

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
February 6, 1957

Now This Is Interesting !

Not long ago, a fellow who was both a Communist and atheist went to Lourdes and was confronted by an argument from the Blessed Virgin that bowled him over but good -- the Lourdes water washed away both his paralysis and his atheism... And throughout the nation, the role of religion is unraveling the knotty problem of integration... And who's the most popular actor in the world?....And what makes a happy family ?... And what about nuns wearing skirts and blouses? ... Who's the man the Kremlin fears ? ... How would you handle an alcoholic? ... And just why do people laugh What makes you a tightwad, or a spendthrift? ... What about the Trendex rating of T-V ?

These, and a host of other interesting articles, appear in a single issue of the Catholic Digest. The sales pitch here is not so much for the Digest; but rather to point up a much abused fact -- namely, that if you keep up with the Catholic press, you receive a liberal education in both the Faith and secular matters. Dull? Not at all. That point is worth stressing.

And you get the facts too -- which is very important, as Ann Blyth stressed not long ago when she spoke at a Communion Breakfast of the Motion Picture Industry at the Waldorf: "I plead," she said, "for a press that we know will tell man the truth; that won't talk about him; that won't hurt him. I plead for support of the Catholic Press that will remind him of the good things about him; of his capacity for good; of his God; of his destiny; and of his immeasurable worth." Ann is pretty close to Hollywood, is exposed to some phony philosophy at times, but so far has kept both feet solidly on the ground, and God in her heart and family.

Spiritual Lockjaw

You'll find Catholics afflicted with this malady now and then -- even here on campus. The symptoms are largely these: the patient avoids all discussion about religion; he becomes nervous, and looks wildly about when anyone asks questions about Catholic beliefs or practices; frequently he can't follow the question -- much less can he open up with a mouthfull of answer; he may even show little or no interest in dirty magazines, crimes, sex comics, and pocket-sized books -- he's too listless; and in advanced stages collapses into indifferentism.

The well-meaning inquirers into Catholic belief and practices, no less than the defamers of the Church, are helped not a bit by this dud. They are dismissed empty handed as he comes up with the hackneyed opiate: "What's the difference! We're all trying to get to Heaven, anyway!"

The specific remedy for this disease is more Catholic information. If he is allergic to study clubs, let him take half-hour treatments occasionally from pamphlets, and from the numerous magazines, and diocesan papers. All this will help to get him out of the "know-nothing" ward. This is Catholic Press Month, and now would be an excellent time to begin. There are about 545 Catholic publications from which to choose. We'd say the patient is well on his way to recovery when he starts talking religion the same as he does politics, sports, economics, and girls.

PRAYERS - Deceased: mother of Father Keating (English Dept.); brother of Bro. Reginald, CSC; grandmother of Martin Letscher of Pangborn; Frank G. Swonk, '01; Joseph F. Smith, '15; father of Harry Barkley of Walsh; uncle of Peter Miller (O-C); James Wasson, '13. Ill: sister of Father Keller, CSC; mother of John Hanley (O-C); Mrs. Mary Molinari; Jack Wahl, '43; grandfather of Duane Van Dyke of Dillon; mother of Jim Hutelmyer of Badin.