

Chair of Unity Octave be-
gins tomorrow. Deposit your
list in boxes tonight.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
January 17, 1952

"In my trouble I cried to
the Lord: and he heard me."
(Novena for exams!)

The One Thing Necessary.

Most Reverend John F. O'Hara, C.S.C., founder of the Religious Bulletin, former president of Notre Dame, told his flock after his recent installation as Archbishop of Philadelphia that he had "no program to announce, no theme to preach but the love of God." This for all of us is the one thing necessary.

This simple statement is the supernatural principle which sums up the two great commandments of love: the love of God for His own sake, and the love of neighbor in God. It is in experiencing this truth, not in knowledge only but in action, that we confront the contrary principle of Secularism which works night and day to glorify human life and culture with love but not the love of God.

To save our soul we must have love of God in our heart. So to manage our life without God, to orientate our individual, vocational and social life without Him, will lead only to confusion and probable disaster. Psalm 126: "Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. Unless the Lord keep the city, he watcheth in vain that keepeth it."

All great problems of today grow more serious. In the last analysis all these problems stem from one central religious problem. Christ indicates what it is: "He that is not with Me is against Me. . . Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His justice."

"The Tremendous Lover."

Don't let the title fool you, son. It isn't what you think it is. This book by Father Boylan was not written just to fill up empty moments of leisure. It is to be read, studied, digested. He outlines the love story of God and man, which rises to its consummation in the unity of the Whole Christ. The spiritual life is a partnership of love between God and man, a divine romance which can be edited down to the point of one word: Christ.

To foster the development of this union with God in your lives is the purpose of the religious program at Notre Dame. The proper foundation for this is the doctrine of the Teaching Church. The practical way to lead you to live your Catholic life in greater fulness is to make clear to you what a Catholic really is, what the plans and the principles underlying Christianity are.

For this reason you must study religion. Otherwise you might be guilty of serious error by supposing that the love of God is essentially involved in emotionalism. Comprehensive knowledge of your faith pays no tribute to the minimalist either, which, as Pope Pius XII explained, is the Catholic who limits Christianity to one day a week, to worship inside the Church.

The love of God lies in the will aided by God's grace; it presupposes knowledge in so far as the will needs the co-operation of the intelligence to love. Knowledge comes first. Through fidelity to prayer and Sacrament this knowledge in turn begets convictions which with the assistance of grace motivate the will to act. Then if this love of God is what it should be it will overflow into the two mainstreams of fraternal charity--the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

But this is not all. Christ invites us to be as perfect as His heavenly Father is perfect. "Such a height," writes Father Boylan, "must be reached here or hereafter. There is no choice finally except heaven or hell. Heaven supposes perfect love of God which must either be reached in this life, or else, with far more suffering, in the next life through the fires of Purgatory. The easier way is to be sanctified now."

Prayers: (deceased) grandmother of Jim Patterson; mother of Father Waide, C.S.C.; father of Father Early, C.S.C. Convalescing, Sister M. Claudia, O.S.F. 10 sp. ints.