

General Communion
again tomorrow
for Fr. O'Donnell

University of Notre Dame
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First Friday

Common Sense and the Liquor Problem.

During the past thirteen years we have had to struggle to make known the common sense attitude of the Catholic Church on the liquor problem. The voice of fanaticism is more strident than the modulated tones of common sense, and during the past thirteen years our country has been a battle-ground for the oratory (and the bullets) of two sets of fanatics - the dries and the wets.

Common sense ceased to rule when the Eighteenth Amendment was adopted and the Volstead Act was passed. When human action leaves the middle ground of virtue, the pendulum swings just as far to the left as to the right. The fanaticism which made our country dry de jure gave occasion to the fanaticism which made it wet de facto.

The attitude of the Catholic Church, which is the attitude of right reason, is, always was, and always will be, the following:

1. Temperance is a virtue which imposes moderation in the use of all of God's creatures, and guards against any abuse of them.
2. Total abstinence from intoxicating liquor (or from any other created thing that is not essential to bodily or spiritual welfare), if undertaken as an act of penance and for the love of God, is an act of religion that is highly pleasing to God and profitable to our souls.

Neither of these virtues pleased the Pharisees, whom Our Lord rebuked in these terms:

"John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and you say: He hath a devil. The Son of Man is come eating and drinking: and you say: Behold a man that is a glutton and a drinker of wine, a friend of publicans and sinners." -- St. Luke, 7:33,34.

While the Catholic Church encourages total abstinence for all, she imposes it as an obligation only on those who demonstrate that they cannot use liquor in moderation - they fall under the natural law governing proximate occasions of sin. Total abstinence may be legitimately imposed by a social group for a particular need; thus, a railroad may forbid its employes to drink; a school (particularly a boarding school) may include total abstinence in its rules, because of the dangers inherent in juvenile irresponsibility. No one has to work for that railroad; no one has to attend that school.

A new stage in what has been called "a noble experiment" will begin tomorrow, when 3.2 beer will become legal. The announcement of this step has awakened a new fanaticism. Plans for "wild parties" have been widely advertised; Europeans reading of them will say, "Americans are just as crazy as ever." The Hotel Association of Chicago has recognized the danger to the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment that lies in such fanaticism, and plans to curb excesses simply as a business proposition.

Notre Dame men who have the Catholic sense will devote a portion of their day tomorrow to acts of reparation for the pagan excesses that will mark the day. You have been reminded that tomorrow is the feast of the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady; Notre Dame men will see in this an especially fitting occasion to atone for unworthy actions committed by men who have dedicated themselves to her by coming here.

PRAYERS: Deceased - a priest; relatives of Paschal Tofuri, Frank Belting, '29, Edward J. Lynch; a friend (drowned). Operations - James Cahill, '15; Andrew Shiebler's father; two friends. Father O'Donnell, Victor Waufle, and Russell O'Shea are still in need of prayers. Three special intentions.

THANKS - \$1 for Bengal; \$5 for the convert minister; \$5 for the lady with the large family; 50¢ for charity (unassigned).