

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
April 21, 1932

Early Rising and Christian Culture.

Brownson's observation, quoted in last Saturday's Bulletin, that culture can flourish only under severe discipline, has called forth comment, some of it wise. It may be worth while to make one practical application of the principles there laid down. It is this:

It is the worthy ambition of the University of Notre Dame to be a center of Christian culture. We must begin with the elements of Christianity. One of the primary elements is appreciation of the Mass. The man who lies a-bed in the morning when he might easily be at Mass lacks one of the primary elements of Christian culture; and there is no solid structure where there is no foundation. Early rising is one of the points of mental and moral discipline essential to rugged thought; and early rising gives us the Calvary that Christ willed to us - the Mass. Start the day with Mass if your aim is Christian culture.

The Y.M.C.A. Falls Down.

An Associated Press dispatch recently quoted the President of Haverford College, Dr. Comfort, as declaring that "the Y.M.C.A.'s and Christian associations in the universities don't do the student any good at all." He stated that he wanted to find some means of teaching young people "respect for things they cannot see but which are eternal." He described modern students, "especially the girls," as "perfect little pagans who are not interested in anything that carries the church mark." Asserting further that "the young person knows plenty but has little moral backbone," he declared that "the children are getting nothing in the public schools and very little in the private schools," and that they need moral qualities and spiritual faith.

While brief newspaper reports of speeches are frequently misleading, the statements attributed to Dr. Comfort describe a condition frequently lamented by conscientious non-Catholic educators. They see a problem, a messy, tragic problem, but do not see its cause. They are still blind to the fact - plain as day from history - that when dogma goes, morals break down. Unless reason accepts the fact that Christ is God and takes His word as the Law of God, the will follows its own blind fancies. Luther's "pick and choose" theory of private interpretation was the seed planted four hundred years ago; "perfect little pagans" are the harvest. Humanitarianism is no substitute for Christianity; utilitarian sanctions are no substitute for heaven and hell. Self-respect ceases to make people behave when you tell them they have no soul; family honor means nothing when divorce and birth control destroy the family; sentimentalism and bribery have removed fear of the law. Why should old or young behave?

A Rich Bouquet for Mother's Day.

The Mother's Day Novena will begin early this year - next Tuesday, nine days before the feast of the Ascension. Several motives suggest this earlier date: 1. The Novena will be completed before you send your card to your mother; 2. the slow-starters will have a chance; 3. the Ascension-Day recess will not interfere. Make your spiritual bouquet a rich one -- Masses heard, rosaries, visits to the Grotto and to the Blessed Sacrament, Novenas of Adoration and of hymns at the Grotto -- all these help to cheer your mother's heart and bring God's graces to her daily tasks. A Novena of Masses for your mothers will begin in the Sorin chapel next Tuesday.

Cast-off Clothing.

Old clothing is still in demand, particularly trousers and shoes. Some twenty needy individuals have had to be turned away since Easter because the wardrobe was empty.

Old Mother Hubbard had nothing on us.

PROF. Jacques requests prayer for a deceased sister. Four special intentions.