

Wounded in Korea: brother  
of Art Jackman; ill, two  
relatives of Bill Klee.

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Don Burkart's condition is  
considerably improved. Con-  
tinue prayers.

### Something To Think About!

In the prologue of ASCENT TO TRUTH Thomas Merton whittles down to a sharp point the big problem that confronts Christianity today. In a sense he is a warmonger clamoring for a spiritual revolution, a declaration of war. He puts it this way:

The only thing that can save the world from complete moral collapse is a spiritual revolution. Christianity, by its very nature, demands such a revolution. If Christians would all live up to what they profess to believe, the revolution would happen.

The desire for unworldliness, detachment, and union with God is the most fundamental expression of this revolutionary spirit. The one thing that remains is for Christians to affirm their Christianity by that full and unequivocal rejection of the world which their Baptismal vocation demands of them. This will certainly not incapacitate them for social action in the world, since it is the one essential condition for a really fruitful life.

The human race is facing the greatest crisis in its history, because religion itself is being weighed in the balance. The present unrest in five continents, with everyone fearful of being destroyed, has brought many men to their knees.

However, the big problem that confronts Christianity is not Christ's enemies. Persecution has never done much harm to the inner life of the Church as such. The real religious problem exists in the souls of those of us who in their hearts believe in God, and who recognize their obligation to love Him and serve Him--yet do not!

### Something More To Think About.

"Yet do not!" Are we face to face in our own ranks with a species of disbelief? Why our moral paralysis? How many millions of such moral paralytics there are in the world today! How many there are among us who still nominally cling to the outward forms of the Faith but without a living faith in Christ and everything He stands for!

Our wills do not really belong to God, since we have no great scruples in disobeying Him or His representatives. We retain a certain loyalty to the Catholic society in which we live, retain the name of Catholics but our faith is not living and strong because it seldom finds expression in virile Christ-life activity.

The real problem of unbelief among those of us who profess to know Christ and what He stands for is not focused on intellectual difficulties but on the will. We know what has to be done but seem morally unable to take more than the first strong steps forward.

In analyzing the problem of unbelief for those outside the Church, Thomas Merton maintains that the same principle which will resolve their problem applies all the way from the first act of faith to the highest degree of Christian perfection.

We recognize our obligation to love Christ and serve Him--yet do not with our whole heart, soul, mind, and body. We make reservations, fail to launch out into the deep. "Unbelief that really presents a problem is centered not in the mind but in the will. And St. Augustine long ago made it quite plain that one of the main reasons why the will refuses to go into action. . . is that it fears to pay the price." The same activity of grace which attracts us to accept the WHOLE Christ warns us that this acceptance will demand a transformation of our whole spiritual life. We will not only have to change our whole outlook on life, but we will have to break loose from old habits which hold us in firm possession. This brand of living faith in Christ means "war". . . . So sweeping are its consequences, we cannot face the prospect of this interior revolution. At least too many of us don't. Why don't we, if our destiny is at stake?