

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
April 6, 1934.

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Benediction at 7:30.

The First Friday Benediction will be at 7:30 this evening - one service only, note.

Which Other Side?

If anyone happens to tell you that you must read worthless books "in order to know the other side of the question" ask him: "Which other side?"

Truth is one. Error is manifold. Life is too short to garner all the truth. Why waste any of your precious time on error?

The oak is contained in germ in the acorn. When we say, "life is too short to garner all the truth," we refer to the oak, not to the acorn. The little child who knows his catechism has in germ the answer to all of life's problems.

When we advise you not to waste your time on error, we tell only half the story. The world is full of synthetic acorns - some of them empty shells, some of them stuffed with sawdust, some of them - many of them, in fact - actually poisonous. In your ignorance you expose yourself to poison.

When a man is thoroughly versed in truth he can separate the true from the false. A man who knows his Catholic philosophy well may secure permission to read books on the Index, provided they are not obscene, and provided he has good reason for reading them - to refute them, for example. Even then, he must use prayer and humility as safeguards or he will inhale lethal poison from such reading.

History is full of examples that illustrate these points. The wise man will learn from the mistakes of others; "the fool leapeth over and is confident."

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Dr. David Linley, President emeritus of the University of Illinois, in a recent speech gave utterance to very sound doctrine on "academic freedom." We quote:

"Minorities in various faculties demand the right or privilege to teach what they please, when they please, as they please, without accountability either to the institution or the public. On the student side there has been considerable growth of sentiment that since they are of university age they need no restraint through rules establishing standards of conduct and scholarship. Some of them, like the faculty minorities spoken of, want authority without responsibility, freedom without accountability. The defense for these things usually is freedom of speech, freedom of teaching liberalism, and the necessity of having the young people acquainted with 'real' life! These are the academic shibboleths.

"We all believe in freedom of speech and freedom of teaching, but freedom is not license.

"What many of these people really want is not the right to express their opinions but the right to compel institutions and individuals to furnish them a platform. If an institution objects to bringing in lecturers on companionate marriage or for the advocacy of communism, its officers are called reactionary and their action is called a denial of freedom of speech. Not so. Those who want these lectures can hire halls and talk themselves hoarse, but they have no right to insist that a university shall furnish them a platform and promote their causes."

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PRAYERS: Ill - Harold Gilday's father; an aunt of James Sherry. Two special ints.  
CORRECTION: The name of Bro. Irenaeus' sister who died this week was Sister Angelita, not Carmolita.