin; none of them stated so well as the ancient pagans stated them), and every artifice of modern life - the stage, the press, the rostrum, the bench, yes, even the pulpit - was turned over to Satan's sophists to teach the world that sin is no longer sin, but magnificent self-expression.

Your attention has already been called to Bishop Moll's recent pronouncement (which you will find at the pamphlet rack), "It is Time to Try Religion." Now comes the plea of the Holy Father: "A new plague menaces - indeed already afflicts - a great portion of the flock entrusted to our care, striking more clearly the weaker through the more strongly loved - the children; the humble and the more impoverished - the workers and the proletariat.

"We refer to the grave pecuniary embarrassment, the financial crisis, which has descended upon every people and with steady frightening progress is bringing unemployment to every land. We see great multitudes of honest, willing workers forced into idleness and reduced with their families to extreme indigence; workers who desire nothing better than to earn with the sweat of their brow, as the divine mandate teaches, the daily bread which they beg each morning of their Lord....

"It is therefore, to a crusade of mercy and love, and unquestionably of sacrifice as well, that we call all, sons of the One Father, members of the one and same great family, God's family...." And the crusade to which we are called is a crusade of prayer and alms, - specifically, a triduum in preparation for the Feast of Christ the King, and generous contributions for the relief of the needy.

Our two-fold answer to this plea is as follows: 1. A contribution box for the poor at the pamphlet rack; 2. A Novena for the Poor, which will begin tomorrow and end on the Feast of St. Theresa of Avila, a Saint whose confidence in God for the relief of temporal necessities gave a thrill to the blasé Sixteenth Century. During the Novena, offer Holy Communion daily and recite the Litany of St. Joseph, the Saint who provided, under God, for the needs of the Holy Family.

NOTES: Frank Hurley's sister is very ill. Relatives of Mrs. Hart and T. Kelly, C.S.C., died recently. Don McIntosh's father was injured in an auto accident. Five special intentions.