

Blockhead Seniors.

(We say "Blockhead Seniors," not "Senior Blockheads," because the latter are all dead - and buried in hell. That's where the complete blockhead goes.)

The following letter calls for comment:

"Dear Father: Permit me to inform you that I have encountered two cases of Notre Dame alumni who have fallen away from the Church. I have also heard indirectly of others. This situation strikes me as being deplorable. What the University or the alumni can do to remedy this lack of Faith I do not know.

"I have spoken to one of these men, but without success. He is married to a non-Catholic girl, outside the Church. He contends that he cannot convince his wife that they should be re-married by a priest. He lacks confidence in his ability to discuss the religious issue with his wife."

The first thing the University, the alumni, and the students can do about it is to pray for these poor fellows who fall away. Their situation is far worse than that of the average Catholic who falls away, for the more graces one rejects the greater is his responsibility.

The second thing the alumni can do is to try to drag such fellows to a priest, who, with his wide experience and his ability to put on the stole and give absolution at the psychological moment, is in far better position than the alumnus to bridge the real gap - confession.

The thing the Bulletin can do is to strive with might and main to knock the conceit out of blockhead seniors before they become alumni.

Pagan ideas catch their fancy - because pagan life appeals to their lower natures - and their confidence in themselves is so complete that you can't shake them out of their lethargy. As we said last year, there are many Protestant boys here who are better Catholics than some of the boys who have come to Notre Dame with a proud Catholic heritage behind them. There are Protestants here who never miss Mass on Sunday, who say the beads daily, who make visits to the church and Grotto, and who lead lives that would shame many a Catholic. Like Mahatma Gandhi, they do not become Catholics because they find so much contradiction between the faith and the lives of so many Catholics.

Here is one point for them to get into their thick heads (others will follow from time to time): Mixed marriage as a path to happiness is a chimera. In the recent alumni survey, 35 out of 313 married men had non-Catholic wives. Fourteen of these men volunteered the warning to others to keep out of mixed marriages; six others had left the Church; not one of the remainder advised mixed marriage. Thirty-seven alumni had married converts, and 26 of these belonged to the classes between 1918 and 1925 - the time when the Klan was strong; between 1926 and 1930 only one had married a convert, and 8 had married non-Catholics - and there were only 46 married men in this group! Do you want the Klan to rise again?

There are successful mixed marriages; we know that. None of the alumni have reported them, however; keep that fact in mind. And pray for enough sense to make something out of your senior year - perhaps the last chance God will give you to be a high-class Catholic.

PRAYERS: Jos. Pilon's father died recently. Masses tomorrow morning: at 6:30 in the Sorin chapel, for Robt. and Ed Strob's father; at 6:35 in the Church, for John Mulhorn's father, who died yesterday; Chicago Club please note. A brother of Bro. Aloysius died Wednesday. Three special intentions. A relative of Francis Shapiro is very ill.