
Parable For Seniors . . . Prophecy For Freshmen.

"A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came seeking fruit thereon, and found none. And he said to the vine-dresser, 'Behold, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down, therefore; why does it still encumber the ground?'

"But he answered him and said, 'Sir, let it alone this year too, till I dig around it and manure it. Perhaps it may bear fruit; and if not, then afterwards thou shalt cut it down.'" --Luke: 13, 6-9.

Three years at Notre Dame! Three years exposed to a sacramental environment the like of which will be found no place in the world, where confessions are heard morning and evening in hall chapels (seven hours a day in Cavanaugh, ten hours a day in Dillon); where the Holy Sacrifice daily transforms altars into Altars of the Cross; where Holy Communion is distributed mornings till noon; where Christ lives in the Blessed Sacrament as truly as each student lives in his hall; where the Recording Angel enters in your Book of Life every rejection as well as each acceptance of divine grace; where devotion for the Mother of God is second only to devotion for her divine Son. "Behold, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none . . . Why does it still encumber the ground?"

"Let it alone this year . . . Perhaps it may bear fruit." To how many seniors this parable applies - we shall see.

Friend Or Foe.

"He that is not with me is against me," warned Christ. The only way the Devil can drag us into hell is to make us commit a mortal sin. That is much more important for him than killing us. So expect to be treated nicely in a physical way, if such treatment causes spiritual harm.

If delinquent seniors, in potency (freshmen) or in act, heed Christ's admonition, stop depending on their own natural abilities and turn their steps toward Christ, they will begin to see that today's struggle is significant. This may be a time of great trial, when God sifts the chaff from the wheat, but our time is also one of great opportunity. St. Paul told us, "Where sin abounds, there grace more abounds."

This is what the late Cardinal Suhard has to say: "The salvation of the world will result from the presence of Christians in it. Now, more than in any other period in history, they must first become the moving force of existing institutions and then foresee and bring about the improvements so sorely needed."

Christ Doesn't Take Weekends.

That might be of some interest to the Monday morning quarterbacks who know their way around town but who get lost after morning check. Some even forget to put on their pants and check in in fancy-looking bath robes.

Need An Eye-Opener?

Life, October 16, devotes a special issue to the nation's educational dilemma. Mr. H. S. Commager, whose editorial Life endorses, comments on the sad fact that "\$5 billion for education compares rather poorly with the \$8 billion spent on liquor." You don't have to be a college senior to know liquor is abused. Freshmen find out quickly enough. For centuries the Catholic Church has taught that the best form of liquor-control is self-control. What do you think?

Prayers: (Ill) serious but not critical, Father Thomas (Corby) Brennan, C.S.C.; John Leonard was operated for appendicitis; Father Robert Woodward's mother underwent a serious operation this morning; Bernard McSally (B-P) still hospitalized. 1 Sp. Int.