

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
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Heads Up, Seniors!

If you are going to make a general confession kindly do not wait until Commencement ceremonies begin. Take care of this matter before June 3. Ask any priest on the campus to hear your confession or come to Dillon or Cavanaugh during chapel hours. . . . Holy Communion will be distributed Commencement Sunday for graduating seniors in Dillon chapel between 7 and 8 o'clock. For the benefit of visitors, Masses in Sacred Heart Church are regular.

Heads Up, MacDuff!

Notre Dame marches forward on the feet of her alumni and students. Her influence will spread, and the welfare of the Church will be enhanced, if you continue to be Notre Dame men. The Catholic Church today stands in dire need of an educated laity who know their faith and practice it with a punch.

The primary function of the Hierarchy is to spread the Kingdom of God and restore all things in Christ. By special mandate from the Holy See you are called to cooperate in this apostolate and to share its burden of bringing the truths of the Gospel to society sorely in need of Christianization.

There are 70,000,000 non-Church-goers in the United States today. You will naturally come in social contact with many of them. The non-Catholic and the good pagan will ordinarily inquire from his Catholic neighbor -- who goes to Notre Dame, or who graduated from Notre Dame -- for information on points of Catholic doctrine. He will ask him (and will expect the correct answer) to explain the Church's position on social problems and on controverted issues.

If you are not distinguished by your Catholicism, if you are no different in knowledge-content and conduct from uneducated Catholics, non-Catholic inquirers or social acquaintances--then you will have failed miserably in your duty as an educated Catholic, as one signed with the seal of Confirmation to profess his faith militantly, intelligently, without fear, without compromise, without appeasement.

Rarely will your non-Catholic friend "go to a priest." A normal shyness or timidity holds him in check. But if his inquiry goes unanswered, he may go no farther. Then you have lost a possible convert, because you did not direct him to the truth.

Your Catholic education gives you a responsibility you can not shirk without fault and blame. You have personal obligations, it is true, to grow up in the love of God, acquire more and more virtue, hate sin as the greatest tragedy in the world, live habitually in the state of grace, foster communion with God by prayer, nourish your soul with the Body and Blood of Christ -- but you have received much that you may give much. Christ in His Parable of the Talents condemned the unfaithful servant, who buried his two talents, for not producing an increase.

One fatal spiritual malady to be fought against resolutely is sloth -- the voluntary and culpable repugnance to work, to effort, and consequently strong tendency to idleness, or at least to neglect of duty. When this idleness affects the accomplishment of religious obligations, it is called spiritual sloth. . . . When this type of sloth becomes malignant to such an extent as to produce voluntary disgust for spiritual growth of any sort -- because it demands too much effort and self-discipline -- the burden of following Christ becomes almost impossible.

This deadly spiritual torpor must be resisted. Pray for great faith, enthusiasm and generosity in the love and service of God. Daily sacrifices, too, restore vigor and tone to your Catholicism which must become articulate in order to spread its faith by intelligent word and good example.