

Tonight at 6:45, the  
Novena to the Sorrowful  
Mother

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
February 5, 1954

Tomorrow: First Saturday  
Fatima Devotions in private

Why The Catholic Press?

Now and again the men behind the Catholic Press wonder about it all. Is it worth it? What good do Catholic papers do? The labor, the strain, the anxiety, the risk of money -- does it all add up? Or is it madness? What do you think?

Some of your neighbors may have their doubts. What with keeping abreast of the secular material at their elbow -- Life, Pic, Look, See, View, Quick, and a host of T-V pictures -- the poor mind hasn't been called on to draw a conclusion, or sift an argument in many months.

If the recent exams proved anything at all, it was this: namely, that the greatest undeveloped territory in the world lies under your own hat. We are fast becoming a nation of viewers. The "Eyes" have it. Lose your vision, and you're finished.

There are, however, still many brave people in the country who support the Catholic Press because they are convinced they're making a real contribution to the Kingdom of God, and to the up-building of the Mystical Body. They believe they are spreading the seed of Catholic truth in men's minds; that they are sinking the galleys of lies, and slaying thousands of leering errors of the godless fleet of the secular press.

The Field It Covers

"Catholic values, Catholic evaluations, Catholic ideas and principles with their applications to everything from comics to world federations, from poppycock to private property, from Red Shoes and The Moon Is Blue to Red China and Mary's Blue Battalion; from Marriage to Mary's Year; from political science to un-scientific politics -- that is what the Catholic Press strives to give; and that is why we have a Catholic Press.

"Some Catholics both behind and in front of our printed pages raise threnodies, laments, yipes and gripes about our magazines, papers, pamphlets, brochures, and books. To them we give but one answer... 'Granted, Our Catholic Press is not perfect...'"

You will be honest enough, however, to admit that Catholic life in these United States would be poorer, weaker, less beautiful, less sure and secure without it. And you must also admit that there is a need for the Catholic Press in your own household. To suppose that there will be Catholic thinking, and respect for Catholic principles -- after 365 issues of secular newspapers only have entered that same household -- is sheer nonsense! Secularism in many forms must result.

You can develop a Catholic mentality only by reading and discussing Catholic principles and Catholic teachings. In no other way will you be able to detect the frequent mis-representations and distortions of the secular press in matters pertaining to the Church's liturgy and doctrine, and in statements emanating from the Vatican, and from other Catholic spokesmen. You don't intuit apologetics, you know.

And when your non-Catholic neighbor poses a question regarding the Church's attitude on some current problem, what will you -- you from Notre Dame, with your Catholic, university-trained mind -- what will you reply? You are expected, because of your opportunities, to be a leader, informed and articulate, -- not a dodger. If a bigot or a Communist is bold with error, you should be brave with truth. Read your Catholic Press. Help write it; and help distribute it where it is needed most.

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Commerce Sen iors -- Communion Breakfast this Sunday Mass at 8 in Dillon Hall Chapel. Breakfast at 9 in Morris Inn. Pick up free tickets tonight (5:45-7:00) at Living Hall