

Deceased: grandmother of University of Notre Dame
Phil Meyer. Ill: father of Geo. Religious Bulletin
. . Culhane; cousin of M. Long December 5, 1951

Holy Hour tomorrow 4:30-5:30.
FIRST FRIDAY coming up. . .
Adoration 8 to 5 o'clock.

The Official Lay Apostolate.

We live in troubled times. The whole happiness of society and even its sanity depend on its moral condition. But society itself does not exist unless in the individuals who compose it. To restore society, to renew it, for all practical purposes, means, first of all, to restore in Christ the individuals who compose it. But our mandate from the Pope is to work individually and collectively "to restore all things in Christ."

The present Holy Father agreeing with his predecessors wants the lay apostolate to be developed. In no other way will there be an organized force prepared to meet the challenge of Communism, whose sole rotten purpose is to destroy what Christ has built up. To achieve this lay apostolate must work hand in glove with the Hierarchy to reconstruct a truly Christian and just social order.

There are gradations of dependence of the lay apostolate with respect to the Hierarchy, but this dependence is strictest for Catholic Action, which represents, the Holy Father says, the "official lay apostolate" an "instrument in the hands of the Hierarchy."

Notre Dame Will Be Host.

Next Saturday and Sunday Notre Dame will be host to the midwestern Catholic Action delegates who are sponsoring their first workshop as the National Catholic Action Study Commission. All who are interested in the layman's role in the Church are invited to attend these sessions.

The features of the workshop are: the keynote address Saturday morning at 11 o'clock in the Law Building by Monsignor Reynold Hillenbrand of Chicago, who will speak on "Catholic Action--the 20th Century Apostolate." The second conference Sunday morning at 11 o'clock will deal with "Christian Recreation," to be given by Mr. and Mrs. Arch McAlpin.

Afternoon sessions will be held to discuss problems of student, worker, and family movements involved in developing and perfecting projects to re-christianize the social environment.

In his Encyclical "Divini Redemptoris," Pius XI indicates the scope of Catholic Action, showing that it is really a social apostolate, since its object is to extend the kingdom of Christ, not only among individuals, but in families and in society.

"Let George Do It."

The blight of liberalistic individualism which withers the growth of organized, collective effort to do something constructive for Christ and the Church ultimately results in a do-nothingism. There are too many individual Christians with the attitude "let George do it." There must be a consciousness, a social consciousness, that one is not alone in his struggle with evil. In union there is strength.

Pope Pius X made it quite clear that no Catholic may exempt himself from participating in one way or another in this Catholic Action movement. Before him Pope Leo XIII emphasized the goal toward which Catholic Action should be specially devoted: "The practical solution of the social question according to Christian principles." The tie-in between Catholic Action and Social Action is so interwoven that it is difficult to distinguish one from the other.

What can be done with people who decide beforehand that Catholic Action and Social Action present insuperable obstacles and that the hardships and sacrifices involved in such apostolic activity are unbearable? What can be done with them? Let God do it.