

First Friday of the
month coming this week.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
December 2, 1953

Sign up for Adoration,
Choose a convenient half-
hour between 8:30 and 5.

Religion And Crackpots

Have you ever had the uncomfortable experience of hearing a non-Catholic, sound of mind and limb, tell you that he thinks some Catholics are superstitious? He then, with much good material at his disposal, proceeds to tell you of numerous examples of our persuasion who use the rosary, medals, vigil lights, etc., expecting a result totally unwarranted.

Before we resent the accusation, it might be well to take a good look at some of the evidence. We have in mind, for one instance, a "blind ad" that appeared recently in a Chicago daily paper. A blind ad is one which does not give the name of the firm running the ad, but only a post-office box. Since this ad has to do with the Miraculous Medal, the natural inference some people might make is that the Catholic Church sanctions the matter set forth in the ad.

Whereas we know that it does not. But the ad glibly inquires:

"Have you the faith to wear the same Miraculous Medal that more than a million people are now wearing because they believe in her STRANGE POWER? Then send me your name and address and \$2, and I will send you GUARANTEED a genuine Miraculous Medal."

Anyone who follows this directive is a crackpot, pure and simple -- especially simple.

Gadgets Galore

Don't be too sure that we do not have among us those who go light on the Sacraments, but heavy on the gadgets -- necklaces with the Way of the Cross, bracelets for Novenas to St. Thud, anklets to get genuine help from St. Tibia, rosaries containing the miraculous water of Lourdes, relics that are less than reliable, etc. ad nauseam.

For all we know, these rackets may not be in the hands of Catholics at all. We hope they are not -- even though some of the ads occasionally appear in Catholic magazines.

In much the same category belongs a fad that re-appeared on the campus last week -- the "Chain-Letter" prayer, with the attendant curse on you if you break the chain. Anyone who moves in this group is a crackpot pure and simple -- especially simple.

We recommend that you concentrate on the Sacraments; that you spend some time on your knees; that you stay with the Rosary; that you wear the Scapular, and the Sacred Heart badge, and make the Stations of the Cross. These things may be old-fashioned; but they are authentic, and respectable, and mighty effective. Finally, they have produced more saints than crackpots -- a conclusion not to be lightly dismissed.

Intention For December

This month, the Holy Father asks your prayers for the success of his Peace Program. Gently, he continues to rebuke, to instruct, to exhort. He speaks wisely and convincingly; and there is truth in his words. He asks you to pray with him that all men may achieve peace by avoiding the aggression, the enslavement, and the exploitation of their fellowmen -- actions which inevitably provoke war.

PRAYERS -- Deceased: father Joe Daley of Dillon; father of Rev. Roland Simanitsch, CSC; grandfather of Ben Grylewicz of Walsh; Bill Froelich, '56; Brother Clement, CSC; grandmother of Pat Daley of Alumni. Ill: mother of Dean O'Mara of the Law School; mother of Tom Cotleur (Off-Campus); 2 others who are sick.