

Ill: LeRoy Smith; John Koehl; University of Notre Dame . . . grandfather of Louis Rieg.  
Mary Ann Jackson (polio); Religious Bulletin (Vocational Holy Hour, Main  
friend of Bob Moonan (Cav). . . September 19, 1951 Church, Thursday, 4:30 p.m.)

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First Things First

"And behold a certain lawyer stood up, tempting Him, and saying, Master, What must I do to possess eternal life?"

"But He said to him: What is written in the law? How readest thou?"

"He answering said: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.

"And He said to him: Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live."  
--St. Luke, 10: 25-28

The primary purpose of the religious training offered by Notre Dame is to enable you to fulfill this twofold commandment to love and save your soul. But, as the saying goes, you must carry your own hide to the market. No one else can lug it there for you.

You now live in a place of privileged opportunities over and above the ordinary. Correspondingly your responsibilities are greater, and your spiritual development should be of a higher order than the average; at least it should never lag behind your scholastic achievements, either in effort or result.

The first duty of your "whole heart and soul" is to God, its second duty is to yourself, and its third is to your neighbor 'as to yourself.'

The University's spiritual environment is such that it should emphasize and foster within you an effective ambition first of all to save your soul. Your social responsibilities resolve around your second ambition. . . to be Christ-bearers in the marketplace.

Father Edmund A. Walsh, S.J. (Total Empire, page 181) points this out: "Christ directed the major emphasis of His teaching to the individual soul, because He knew it to be the source and fountainhead of the collective conscience of mankind. He then progressed to the next component element of civil society, the family, and made but limited reference to the political and economic features of the State. By far the greater proportion of His revelation is concentrated on the first two elements. . .

"Naked and alone," he says, "each of us came into this world; solitary and stripped of worldly trappings we shall leave it; stark and alone we shall stand responsible before the judgment seat. . ."

Two Sacraments--Penance and the Eucharist--in particular are the outward signs used to keep you in contact with the inward grace of Christ. Without this contact you will not fulfill the Law.

The priest, as Christ's agent, has from Him his commission to teach, to minister, and to rule the faithful. Whether he is classroom professor, rector or prefect, administrator, confessor, advisor or chaplain, his work is never done because the three enemies of your soul--the world, the flesh and the Devil--are never idle. Yet he is entitled to feel that when this one of you or that one of you is soundly established in sacramental practices and is accustomed to seek spiritual help when he needs it, the ultimate end--God--for which we all must strive is reasonably assured.

To achieve this you must cooperate. The facilities for frequent confession and Communion are for you, not for us. If you neglect them. . . God will be your judge.  
Prayers: (deceased) grandmother of Fon and Fred Galione; Bob Faing, '48 (polio): mother of Dan Hardin; friend of Jack Powers (Wal). . . (Fr. Fred Schulte, C.S.C., is dying.)