

January 5, 1951

Are You In Debt To Your Parents?

Next Sunday is the feast of the Holy Family. We suggest that all of you receive Holy Communion for one another as members of the Notre Dame family. But what is of greater importance is that you receive for your mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters. Do your share to keep bright in your own home the Christian ideals on which family life must be based if it is to survive the troubles that lurk ahead.

You owe a debt to your parents. There are many ways in which you can reduce it, by sending them presents with their money on their birthdays, by writing home faithfully each week, by making intelligent use of your educational and religious opportunities here at Notre Dame, but none of them is more effective than prayer on your knees and offering Mass and Holy Communion for them.

Most of you have had spiritual advantages far beyond any that your parents ever had. Daily attendance at Mass without getting your feet wet, frequent reception of Holy Communion even though you sleep-in, easy access to Confession when you're up against it. Are these conveniences as handy for them as they are for you? This all adds up to the fact that your spiritual responsibilities are greater than theirs. It also demands that you share these advantages with them so far as you can.

What's The Use?

Old Nip and young Tuck were discussing the world situation. Tuck says to Nip, "What's the use of studying? The world's going to pot. What can I do to stop it?"

Typical attitude of the DO-NOTHING defeatist! Old Nip should say, "Tuck, my boy, you can do something. You can pray. You can do penance for your sins. What if your private prayers will not avert the impending tragedy. If the blow does come, you and I along with millions of others are going to be socked hard. If we are not going to crack up under the deadly impact, we need God's help, great faith, persevering hope and His providence. For this reason, if for this selfish reason alone, for the salvation of our own souls, we ought to be doubly sure we are on God's side from the very beginning. The best beginning is to pray. . . . and then keep on praying."

Counteract Defeatism BY HOPE. . . . But

. . . . remember the story in the Gospel about the rich young man who wanted eternal life. After telling Christ that he had kept the Commandments, he wanted to know what more he must do. Christ told him to sell what he had and give it to the poor, and then: "Come, follow me." This condition did not strike the rich young man's fancy, so he went away sad, "for he had great possessions."

In other words, the young fellow was too much attached, too much in love with what he had--great possessions. That's why he was sad when Our Lord asked him to give them up. In our worrisome days, as our country faces its gravest cross in its history, we are going to be asked to give up our "many possessions."

This threatened war may be God's mysterious way of taking away our "many possessions" because we have worked and slaved and sweated more for them than for those possessions "that are not Caesar's." It is quite conceivable that we who claim to be disciples of Christ are more materialistic, more naturalistic than we surmise. God may be permitting this ordeal because He has in mind purging us of an "adulterous" love--love of material ease, comfort and secularistic well-being. So all our "many possessions", these material things that have claimed our souls, will be destroyed. This prospect makes us sad because we have been too much attached to our "great possessions."

Prayers: (deceased) father of Bob Millenback (Cav); brother of John (Ba) and Frank (Far) Meaney; brother of Bill Denning, '50. Fr. Neeley is ill. Gene Fehr needs prayers. (NOTE: DAVE WILMONT (ALU) CRITICALLY INJURED IN ACCIDENT NEEDS YOUR PRAYERS.)