

It Made All The Difference In The World To Father Sorin . . .

. . . what was put first and what last. In modern times secularism segregates political, economic and social life from God. This secularism, a polite word for paganism, has infiltrated Catholic ranks. We Catholics are tempted to do as the vast numbers of men around us do. We tend to adopt a way of living that places first things last and last things first. It is not so much "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his justice, and all these things shall be given you besides" that strongly dominates our lives, as SEEK YE FIRST ALL THESE OTHER THINGS AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS JUSTICE WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU BESIDES.

It is only by fully understanding what must come first that we fully understand what must come second. We live our faith when we put first things first. Followers of Christ cannot look upon life with the eyes of secularists, or solve personal and domestic problems as naturalists, or live their social life as pagans.

There must be a difference and a daringness to be different. We Catholics must see things in a revealed and different light. It is not the light of reason alone, but the light of reason guided by faith in the Light of the World. We are not to live our lives confined in classrooms according to classroom answers to the Catechism but outside classrooms in our homes, businesses, professions.

Our way of life is based on theology and on the revealed Word of God. The key to this is the fact that God, and God alone, is our last end; that Christ is the revelation of God to man; that Christ must be accepted in His totality, in His Incarnation and Redemption, in His suffering and death as in His Resurrection and glory. It is Christ Who teaches us what must be put first. First things first--the Kingdom of God and His justice. He warns us that it will profit us nothing to gain the whole world if we lose our souls in the striving.

Catholic theology teaches us that it is the attainment of God through a transformation in Christ which will constitute our real success in life, that all other successes will be futile. We pass through this world but once. Let this passage not be in vain.

Father Edward Sorin passed through this world but once. Notre Dame today is the living memorial of that passage. He was directed here by indomitable faith in an ideal that he knew would appeal to young minds and hearts. He plotted his course by the light of two stars--the Star of the Sea and the Morning Star. Out of the dawn and out of the deep forests of Indiana he built a university, dedicated to the Mother of God, where young men would gather as children around their mother, to pray and learn to put first things first: to love God above all things, and Mary, their Mother, above all created things.

Father Sorin knew what devotion to Mary had done for men down the Christian centuries. He knew that if young men are taught to love God's Mother they will never betray her Son. He knew Mary would transform them by a Christ-like transformation, because she understood the beautiful asceticism, the travail, of this transformation. Had she not mothered the Incarnation?

Father Sorin's faith in Mary was justified. The presence of 5,100 students, over 15,000 alumni, and millions of devoted followers of Notre Dame is the answer.

Offer Holy Communion tomorrow in thanksgiving for Notre Dame. Beg for the grace to be worthy of Notre Dame and that Notre Dame may always be worthy of you.

Solemn High Mass tomorrow in the church, with sermon by Father Miltner, at 9:00. You are invited to attend this Mass. Express public thanksgiving to God and Mary for Father Sorin and Notre Dame.