

Kindly reserve center aisle
for Juniors and guests, 11
o'clock Mass, Sunday.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
April 27, 1951

343 questionnaires are in.
Is yours? . . . (May Day is
Mary's Day.)

Understanding The Issue Defines Responsibility.

At January commencement Rev. John Courtney Murray, S.J., pointed out to the graduating seniors what basic issue is involved in world-wide unrest. Once fundamentals are understood the responsibility for courageous, articulate Catholic action becomes more apparent. . . We must know our faith and live it now, today.

Jesuit Murray said, "This is no war over frontiers, or between peoples, or between continents. . . The great battle rages between the forces of materialism and the forces of the spirit. . . a materialism fashioned into a metaphysic and offered as a total explanation of human life. . . a materialism raised to the status of an idea, the dignity of a religion.

"It has a revolutionary power, and can only be opposed by a still more revolutionary power. . . the spirit of man in alliance with the Spirit of God. It cannot be overcome by that practical materialism which, in alliance with sentimental moral idealism has been the major force behind what has been called 'the American way of life.'

"American practical materialism has no status as an idea. Even the forces of American moral idealism cannot assist it to prevail. For this idealism is a thing of sentiment. It has not the toughness of a real religion, nor even the toughness of the pseudo-religion (Soviet materialism) with which it must match itself.

"Understanding the issue defines your responsibility. . . to affirm by word, by deed, by the whole quality of your lives your opposition to materialism. . . the philosophy of comfort and amusement and material success. . . the practical materialism that puts its whole trust in machinery and science, and knows no other norm of truth or goodness than the purely pragmatic. . . the political materialism of those men whom principle means nothing and experience all.

"The task is the affirmation of an opposition, the affirmation of something more positive. First, the affirmation of your belief in reason and intelligence. Second, as Christians, the affirmation of your Faith."

Transition For Realization.

The transition from mere negative to more positive living of your Faith will not be effected without prayer, sacrifice and sacrament. To control lower nature, to line up reason and will with God, you need God's grace. "Without Me," Our Lord said, "you can do nothing." This necessary help (grace) is obtained through prayer, especially by meditating on the vast array of the truths of faith. You must not only increase knowledge and form deep convictions but move the will to act. Following the law of avalanche, the more generously the will responds the more effectively God's grace produces results in energetic Catholic living.

Some complain they do not get much out of Holy Communion. Let them take more time at prayer. Let them receive at Mass and pray the Mass with the celebrant. Let them take the Gospels, or The Imitation of Christ, and ponder selected passages reflectively, prayerfully. Take time to meditate, not vegetate.

New Pamphlets. After filling out the section on social responsibilities students inquire about more reading material. Visit the pamphlet racks in Dillon and Cavanaugh. "What is The Catholic Attitude" by William J. Smith, S.J., explains what our approach must be to The Workingman and the Poor, The Wealthy, Industry, Corporation, Liberalism, Communism, Democracy, Race and Color. "Economic Liberalism and Free Enterprise" by Jesuit Masse applies Christian social teaching to the American system.

Prayers: Ill, father of John Deeb (O-C); uncle of Don Fenn (How); Father Butler; Jim Aoki; mother of Rev. Vincent McCauley; father of Rev. William McAuliffe. Sp. Int. 7.