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What Will I But That It Be Kindled?

In the entire world today there live about 1,700,000,000 people. More than one-half of them are pagans who do not believe even in a personal God.

Of the other half, about 250,000,000 are Jews and Mohammedans, and six to seven hundred millions are Christians.

Of the Christians, slightly less than half are Catholics. In other words, now after 1900 years, for every person in the world who adheres to the integral Faith revealed by Christ, there are five non-Catholics.

What has happened to the vigorous mission spirit that came on the first Pentecost Sunday in tongues of fire? You remember if you have read the New Testament, that not prisons, nor poverty, nor hardships were to prevent the spread of the Gospel of Christ.

Are we too soft, too timid to be missionaries? Make the question more personal: have you ever made a convert to the Catholic Faith? If not, why not?

In your circle of acquaintances there are many non-Catholics. Your life itself, to those who know you, is a powerful argument for or against the spread of the Catholic Church. People say behind your back:

"He's a Catholic, but he's no different from anybody else. He does so-and-so and so-and-so just like the rest of us." Or they say: "He's a Catholic whose creed and code you've simply got to respect; there just must be something to what he professes."

Your example, Worthies, is the key-factor in the spread of the Catholic Church among your friends.

Let us presume now that you're the right kind of a Catholic. Then we can further presume that in your circle of acquaintances there are at least some who would like to know more about the Catholic Church.

They have heard, perhaps, that the Catholic Church is the enemy of science and

PRAYERS: (deceased) aunt of Walter Brennan (Cav.); friend of Rock Le Page (Lyons); relative of Sr. Agnella (St. Mary's); friend of Bob Marbach (Cav.). Ill, cousin of H. Graham (Zahm); John Clair ('37); mother of Bill Ricks (Off-campus). 5 special int.

progress. Or that there have been bad Popes. Or that the confessional is an unreasonable imposition upon the privacy of a man's own conscience. Or that to be a Catholic one must surrender his good common sense.

Have non-Catholics ever approached you with these or similar questions? Did you get hot under the collar? Did you weakly mutter, "Let's not talk religion; if you're really interested, go see a priest"?

Perhaps you have lost, and are still losing, opportunities to make converts by your lack of interest, by your lack of information, as well as by the bad or indifferent influence of your everyday life.

Last Sunday, you remember, was Mission Sunday. For what purpose? To have you pray for conversions? Right. But also to have you examine yourself on what you are doing, consciously and unconsciously, towards the spread of the Catholic Faith.

You don't have to be a priest and you don't have to go to China or India in order to be a missionary for Christ. Here in the United States, in your hometown, along the street on which you live, even on this campus there are opportunities.

We Catholics are 20,000,000, not one-sixth of the population of the United States. About 1/15th of us are converts or the descendants of converts. Are you equipped to make converts?

Two factors are present in the making of every convert: a reasoned conviction that the Catholic Church is the true church; grace and light from on high which aids final assent to Catholic truth.

Is your life a reasonable argument for the divine nature of the Catholic Faith? Are you gathering the knowledge necessary for answering ordinary inquiries about the Catholic Faith? Is the conversion of your non-Catholic friends one of the important intentions in your daily prayers?