

Adorer needed  
Saturday, 3:30-4

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
March 10, 1933

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The Trudge to Rome. I.

From the London Observer we learn that a young Chinese teacher, trained in a monastery in China, has walked all the way to Rome to see the Holy Father and take part in the Holy Year ceremonies; also that walking pilgrimages of this sort, reminiscent of the ages of faith, are being organized in Northern Italy, some of the pilgrims contemplating a journey on foot of 500 miles.

Consider this item in connection with the thanksgiving published last week in the Bulletin - the conversion of one of the founders of the Confraternity of Unity, an organization within the Anglican Church which has been working actively and effectively for reunion with Rome. (This organization later secured affiliation with the Catholic League in England, and brought two-thirds of the League's membership to a recognition of Papal supremacy.)

"The trudge to Rome." Isn't that what is going on? It is a hard road, full of difficulties, the smallest of which is the martyrdom of the economic peril incurred by those clergymen who take the step and are left without means of support. The social ostracism that may result from submission, hard though it may seem, is accepted readily by strong characters. Of all the difficulties in the way, the hardest one faced by the prospective convert-minister who has felt all the time that his orders were valid, is probably the one hinted at in the foreword to the brochure, "The Aims of the Confraternity of Union," in these words: "This Confraternity seeks through corporate action within the Anglican Communion a basis of reunion with the Holy See which will not be prejudicial to the facts of her sacramental life."

Put yourself in the position of an earnest, zealous, intelligent man who has, by his own diligent study and sincere love of God, arrived at the conclusion that he is a Catholic priest with valid orders; add to that conviction the experience of, say, twenty-five years of active parochial work within the Anglo-Catholic communion - saying Mass every day, hearing confessions, preaching Catholic doctrine, perhaps reciting the Divine Office - and then face the doubt, or perhaps the certainty, that the only Sacrament you have administered validly is the Sacrament of Baptism, and that the rest of your sacramental life and ministrations have been empty of everything but good intentions!

That's hard. It is easy for us, who have been born to the faith, to make light of the difficulties of those who were born to darkness. If we but realized these things, would we not pray night and day for the grace they need to see the light, and to take the step once the light is glimpsed?

A beautiful spirit of penance pervades the work of the Confraternity of Unity. There is recognition there that reparation must be made for the sins of their fathers. See how it is stated in the brochure we have mentioned: "We have seen that outside the Catholic Church, Christianity is dead or dying. That this disintegration is due to the divided voice of Christians, - to Schism. That schism, - the rending of Christ's mystical body, - is sin.... What can we do to remedy this? We must have some duty in the matter. Schism is a fearful thing, a violation of Christ's expressed will, ruining the propagation of the Gospel, responsible for the growing unbelief of today. Once aware of the facts, if we do nothing, some of the burden of guilt and of the evil consequences must rest upon each one of us."

Way of the Cross: 7:00 in church (Brownson and Carroll Halls); 7:30, hall chapels.

PRAYERS: Deceased - Roger Beirne's father; the father of Wm. J. Jones, '32; the mother of Dr. Thos. Leahy, '26 and Wm. Leahy, '31; the mother of Ralph Rogers (anniversary today); five friends of students. Ill - a son of Prof. Kaczmarek (appendectomy); a former pastor at Alexandria, La.; relatives of Tom Bott, Jim Swords, and Harold Spori; friend (operation). Six special intentions; two thanksgivings.