

Prayers: deceased mother
and brother of Sister
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Keeping You On Your Toes.

Once again the Bulletin reminds you this is Catholic Press Month. When you are urged to read Catholic literature and to keep yourself well-posted on what's going on within the Church and against the Church, the intention is not merely to encourage you to fill up your empty moments with pious reading.

Whistle in the dark, if you will, but the world situation is explosive. The Holy Father is gravely serious when he warns us that the world is on the road to "frightful disaster." He blames in part "the low moral tone of public and private life."

The dangers threatening the world, he continues, are "much more widespread and grave than pestilence and the convulsions of nature, even though their continuing threat has begun to make the nations almost insensible and apathetic."

All Must Help.

"Each one of the faithful and every man of good will must re-examine. . . what he can and must do to the saving power of God, in order to help a world which is started as it is today, on the road to ruin." The Holy Father said a general condition exists which "may explode at any moment."

There are those among us who pay scant attention to the Catholic press, hardly seem concerned about or have no knowledge of the activities of the Church, which the Catholic press reports extensively. Unless you read your Catholic press you will not understand the religious, moral and social implications in the news events today.

Read Reflectively.

And meditate. Good reading, spiritual reading, provides the material for meditation. This takes time -- an opportunity to think. We get so messed up in trivialities that the tremendous realities of the spiritual world seem almost unreal. The transition must be made from the cold objective acceptance of the truths of faith to the living subjective appreciation of these same truths. The bridge is built during the time of prayer--meditation. Convictions are born here.

For many of us the Apostles' Creed has no more effect on us than the Multiplication Tables. It is the old problem Cardinal Newman wrote about--the problem of notional and real knowledge.

It is only little by little, writes Father Nash, that divine truth saturates the soil of the soul. Convictions then follow, bedrock convictions, from which are formed spiritual giants. Saints are men and women who look at the supernatural and appreciate its practical implications in the business of living, who are inexorable in applying its principles. "They realize, whereas others only believe."

Take Some Time Each Day.

It takes time, effort, patience, prayer to know God, to experience the Reality of His Presence. The fact that we are absolutely dependent upon God motivates us less than the fact that we are only relatively dependent upon our parents. All of us believe mortal sin is the greatest evil that can happen to us; nearly all Catholics call sin by its right name. Yet how many Catholics are there who are losing their sense of sin? We can lose our motivations, weaken our convictions, unless we think, read, study and take time to meditate. What do we have to do? Make up our mind that every day we will spend a little time--15 minutes--being with God. The best place is usually in the chapel. Christ is just as really there as we are. Talk to Him.