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You Have The Answer.

You have every reason to be thankful to God for the gift of Faith, and to your parents for their providing you with a Catholic education.

You do not have the doubts and uncertainties that torture many youths today. Dorothy Thompson wrote an article for the Ladies Home Journal not long ago entitled "Youth Challenges Education". In it she published a letter addressed to the president of a prominent university from an undergraduate of the institution. Condensed and paraphrased, the letter stated these problems and doubts:

"You, sir, were trained from your earliest years in an atmosphere of traditional Christianity and democracy. Your education was based on the teachings of Jesus. You were taught that there are immutable principles of right and wrong, that man is superior to animals and possesses a free will and certain inalienable rights. Loyalty to country was an ideal held up to your generation.

"But what about us, the youth of America? What is your university and other similar institutions of learning throughout the land teaching us to revere?

"Your instructors in sociology tell us that morals are merely relative, that they change from period to period, from place to place. Your professors of natural science, philosophy and ancient history inform us that religions are the product of myth and superstition, and cast grave doubts on the existence of the human soul. Your biology courses tell us that man is just an animal, merely one species of mammal, while your psychology lecturers teach us that man has no free will.

"As the spokesman for a floundering generation, may I ask your help in answering certain questions so desperately important to us that the whole course of our lives hangs in the balance?

"If the implications of modern education are what they appear to be, what becomes of the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth? Since sociology infers that sin is non-existent, why should we restrain ourselves in any way? If the teachings in American halls of learning are valid, does it not then follow that might makes right?

"If man is but an animal, how do you justify those inalienable rights which the Declaration of Independence asserts men to possess? Animals have no rights. If man is incapable of a free choice, what becomes of democracy? What good is his vote? Why have trials by jury, or civil liberties?

"Personally, I fail to understand how you, or any other college president, can expect us to become ardent Christians and democrats when the vital postulates on which these faiths are supposed to rest are daily undermined in the classroom. One thing is certain; you and other educators throughout the nation are now rearing a brood of potential Fascists. The sacredness of the old ideals is fast being abolished, and no alternative proposed.

"If sin is non-existent, why not slaughter minorities? What objection can there be to a dictator if man possesses no natural rights? You may as well face the brute fact that our education has made the difference between us and you far more profound and revolutionary than any normal variation in generations. If our outlook is ever to rise above a selfish materialism, somehow, somewhere, we must find an answer to our questions."

You have the answers, sure, infallible, reassuring. Keep the Faith and share it. Thank God for it. Thank your parents for it.

PRAYERS: (deceased) father of Roger Keane (Zahm); friend of John Clark (Walsh). Ill, Army friend of Al Vodicka (B-P); father of Walt Farry (Bad). Four special intentions.