

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
January 18, 1938

Spiritual Food.....And Starvation.

What do you think of the minister in the South who is abstaining from all food except "spiritual food, the tiny wafer and wine of his communion service three times a week"?

What was your first thought, assuming that his is not a publicity stunt? Was your reaction one of contempt, or rather of pity, sympathy and prayer?

Here is a minister of a non-Catholic sect who believes so firmly that Christ is present in that wafer and wine that he is trying to live exclusively on them. Let us assume he isn't guilty of conscious presumption, but is innocent and sincere in his attempt to imitate Theresa Neumann, the German girl who has lived for years, nourished exclusively by Christ in the Eucharist. So sincere is he, and so strong is his faith, that he insists he can live on "spiritual food" alone. But what has he got? You know he has only bread and wine. You know that, and why? Because Anglican Orders of Ordinations are invalid. But he and some millions of non-Catholics--witness, for example, the current phenomenal Buchman sect or Oxford Movement--millions of pagans are starving for spiritual food; starving for Christ; for His Way, His Life, and His Truth; for His very presence in the Eucharist.

You who have all that, and know you have it, do not sit by smug and contemptuous, and dismiss these millions with a flip of your cigarette while you mutter, "Tough. Too bad."

Kneel down now in the privacy of your room, thank Christ and Our Lady for you grand old Faith; that Faith which gives you the spiritual food that this minister and millions of others are starving for. Then think of certain friends of yours who would be so much happier if they too could walk with Christ, and if their souls too could live on this spiritual food.

You have it; freely did you receive; freely give. Write your friends' names on the back of this Bulletin, slip your list into the Novena Box placed near your hall bulletin board. These names will be collected and placed on the altar at which the novena Masses are to be said.

Conversion, as meant by the Catholic Unity Octave, includes not only non-Catholics, but also weak Catholics. If you know of any such, at home or here at school, enter their names also, or just their initials, even merely, "McGutzky", and send God, "the hound of Heaven", barking at their heels.

Fun At Your Fingertips.

What do your non-Catholic friends really think of your religion and of religion in general today?

If you desired to convert one of them, would it not be first necessary to know their general attitude toward, and main objection to, Catholicism?

In an endeavor to secure these answers for you, which will certainly be enlightening, tomorrow's Bulletin will consist of a suggested letter with questions attached.

Relax for a moment in your intensive preparation for exams. Pick out one of your non-Catholic friends and send him or her one of tomorrow's Bulletins (or a letter of your own) with the questions contained on it.

Enter that person's name also in the Catholic Unity Octave; do some praying; for him or her, then watch for the answers.

Requiem Mass for mother of L. A. Cacciatore '34, Sacred Heart Church, Wed, 6:25 a.m.
PRAYERS: (deceased) Mrs. J.H. Cross; friend of Bill Sheridan. Ill, Bob Zwermann (Zahn).