

(Ill) sister of  
Father Connerton, C.S.C.  
2 Special Intentions.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
April 18, 1944

Missing: Lieut. (Jg)  
Hercules Bereolos, '42  
in Southwest Pacific.

He Gave His Life For His Friends.

Even the last act of Jose Antonio Urquiza was an act of charity for one in need. At least Jose thought the man who approached him was in need. He did not realize that the train fare he was paying was for that of his murderer. Hardly was the charity accomplished, when the fatal shots were fired. The bleeding body of Jose was carried by farm laborers and neighbors to the chapel in the Urquiza home, and there at the foot of the altar they placed the man who tried to be their saviour.

Jose Antonio was a young man when he died in 1938, only thirty. He had studied law. But like his father and brothers he preferred to make farming his vocation. The heart of this young man was filled with the desire to bring a Christian social order to Mexico. He wanted to make his country a peaceful land in which all could love God as they wished, with charity, justice and opportunity for all.

Where It Started.

Christian apostles are made at Mass and at the Communion rail. It is in the church and chapel that Christ inspires souls by re-offering His own death in their presence and by feeding them on Himself, with His own Flesh and Blood, the Divine Food that produces love for neighbor, courage and patience in suffering. The daily Communion which Jose Antonio received from his early childhood was bound to spring forth into a great charity. He had received Holy Communion the morning he died. Fifteen minutes before he was fatally shot, he had visited Christ in the village Church.

More Salt.

There is a shortage of apostles today. And that is because there is no deep and intelligent love of Mass and Holy Communion. Once Catholics return to the altar they will become the salt Christ wants them to be. Jose Antonio was only twenty-five when he wrote the following reflections, the fruit of moments spent before the Blessed Sacrament:

"I spoke and was spoken to by My King and Redeemer for one hour. No one to interrupt us, no one to interfere with our earnest conversation. I presented a plan to Him. He did not seem pleased. Perhaps another plan will please Him."

"I spent another hour with my King and Redeemer. I presented another plan for Mexico's salvation. He seemed pleased. He approved it. It must be put into action. It is a plan of peace, a plan of forgiveness and not of revenge, a plan of making better Christians, better men and women, better Mexicans."

Christ asks Catholics to be an influence, "salt", in their community. He asks them to use their talents for the good of others. There are Catholics who have the Christian spirit. They have seen unsanitary conditions in their factories and have acted to bring about a change. There are Catholic lawyers who will not let pass unchallenged attacks on the family, marriage and the home. Jose Antonio did not look for glory. He saw his neighbor in need. That was his only reason for starting the movement for social reform.

Our need is for men who do more at Mass than make petitions. We need men who will give, who will offer their service to God for His glory and the good of their neighbors. Jose Antonio was only too happy to have had his bleeding body placed at the foot of the altar. It was there he promised his life; there that he fulfilled it. Christ needs you. The world needs you. Forget self and work for the good of your neighbor.