

Deceased: father of Mister
Harry Eichorn, C.S.C.; mother
of Prof. Herbert Johnston.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
December 3, 1951

Ill: Mr. Joe Clark, '14; also
2 other persons; Pete Riley
convalescing, Mrs. Irma Roy.

Have You A Ringside Seat?

During his bout with Jess Willard in 1915, Jack Johnson, the great negro heavyweight boxing champ, was subjected to a barrage of abuse from a yaketty-yak spectator at the ringside, who criticized Johnson's style, his color, and finally his courage. Johnson, knowing how to disagree without being disagreeable, leaned over the ropes between rounds and shouted cheerfully to his critic: "Man, you're down there talking; I'm up here fighting." (--Told by Father James Keller in a Christopher note.)

This incident, applicable to the game of football as to the game of life, pretty well points out the sharp difference between those who are trying to do something about the evil in the world and those who are doing nothing but sitting around griping.

Interest in the Church and her problems stirred up within some campus organizations is an encouraging sign for the present and a hopeful sign for the future. Christ urged His followers to be doers: "Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only."

Some examples of doers and not hearers only: The Third Order of St. Francis dedicated to the exercise of practical charity and the first Beatitude: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven;" the Y.C.S. studying the social doctrine of the Church and doing what they can to make themselves and their environment more Christ-like; the practitioners of Liturgical Life studying the liturgy of the Church and actively participating in the Sacred Mysteries, participation in which "is the indispensable source of the true Christian spirit;" the Knights of Columbus promoting funds for extending Christ's work in the mission fields of Bengal, India; individual Christophers readying themselves to carry Christ into the marketplace, into the fields of influence that touch the lives of all people the world over--government, education, trade unions, writing, etc. . .

You Must Study To Know The Doctrine.

"The more you know, the more you can do." The more the individual citizen, says Father James Keller, familiarizes himself with the workings of government on all levels, the greater interest he is likely to take in it. For good government is your business.

What holds true for active interest in government is even more true for active interest in the social problem facing the Church today. The more you know about social justice and social charity, the more you can do. Knowledge comes first. You must study papal documents. No mere cursory reading of them will suffice to bring out a clear and accurate understanding of the principles upon which a just economic order must be built.

Edward Cardinal Mooney in an address at Marygrove College, May 15, 1951, told of the progress that has been made during the past sixty years in the solution of some critical social problems. But, in spite of the noted gratifying signs of progress, it is regrettable, he says, that in this country little progress can be recorded in carrying out or even seriously studying the broad program of the encyclicals for the establishment, on sound moral principles, of a social order which will give consistent form and shape to economic life. "This program of social reconstruction is the core of the encyclicals and few have penetrated to it. . ."

Pope Leo XIII warned that "no practical solution of this (social) question will ever be found without the assistance of religion and the Church. . ." To those who are not leaving out religion and the Church and who are "doing something" instead of merely criticizing--you are doing what Christ wants: "Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only." Keep up your good work, but expect criticism, opposition, ridicule.

Prayers: (deceased) John E. Flynn, '28; father of Bro. Kennan, C.S.C. 7 sp. ints.