

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
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N.R.A.

"Recovery Year" is the designation given on your Eucharistic Calendar to this particular episode in your education. The calendar reminds you that although President Roosevelt has dedicated the year to Industrial Recovery, Catholics know that true recovery must begin with the soul.

The U.S. Commissioner of Education informs us that we do not come within the provisions of the National Recovery Act. That does not exempt us from its spirit, however; and its spirit goes into the moral principles on which it is based. Its spirit does not stop with the abolition of child labor, the shortening of working hours, and the payment of a minimum wage; it does not stop with the payment of even a living wage. Its spirit goes straight to rock-bottom principles such as the following.

1. There is a God Who created us and to Whom we are responsible, and His Will is the Eternal Law, which all creatures must obey.
2. Man has an immortal soul as well as a mortal body, and his destiny is participation in the everlasting kingdom of God. He has a temporal, earthly destiny to fulfill, but never at the expense of his eternal destiny.
3. Because man has this two-fold destiny, his soul is vested with rights which facilitate his reaching his destiny, and no man, no group of men, can violate these rights without injustice.

The N.R.A. looks to the protection of a minimum of these rights in the accomplishment of man's temporal destiny. The Act itself, and the codes based on the Act, are based on the Catholic principles enunciated in the Encyclicals of Popes Leo XIII and Pius XI. The N.R.A. movement is, therefore, a part of your Catholic Education.

But Catholic Recovery does not stop there - much less does it start there. Catholic Recovery at Notre Dame begins with the Mission. It takes your soul into the Sacrament of Penance, where it washes it of sin and strengthens it not only with new resolves but the Sacramental Grace to carry out these resolves. And it leads your soul from the confessional to the Communion Rail, where it gives you the Food of the Strong to prepare you for the battle.

The soul, thus purified and strengthened, is then led to the lecture hall and the pew, to the library and the parlor, to the football field and the laboratory. Knowledge feeds the mind; discipline strengthens the heart.

Two men go into the classroom. The one is a daily communicant; the other is a crass materialist. Do both draw the same fruit from the lecture?

These same two men read a book. Is there any difference in the impression it leaves?

Don't you see that the state of your soul makes all the difference in the world in your education? Can't you see why we say that you can't get an "education" at Notre Dame unless you live in the state of grace?

Make this a real Recovery Year. If your soul is not right with God, straighten it out today. Then you can begin to get an education.

PRAYERS: Deceased - relatives of John J. Ryan (Badin) and George Yungbluth; the mother of Harold Cosgrove, '26; a brother and sister of Father Hoover, O.Cist. Ill - Thomas Jordan, '73; Mike Scully (operated for fractured knee-cap); Dick Harrison's father; Mrs. Carney's brother; a friend (spinal meningitis); another friend (appendicitis). A conversion; two thanksgivings; five special intentions.