

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
December 18, 1937.

-----  
About Animals And Men.

By thinking and willing men distinguish themselves from mere swine. Swine, poor things! never change, never improve.

Day by day, grunting contentedly, they poke their lowered snouts into the mire.

Men who won't, or just don't, think are like swine. There is no other way to say it, men who don't think just wallow in the mire of sense. Living only the lower life; at best they only half live. And, like animals, they certainly don't belong in school, because schools are

For Thinkers Only.

Schools are institutions maintained to perfect a power that's distinctively human, the power to think. Every true thinker shrinks proudly from remaining on a lower level of life, on the half-life level of sense, or on the dull-life level of humdrum mediocrity.

That tendency drives a man to think. A thinker can't stay in a rut. He must improve. Rational activity is, in fact, the maker of men, the single source (on the natural plane) of self-mastery and of lofty accomplishment.

It's the check that curbs a man's animal instincts, that sublimates dynamic energy toward the heroic. Only repeated thinking can sharpen the blade of a keen mentality, and cut from the heart all ignoble lust.

True thought perks up man's head (not his nose), turns his clear-seeing eyes to God and the things of God. It is, in short, the only approach to rational life and to permanent happiness. For only truth understood and appreciated makes a man so free that he lives his life as a man. The salary for thinking is high.

Think now for a moment of Christ and of

The Christian Schools.

Start close to earth, if you like, with the

PRAYERS: (deceased) Norman Steyskal ('27) (Anniversary). Ill, Father of Fr. Conway; uncle of Brother Philbert. Two special intentions.

swine again. From them you reason to God, your beginning, your end, your all. His nature and yours unfold what religion is, your duties to Him, to your neighbor, to your self.

Then scan history, lamenting man's sorry tale, how he strays from the righteous path. If only God would more clearly illumine the way! And as you delve deeper you check certain facts, miracles, prophecies; you conclusively prove a divine revelation.

Christ is true God made man (review this for Christmas!): "Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men, and in habit found as a man."

This Christ founds a Church, one Church, and that on the Rock of Peter. He charters the Christian schools: "Go, teach all nations"; but in no narrow spirit: "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, but to God the things that are God's."

Of life he said two remarkable things: one startling, "I am the Life." And the other grand, for we are made partakers in Christ's divine life (consortes vitae divinae!). "He that eateth My flesh and drinketh My blood hath everlasting life. The same also shall live by Me!"

Whence thinkers can only conclude that

Notre Dame

and other Catholic schools teach men (not animals) how to live (not half live) human life, and even how to live as Sons of God, with the life of God.

Does it follow that students here who do not try to live the life of God have never thought out and therefore fail to realize what Notre Dame is all about?