

Tonight thru Wednesday,
at 5:15. Octave Unity Devo-
tions in Alumni chapel.

University of Notre Dame
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Tomorrow morning; we start
late Confession and Communion
facilities in Dillon again.

Have You Ever Made A Convert ?

"The world's worst salesmen" -- that's the comment of a convert about Catholics. And he's right. Very few are as zealous for spreading the Faith as the young American sailor who made 186 converts in three years in uniform. How many Catholics make even one convert in a lifetime ? How about yourself ? Have you ?

It shouldn't be this way at all. First, because you have something that many of your non-Catholic friends are looking for, even craving for. Do you think everyone enjoys the knowledge that there is an after-life, a Heaven where all good works will be rewarded ? Sit down sometime and speak to a non-Catholic about what you know of the Saints, about the power of prayer, about miracles, about the Guardian Angel God has assigned to each soul. Tell him about the Son of God Who became man and died that Heaven might be re-opened after the fall of Adam. Mention the power and goodness of the Blessed Virgin and her love for all men. Merely hint to one outside the Faith something about the resurrection of the body at the end of time, or about Purgatory, or about the presence of Christ in our chapels and churches.

"Never heard of these things," they will reply for the most part. And these are the truths you take for granted. You are living by these unseen realities. They make life worth living for you. Why be miserly with the gold mine of truth you possess ? Why not share your wealth with your friends ?

There should be some evidence of the apostolic "itch" in the life of every Notre Dame man -- that urge to bring souls to the truths of the Church. In Confirmation you received the power to be a convert-maker, the "itch" to spread the Faith. Confirmation made you a soldier of Christ; and soldiers are not always on the defensive. Rather, they should be fired with a zeal to bring more people to a knowledge and love of the Truth. They should want to bring more souls into the Kingdom of God. You have the grace to do so -- stir it up!

But How Do I Do It ?

There is no single method of sowing the seed of Faith. Sometimes it will be through conversation -- a "session" with the fellows. Pamphlets taken from the hall pamphlet racks often find a resting place in a bus, or station -- where someone will pick them up and read them during the ride. Put pamphlets, or Catholic papers you have read, to this use -- don't destroy them. Try mailing pamphlets to people with whom you have discussed various topics of religion. If they were not interested, they would not have discussed such matters with you. And if your answer to them was not too logical, or convincing, the pamphlet will do the job thoroughly.

This week, the seed that all Catholics are asked to sow is that of prayer, through the observance of the Church Unity Octave -- an eight day period of prayer, world-wide in its observance. These are the days to pray for the conversion of the millions who are Churchless; who belong to no denomination at all. These are the days to pray for the return of the denominations to the Apostolic See. Finally, don't overlook the lapsed Catholic who may be very close to you.

There's really no cure for the apostolic "itch" -- no time to stop working, even though you have converted 1, or 101. Our objective is One Fold and One Shepherd -- not before that can we stop. And you can start any time.

PRAYERS - Deceased: father of Myles Walshe of Morrissey; father of Bro. Roderick, CSC; cousin of Father Leo Ward, CSC; brother of Father John Reddington, CSC; uncle of Phil Arce of Zahm; mother of Al Mannion, '47. Ill: mother of Tom Sweeney of Alumni; aunt of Dave West (O-C); friend of John Kiwus of Sorin; George Ireland, '36. 2 sp. int's.