

Deceased, sister of Rev. University of Notre Dame ...of Jim Hanlon; Ed Snyder  
Thomas Steiner, CSC; aunt of Religious Bulletin (B-P); Mr. Herbert Kissell.  
Pat Hawley (Dil). Ill, mother February 20, 1951 Appendectomy, Pete Raimondi.

-----  
These Shut-ins Suffer For A Purpose.

Nothing happens to us by chance, outside the plan of Divine Providence. The one and same infinite God Who wills our suffering also wills our happiness. He wills His glory and our happiness as an end to be striven for, an end which will be reached only with total and complete purification, either in this life or in the life hereafter, from the guilt and punishment due to sin.

We may react toward physical and mental suffering as pagans or Christians. We may therefore suffer uselessly without merit as unbelievers do, or suffer usefully with eternal merit if we suffer with a purpose, supernaturally. The more spiritual-minded, the saints, always welcomed suffering. They saw in it and through it not something to be sought for in itself but a test to prove their intense love of God, as a means to an end. In the fire of suffering the saints saw the Light.

Just how shut-ins of the C.U.S.A. suffer in atonement not only for their own sins but the sins of others is not always understood. A mystery is involved. It takes faith to be conscious of the unity of mankind in the Mystical Body. It takes deeper faith for suffering souls to take on the guilt of others as its own and make pardon available to others as well as to self.

These shut-ins who suffer with a purpose do not come in physical contact with the world as social workers, missionaries, teachers and physicians. Such souls are not useless because they can gather no statistics about sex, or pay income taxes, or criticize the Democrats.

Their cross is their bed of pain. Their prayers and sufferings for others overflow to other members of the Mystical Body who sin and do not atone, who defile their bodies in lust and drunkenness and do not repent, who defraud laborers of their wages and make no restitution. Did not Our Lord in Gethsemane take upon Himself the iniquities of us all? Are not these hidden sufferers co-Redeemers? May they not be holding back the Arm of God's Wrath? And if the Divine Wrath does rain fire and brimstone from His heavens, it will not be because these shut-ins did not suffer with a purpose but because there are not enough sacrificial and sanctified sufferers to balance the scales that are weighed down with the immensity of our evils.

Our world is too confused, too entangled in its own confusions to be saved by high-pressure diplomacy, socialistic economics and political compromisers, but it is not too confused to be saved by saintly souls and souls struggling for sanctity. What a tremendous resurgence would take place on this campus, if every Catholic student would participate in daily Mass, receive every morning the Bread of the Strong, pray his rosary every night on his knees, spend one-half hour in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. . . . just to intercede to God for the conversion of Russia and to atone for the sins of the world. The potential for sacrifice involved here is more potent than we suspect.

The association of THE CATHOLIC UNION OF SICK ASSOCIATES, founded in France by Louis Peyrot, a TB patient, came to this country through the efforts of Mrs. Robert Brunner, a chronic shut-in for 31 years. Through the efforts of a Father Thomas Finn the organization flourished. The only requisites for membership are a strong Catholic faith and a state of health that provides occasions for sacrifice. Groups (seven shut-ins plus one chaplain) keep in touch with one another through the "group-letter," which is their means of consolation, contact and conversation. Each group is dedicated to a saint and has a motto. For example, The Little Flower Group which is dedicated to suffer for the "Conversion of Communists . . . If you know a shut-in who might be interested in joining the C.U.S.A. and suffering with Christ for a purpose, let him write to Mrs. Robert Brunner, 100 East 50th Street, New York, 22, New York.  
(Received with thanks: \$3 for Korean relief; \$1 for Bengal Missions.)