
Questions From The Questionnaire.

65. Why is the Litany of the Blessed Virgin said in front of the Blessed Sacrament?
Ans. The Blessed Sacrament is our most intimate memorial of the Incarnation. When the Litany is so said, it is to honor the Blessed Virgin for her part in this great mystery. "The Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us."
66. Must a Catholic who has been married by a justice of the peace be re-married by a priest?
Ans. Not re-married; he isn't married yet. A Catholic, even though fallen-away, can be validly married only in presence of a priest. He has offered the girl a deadly insult by taking her before a squire for an attempted marriage. If that is all he thinks of her it is not so likely that in later years he will cherish her as a dutiful husband should, so it will probably be better for both of them if they separate entirely.
67. Explain practical morality.
Ans. What do you mean, "practical morality"? You heard why the Frenchman said he left the Church - "it's those Ten Commandments; they're entirely too personal." If you have doubts about the practical application of any one of them, consult your confessor.
68. Why not get all the would-be Catholics out of Notre Dame? They are a disgrace to the school.
Ans. Try it. They cling like the old man of the sea.
69. Where can legitimate complaints against the administration of the University be taken?
Ans. There is a hierarchy of administrative officers. You may continue your appeals from one to another until you reach the Pope. -- But be sure your complaints are legitimate before you start your journey. Your questionnaire shows that you consider the question on choice of books "unintentionally insulting," and yet among the books you mention as having impressed you most you list Wilder's "Cabala" along with Newman's "Apologia" and Chesterton's "The Thing." You also say you like beer but detest cheap liquor. You are running a close second for the leather medal awarded annually for lack of discrimination. The cure is to read less, think more, seek advice, and take a good many things on faith.
70. How would you solve the liquor problem in the United States?
Ans. There are enough candidates for president now. Why clutter up the field?
71. How about modern fiction not on the Index?
Ans. In the history of literature this will go down as The Great Gap. Most of what is not vile is merely insipid; the vile is both vile and insipid. You have a fine chance to catch up on the classics now.
72. How may one reject impure thoughts which distract him when he tries to study?
Ans. Try making the sign of the cross over your heart and then study harder. If they still persist, run out and play for a while. Don't let them disturb your peace of mind; as long as you resist them they are the occasion of gaining grace and merit - stepping-stones to heaven. If they keep you humble and charitable they save your soul.
73. Do you think the social life at Notre Dame is sufficient?
Ans. Not for a cake eater.
74. Pan barnyard morality.
Ans. Comte, with all his faults, said at least one good thing: "Doctors who bear in mind only the animal side of human nature should confine their practice to animals -- they should become veterinary surgeons."