

February 17, 1940

Jack Bergen; Mr. & Mrs. Tim Flynn; Geo. Young; grandmother of Bill Mangan; Mich. Anderson.

Again, attempting to get up to date.

It's surprising how much material keeps stacking up on the desk, how many suggestions people have for the Bulletin and how many "must" causes have to be championed right away. There are many fine subjects the Bulletin would like to tackle but it's impossible to handle them all. Oftentimes something very good comes to hand but there are many things "first in line." The Bulletin begs the patience of all.

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Here is a touching story of living faith in the frozen country of Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, home of Bob Connolly, prefect in St. Edward's Hall. Bob's father died about two weeks ago. His mother wrote how Mr. Connolly "trudged to Mass over snow-blocked roads at a distance of two and one-half miles, over a country route most of which was an unbroken path on the Sunday that was to be his last on earth." The day after the funeral Bob said: "Yesterday I could hear the wind that, had of frozen air, as it pounded on his coffin just lowered into a northern grave two thousand miles from here." A firm faith like Mr. Connolly's is a thing which some university students gone stale in religion and haywire in their earthly pursuit of secular studies need in order to descend from the fog and land on both feet. Faith in God, faith in His Son, faith in the Mass never hurt anyone.

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When the Bulletin gets a breathing spell it will give you Father Broughal's essay on "Lady Chapels" and some observations on the Christian education of children--submitted anonymously by another priest.

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An erudite discourse on "The Conversion of the Jews" delivered as part of the Church Unity Octave observance at the Catholic University last month is reprinted in full in the February 19th issue of Social Justice. Father William L. Newton, the speaker, stresses the duty of Christians to think of the Jews (1) with understanding, (2) with the spirit of fraternal love, and (3) with a sense of responsibility.

It is most assuredly wrong to write or speak of the Jews, or treat with them, with the assumption that they are the world's chief headache or that they, more than any other group, are involved in the social, economic, and moral crimes of our day. One blushes to think of the racial strains and religious profession of too many crooks in the business and political circles of democratic United States. A person who argues, "The Jews do this.... and the Catholics do that.... and the Protestants do this other thing...." leaves himself wide open, and helplessly so, to a thousand exceptions which don't prove the rule but which disprove his general statement. The only fair way to appraise a religious system in practice is to judge the people who live by it and not against it--and to judge their good works. No race, color or creed is good if the acceptable norm is sin--whether of malice or weakness, in its members. On the positive side, a fairer, deeper, more philosophic test of the worth of a religious system is the ability it has, by the means it offers, to influence and to elevate the generality of its members to a noble, generous, useful, charitable state of life. Few can contest, after a careful examination of history, an inquiry into the earthly affiliation of the saints, and a close look at the world today, that the Catholic Church stands unquestionably first among institutions influencing the masses to good. This fact is constantly swelling the number of converts to Christ and Rome. And the thing which perhaps most efficaciously moves non-Catholics in Rome's direction is the Petrine, rock-like stability of the First Christian Church so noticeable amid the shifting, sandy foundations of other religions and the "foundationless bases" of the totalitarian states. The ultimate difference is found in the fact that the One, Holy, Roman, Catholic and Apostolic Church is not a dead or a purely human organization but a living, divine organism. Prospective converts and weak Catholics would do well to read, meditate and love THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST. Start with the Scriptures, continue through to the up-to-date eloquence of Monsignor Sheen. And to get back to our starting point--only this doctrine lived out will cause anti-Semitism and all the antis to disappear from the face of the earth.