

Prayers: (Deceased) brother-University of Notre Dame ...O'Laughlin (Bad); grand-
in-law of Sr. Eileen Marie, Religious Bulletin father of Bud (Dil) and Dick
c.s.c.; father of Charles January 24, 1950 (Bad) Burke; Fr. N.O'Connor, O.
Carm.

Special Request For Prayers.

Six nuns of the order of St. Mary's of Providence are threatened with deportation. The motherhouse of this community is in Como, Italy. These six nuns volunteered to come to the United States to take care of 400 poor children in St. Mary's Institute, Chicago. Our prayers are requested that their visas may be extended.

"The Normal School Of Sanctity For the Laity."

The title of this brochure is intriguing. It reprints from the proceedings of THE LITURGICAL WEEK, 1949, a paper delivered by a Dr. Lydwine Van Kersbergen. Although the name is forbidding, what the author has to say will be very much worth your while to digest. The following thoughts are from this brochure, a supply of which has been ordered for the pamphlet racks.

To point out the spiritual crisis of our century, the author quotes Pope Pius XII: "Europe and the wide world have reached a turning point of their destiny. The gravity of the crisis is unquestionable, its possibilities for good or evil immeasurable, its issue unpredictable."

The disintegration of modern society is evident in every sphere; abroad in the aftermath of global war, in the rapid spread of totalitarianism; at home in the breakdown of the family, the economic unrest, the dominant materialism, the escapist search for pleasure. Serious scholars and thinkers, non-Catholic as well as Catholic, agree that all these disorders are the outward sign that modern civilization is spiritually bankrupt and on the verge of collapse.

In every world crisis, the Holy Spirit has been at work in the Church, raising up new instruments, new forms of Christian life, suited to the needs of the age, through which God's grace can penetrate the world. The Holy Spirit is now fashioning a new institution, the organized lay apostolate, to meet the crisis of secularism and to transform modern civilization by the spirit of Christ.

In answer to the spiritual needs of the age, the vicars of Christ have summoned the laity in every part of the world to an official, organized participation in the apostolate of the Church. As never before in the history of the Church, the laity have received this official commission from the Vicar of Christ. (This is Catholic Action whose source of vitality is the liturgical movement.)

"The Church" says the late Cardinal Suhard, "is the living incarnation of Christ in our own time, and as such, she owes it to herself to extend to all created things the benefit of renewal." This is the vast and all-embracing task in which the laity have been summoned to take part, nothing less than the penetration of every aspect of the social order with the living Christ. Jacques Maritain states that "this renewal of the social order on Christian lines will be a work of sanctity or it will not occur at all."

The Mass is the center of reality of our Christian life. The Mass is for all who are vitally concerned with this RENEWAL the one vivifying force of each day. Too often members of the laity are lethargically content with a catechism formula and a routine attendance at the Holy Sacrifice. For a mature grasp of the great reality (the Mass) of our life, we need study and meditation, and a growing understanding of the Mass as the COMMUNAL action of the entire Mystical Body.

One of the greatest means of overcoming temptation, of living a virtuous and holy life is this highest act of the virtue of religion and of Christian worship--participation in the Sacrifice of the Mass. The Dialogue Mass is an excellent means of being introduced to the experience of communal worship. (Learn to follow the Mass with the missal!)