

University of Notre Dame
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Why Not Say What You Mean?

It has been a common experience during the years of depression to hear one person say of another: "His savings of a lifetime have all been swept away." Margaret Banning in the Saturday Evening Post objects to such language. She says about one such person: "He has a mind stored full of knowledge and experience. He has made large investments in charities and education for other people -- investments which have not depreciated and are yielding a return to society today. He has saved his simple habits and his pleasure in living." No depression could sweep these things away. If you mean that this person has lost some money you had better say that in so many words. Don't tell us his life's savings are gone.

Your Parents Were Wise.

When your parents sent you to college they knew that any money they might put into a good education for you, could not be taken away from you by an economic depression; that mind improvement would not depreciate with the fall of real estate like property improvement. When you examine your conscience you should ask yourself: "Am I really getting an education; something that a financial panic can't take away from me?" If you are not there is something wrong somewhere.

What About My Religious Life?

Our Lord tells us to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven, where neither the moth nor the rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. Every merit we gain from Mass and Holy Communion, from visits to the Grotto, adoration in the Church etc. is ours for all eternity. No depression can take those away from us. Are we making the best of our opportunities in a spiritual way?

Experience in the Depression.

Those men who had faith and who were accustomed to pray and to receive the Sacraments frequently met the depression without flinching. They weathered the storm. They lost their money but their faith and the merits they had accumulated remained. Those who had nothing but money, lost their money and committed suicide.

An Example.

We met a good practical Catholic last summer with a swimming suit under his arm. He was telling us that the bank in which he had all his money had just closed and that he hadn't a penny in the world. We anxiously said to him, "What are you going to do?" And he replied, "I'm going swimming." No bank failure could take away his peace of mind, which was the result of a good life.

Prepare for the Depression.

Now is the time to prepare for whatever depressions may come in the future. You may not encounter another financial depression in your life, but you are sure to meet depressions of one kind or another. There will be times when you are low in health or low in spirits, when worries and difficulties will besiege your peace of mind, when you will have family troubles or business troubles. If you store up a lot of reserve power now in the form of grace it will carry you through.

Lenten Devotions Tonight: Note correction - Lyons Hall will attend at 7:45 service, Morrissey, the 7:00. Note also: Seats held in gym until 8:30.

PRAYERS: Deceased - Prof. Kuntz's mother; Dr. Matt Hazinski, ex-'22; relatives of Sister Monica, O.P., and Kenneth Whipps. Ill - J.J. Quinn (Lyons), a brother of Geo. Wolfe, an uncle of Jack Edwards, two friends. Four special intentions.