
A One-Man Apostolate.

Last winter in a lecture in Washington Hall Father Gillis said: "The time has come when Catholic youth should start asking questions instead of being content with merely answering them." The majority of young men and women outside the Catholic Church are today indifferent, passive, religiously dormant. The problem is how to arouse their interest.

A sophomore of Morrissey Hall, taking his cue from the recommendation of Father Gillis, devised a questionnaire which he mailed to some of his non-Catholic friends. Replies he summarized. Following are seven of his questions with the results he obtained:

1. Just what is your idea of the Catholic Church? Composite answer: the Church is a well-organized institution that commands in a unique way the respect and loyalty of its members. A high-school graduate of Unitarian convictions replied: "The Catholic Church was first of course, the others were built out from it, taking and leaving until many churches originated. I think that Catholics live up to their teachings better than any other denomination. Their services are more sacred and more strictly followed by their people."

2. Do you, or did you ever, have an interest in finding out the truth about the Church? What prompted this interest? Almost all replied, "Frankly, no." One said: "The Church doesn't seem open to the public like other churches."

3. Just what part of the Catholic Church interests you the most? Why? Generalized answer: Catholic ritual--"the ability of the Church to inspire such large masses to come for miles under any circumstances to attend services"; "uncanny is the power of the Church over its members."

4. What do you think of the historical existence of the Church, i.e., the fact that it traces its origin back to Christ? Most admitted that the Church dated back to Christ but felt that Luther broke away to save a degenerate Church; another

PRAYERS: (deceased) mother of William Eberhardt (Badin); Jack Rohr. Ill, cousin of Professor Fagan; grandmother of Harry Stegman; grandmother of Al Brown (Ly.); Helen E. Willard; Mrs. Charles Dorsch; friend of Tom Ziegler; aunt of Gerald Faller. 4 sp. ints.

attitude: that Protestantism also began in Christ's era.

5. What is your main objection to the Catholic Church? Characteristic answers: "The Church demands first place in the lives of its people"; "The non-spiritual activities of the Church, such as card parties and dances"; "The lives that priests and nuns live."

6. Do you think that there should be sacrifice in religion? If so, why? If not, why? Some didn't know what sacrifice meant. One said church-members should help financially but not at the expense of their own happiness or future welfare.

7. What do you think about the importance of religion today? All thought that religion is of "prime" importance. Some said that the depression had made them realize that religion is the only cure for the world's ills.

Not a non-Catholic objected to the questions. In fact, while most of them welcomed the opportunity of giving their views, nearly all admitted that they had never thought about the questions before.

There seem to be advantages to this somewhat Socratic method of approach: it helps in a polite way to start non-Catholics thinking about the Church; and, by informing the Catholic inquirer himself, it enables him to prepare more carefully to answer up-to-date objections.

Some of you might, after thought and advice, arrange your own questionnaires and interest yourselves this summer in this one-man apostolate.

Charities Of The Year.

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