

Orchids to the Sophomores  
for their fine attendance at  
First Saturday Devotions!

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
February 9, 1955

Orchids to the group that  
filled Sacred Heart Church  
for the Novena, last Friday!

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Your Catholic Press

Twenty years ago (and this will startle you) religion was considered by the general press as a subject to be avoided. Even such magazines as the American Mercury, under the editorship of H.L. Mencken and George Jean Nathan, used to treat religion as an object of ridicule. The attitude of a news magazine, like Time was flippant when it wasn't downright derogatory. But things have changed for the better. Both Time and Newsweek treat their religious sections with as much seriousness, today, as they do science or industry.

Two decades ago, any newspaper editor would have dropped dead if someone had told him that Fulton Ousler's books would appear on page one -- but that has come to pass. Movies have discovered that there is big money in religious themes. Four or five of the ten best-selling books are of the same nature. Bishop Fulton Sheen has proved that religion is well received on T-V. Chapels are being built in industrial plants and in airports.

All in all, one must conclude that religion is not such a dull subject after all -- not when everyone is interested in some phase of religion, and talks about it. And how often are you asked questions about Catholic beliefs, and the Catholic position on current issues?

During Catholic Press Month (February) it may come home to you why you give halting answers, or no answers at all, to some of these queries; or why you are able to put logic and exact information into your answers; or why you are able to detect flaws in biased articles on religious subjects.

How Much Do I Read ?

In the U.S. there are 541 Catholic publications. How many Catholics do not read one of these regularly? The answer is that 44% of them never do; and 56% do not read any publication regularly. In round numbers, the Catholic Press is not reaching ten million adults. It would appear that the number of publications are sufficient.

It is obvious that Catholics who give bad example harm their Faith. There is another class of Catholics who do harm, too. These are the Catholics who don't have a full understanding of their Faith -- and, unfortunately, these are the very ones who sometimes are most willing to tell others about the Church. This doesn't mean that laymen should keep quiet and let priests do all the talking. Rather, it means that we should increase our knowledge of the Faith, and gain an adult understanding of the things we believe. There comes a day when it isn't enough to give the Catechism answers learned in childhood. Eventually, we are all called upon to explain Catholic teachings in a manner that will convince adult non-Catholics.

Much of this required knowledge will come to you through reading -- on your own time, and in your own way. And there are a host of good, Catholic authors to draw upon. And they will help you to give a reasonable account of the Faith that is in you.

It isn't very complimentary to any university mind to be told: "You don't know what you're doing. You don't know what you believe, do you? You don't know why you believe it, either, do you?" Much of this embarrassment can be avoided by your practical support of the Catholic Press. It will also help you to save your own soul.

PRAYERS -- Deceased: friend of Jim Moran of Dillon. Ill: father of Don Costello of Dillon.

Tomorrow at 4:45 p.m. -- the Holy Hour in Sacred Heart Church.