

Mass Wed. of St. Bede, p. University of Notre Dame Field Mass on campus next
825. 2nd col. of Octave, p. Religious Bulletin Saturday, Memorial Day.
477; 3rd col. St. John, p. 825. May 26, 1936 Watch for details.

Cure For Ennui And Self-Pity.

Here is a painted debutante who jumps out of a sixteenth-story window because some tap-dancing gigolo has forsaken her. And here is a college student who shoots wildly, and kills, simply because his professor has brought down the grade. There is a society dame nursing her poodle and decrying the vulgarity and selfishness of the common masses that move in the streets below.

One thinks of the millions of young fellows pounding the streets for employment, eating their food from tin plates in sordid environments. One thinks of other millions of the "fortunate", who work on conveyor lines in factories, who mine coal, and stoke furnaces. Then one turns to hear a college boy groan about the hardships of life--a college boy who has been pampered with rich food and fine clothing in a luxurious home, with cars and cocktails, with leisure for dancing and tennis and golf, with years in education that is intended to make him think!

What's the matter, unless it be this: that those who overvalue themselves lose all sense of value. They become both to themselves and to others about as pleasant as an ingrown hair! Psychologists are teaching nowadays that, not sex nor complexes, but plain old selfishness is the chief cause of unhappiness; that every man is, in fact, born a selfish introvert. To be happy we must go to the trouble of meeting and liking people, of getting interested in their troubles and points of view; of doing worthwhile things whether we like to do them or not, of risking mistakes and embarrassment in order to develop useful skills and wholesome moral habits.

Here is an unfailing cure for unhappiness and for "that feeling" of futility: personal exercise in the corporal works of mercy, upon whose performance or non-performance Christ has said He will judge on the Last Day. Listen again to His words as he rejects the selfish:

"Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire...For I was hungry, and you gave me not to eat: I was thirsty, and you gave me not to drink...I was a stranger, and you took me not in; naked, and you covered me not, sick and in prison, and you did not visit me...Amen I say to you, as long as you did it not to one of these least, neither did you do it to me."

It would be well if Notre Dame men, graduates and undergraduates, took an active part in the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society--not merely in coldly giving money and clothing, but in actually getting out and helping. The work is a moral tonic that you need. Here on the campus the Local Conference of this Society has this year assisted more than 100 South Bend families. Coal and food and other necessities have been brought to these families. More than 500 pieces of clothing have been distributed. Local members of St. Vincent de Paul have gone from door to door in South Bend helping take the census of Holy Cross parish--in this work they have unearthed for the pastor 12 spiritual or material problems. Surplus clothing they will send at the end of the year to an Indian mission in North Dakota and to the home of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Indianapolis. What are you doing in this noble work?

When you gripe because you don't have a butler and a car; because you have to study in order to improve your mind; because you have to get up in the morning and go to bed at night; because you can't sip cocktails in pagan abandon; because some bold prefect corrects you unsympathetically--wake up! You're drowsy. You've been in the money so long that you're dumb and selfish. You need many stiff personal adventures in the corporal works of mercy!

PRAYERS: (deceased) Mr. Alex A. McDonel, '00. Ill, Gerald Holland, '25; Dan O'Neil, '25; Mrs. Charles D. Terry, mother of Charles Terry (Lyons) and mother-in-law of Bill Dooley (Publications Office); Dr. John Burns, '13; sister of Louis Crystal (Howard); sister of Hubert Kirchman (Lyons). Three special intentions.