

Ill, cousin of Bill
Torrey (Corby); John
Pottingill (Corby).

University of Notre Dame
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Ill, Joe Sullivan;
Bob Malarney (St. Ed's.);
grandmother of P. Johnen.

Disloyalty to the Faith--I.

If you haven't ten cents to buy a copy of the Ave Maria at the newsstand, come over and we shall hand you the issue of January 19, which contains a most illuminating article by James A. Magner, on "Loyalty to the Faith." Here is a digest of the article:

In this country religious sentiment is not at all growing favorable to Catholicism. True, ancient fables of Papist and monkish ferocity are passing out, but Catholic belief, especially as applied to social problems, is in many circles, considered ridiculous and indefensible.

In the press and in public education there is a preponderance of Protestant, free-thinking and liberal influences at work. There is a notable absence of Catholic expression.

There is a notable apathy, lack of courage, bewilderment, sense of inferiority in the Catholic lay public itself, both in the public manifestation of faith and in the defense of the Catholic viewpoint on current problems.

What is the cause? The clergy? Since the Catholic laity are in direct touch with non-Catholics through business, professional and social connections, the Catholic laity are chiefly responsible if non-Catholics fail to understand the Catholic Church, if they are sincere in despising Catholic people.

Why are Catholics, as Catholics, less aggressive than Protestants in public life? It may be that, accepting much on authority, Catholics fail to develop personal convictions in matters of faith. It may be that Catholics lack opportunities to develop themselves as leaders along educational and intellectual lines that are distinctly Catholic.

A more subtle reason, however, is the chronic desire of Catholics to be broad-minded. They fear to appear ridiculous if they hold definite principles on religious subjects. They want to know "both sides" without knowing their own side, and hence, after they flounder around in an argument, they conclude that the Catholic position is untenable.

Another thing: Catholics don't read Catholic periodicals. Hence they don't know Catholic problems and Catholic viewpoints. Out of some 20,000,000 Catholics, the Catholic World has a subscription list of only about 10,000; the Commonweal has 15,000, America, 30,000.

Many educated Catholics share the feeling of secular educators that our system of inculcating definite principles of life and religion robs the student of the opportunity of formulating his own principles of belief. And such an "educated" Catholic, instead of knowing and defending a definite Catholic thought, resents his own regimentation into what he thinks are impractical ideas and outworn forms.

Many Catholics, unlike agnostics and scoffers, are shy to reveal their Catholic identity in public for fear of argument or of imperiling their position. Many Catholics, too, join in the active campaign of criticism of the Church--often to justify a course of action, especially in matters like birth control, that is condemned by Catholic morality.

Other Catholics think that the Church is nothing but a collection of priests holding antiquated opinions in no way comparable with scientific societies and national clubs that pass upon religious matters and points for social legislation. If, on the other hand, the Church organizes for national decency or parochial uplift, these Catholics are cold and immediately assume that the movement has been started by pious fanatics. (To be continued in tomorrow's Bulletin.)

Deceased: Leo Mahoney '22; grandmother of Phil Curry (Dillon); aunt of John Rickert (Dillon); Ill, cousin of J.P. Kinneary '28; father of George Ball (Howard); Ed Kirby.