
Basis Of Christian Charity.

The Countess de Chambrun (nee Clara Longworth) describes in her autobiography, "Shadows Like Myself," the charities of a woman who yearly spends at least two-thirds of her income in good works. A pet charity of the lady is the rehabilitation of women who return from prison to civil life. The Countess goes on:

"I asked her the usual American question, 'Are you satisfied with the results?'

"What do you mean by 'satisfied'?" she enquired.

"I tried to explain--did she feel that any of her proteges had been turned into the paths of virtue by her efforts?

"Oh no," she answered. 'Sooner or later most of them go back to prison. I thought once that I had really succeeded in changing the mentality and morality of a young woman who seemed to me a particularly sad case. She showed immense gratitude for all that I had done to help her, and, as she had pretty manners and was exceedingly deft with her needle, I took her into my own household to help the maid with the linen and mending. For many months she gave complete satisfaction and was quite a model to the other servants. At the end of that time she introduced an old friend of hers, who was a burglar and for whose release she was waiting, and together they went off with as many jewels as she could find, and a large part of the family silver.'

"I remarked that such an experience must have discouraged her efforts for some time to come. She looked at me with considerable surprise.

"Why, my dear,' she said, 'The work that I do does not need either encouragement or success. I am simply following what Christ recommends.'"

The incident illustrates an important point. Our so-called American efficiency engaged in relieving misfortune may cause us to forget the motive which underlies true Christian charity.

PRAYERS: (deceased) mother-in-law of Professor Hollis; father of Jean Slavin (Alum.); cousin of Jim Flanagan (Dil.). Ill, Anthony Gentle (Cav.), appendectomy; Sister Mary Collista, O.S.B.; uncle of John Huerling (Alumni). Two special intentions.

Remember, when Christ describes the last judgment He blesses the just for having nourished Him, for having clothed Him, for having visited Him.

And they in astonishment inquire, When did we do these things to You?

He answers: "As long as you did it to one of these my least brethren you did it to me."

Since charity to neighbor is charity to Christ, contempt for one's fellowman is contempt for Christ. (And negligence?)

Charity should render each of us indulgent, accessible, affectionate; it is Christ that we love in our neighbor.

Charity creates zeal to help other men save their souls; the return of sinners is the burning desire of Christ's Sacred Heart.

Acts of charity may be unappreciated; they may not bring results. It is enough to realize, however, that they always touch Christ.

Prayer For Those Who Teach.

That I may have continually in mind
Thy blessed saint, Thomas, at prayer,
in tears because the task's
greatness was more than he could bear;
and that I may remember, too,
mind's darkness, when it is not lighted by
the rays of Thy divine
brightness, to scatter night and give
sight to the blind;
in search persistently maintained, o
let me find
guidance at first,
direction in all things, and at the last
a worthy end;
may growing knowledge more and more
increase until
in knowing Him Who said, "I am
the Light of Truth along your way,"
we also know
and walk within the day.
(Earl Daniels, in the Commonwealth.)