

# RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

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Notre Dame, Ind.

THANKSGIVING affords an opportunity to admit our known blessings. But the day should also remind us we have a greater obligation than thanks. The more that God showers on us the strength, wealth, and leisure that seem a part of our democratic way of life, the greater our obligation to seek more knowledge of God and His Will.

● ON WEDNESDAY MORNING at 7:00 A.M., the Met Club will have a Mass for its members in Sacred Heart Church. Last year was the first year for the Club Mass. There should be better attendance this year.

● FRIDAY IS THE BIRTHDAY of Pope John XXIII. Go out of your way to get to Mass on that day, and pray for the health and success of our Holy Father.

● SATURDAY MARKS THE 118th anniversary of the founding of the University. Many of you will be at home or away from the University this week-end. Pause long enough, wherever you may be, to say thanks for all the blessings that have come to students and faculty here through the years. Some of the same blessings have been showered on you. You've benefitted from many of them.

● THE CLOTHING DRIVE seems bogged down. What have you contributed to the drive? There is still a box in your hall to receive your contribution.

● AND, IN THOSE BOXES, you may also leave any books you can contribute to the drive for books for the missions. At Bauko in the Phillipines, at St Peter's Seminary, Cape Coast, Ghana, and at the Catholic Reading Room, Kerala, India have come appeals for any books you may not be using.

● THE NEW STATUES of the Sacred Heart and St Joseph at the entrance to the Lady Chapel are the gift of Chicago alumni and given in memory of Luke Tiernan, '37. Pray for him.

● THE MASSES IN SACRED HEART CHURCH on Thanksgiving Day will be offered at 9:30 and 10:30. There'll be no 11:30 Mass and no 5:10 Mass on Thanksgiving Day. On Friday and Saturday, the usual schedule of Mass will be offered in the church. In Dillon Chapel, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Masses will be offered at 7:30, 8:00, and 8:30 A.M.

● SUNDAY NEXT marks the beginning of Advent. A good time for many to start doing the penances they've put off for too long. A good preparation for Christmas will include a spiritual renewal during Advent and the Novena for Parents which begins December 5th.

● PRAYERS. Deceased: Uncle of Dick Hughes, Off-Campus; grandmother of Ted DeBaene, Off-Campus; mother of Russell Governale, '55. Ill: Mother of Mike of Morrissey, and John Wilbraham, Off-Campus. Two Special Intentions.



WASHINGTON (UPI)—Roman Catholic bishops of the United States Saturday urged the American people to halt what they called a decaying trend toward conformity and to revive traditional ideals of individualism "before it is too late."

They condemned the spread of group conformity at every level of American life. They said that unless there is a rebirth of individual obligation and responsibility, "the automation of human beings and the steady loss of . . . freedom" is inevitable.

Parents, businessmen, union leaders and the cult of the "Organization Man" came under criticism in a statement issued at the end of a three-day annual meeting here.

The prelates said of the American scene:

"Uniformity of thought and supine loyalty to the organization whether it be the industrial corporation, the labor union or the political party, are too often encouraged and rewarded. The organizational man, cloaked in a sort of anonymity, rather than the responsible individual, is favored and advanced."

#### Call For Individuality

The statement endorsed by 227 members of the church hierarchy, including five U.S. cardinals, called for greater individual responsibility in every aspect of American life—the family, education, industry, federal government and world affairs.

Here's what they said:

"The failure of parents to fulfill their responsibilities, as revealed in the frequency of divorce, desertion and broken homes, is a national disgrace.

"At a time when so much depends upon the soundness of our economy and upon our ability to produce to meet the needs of a rapidly developing world, we have been faced by a frequent

lack of truly responsible leadership, both on the part of management and of labor."

In attaining social welfare goals "pressures are growing for a constantly greater reliance on the collectivity rather than on the individual." The statement said: "An inordinate demand for benefits, most easily secured by the pressures of organization, has led an ever-growing number of our people to relinquish their rights and to abdicate their responsibilities . . . intensive socialization can achieve mass benefits but man and morality can be seriously hurt in the process.

#### Decry Blind Adherence

"This tendency to delegate excessive responsibility to an organization is discernible also in the realm of international affairs." The bishops said that while the United Nations is deserving of support, Americans and peoples of other countries must carefully judge the actions of the world organization and not merely give it blind adherence.

In education, a dangerous trend toward conformity shows up in the emphasis "placed on adapting oneself to the thinking of the group."

After spelling out the protest against too much conformity, the Catholic leaders appealed for a revival of individualism in these words:

"A fresh evocation of the principle and practice of personal responsibility can revivify our society and help to stem the seemingly inexorable march toward the automation of human beings and the steady loss of that freedom which is man's instinctive attribute. It will cure the mental lethargy and inertia which permit organizations to usurp, mainly by default, the rights of their members . . .

#### Group Pressures Defined

"It will reject unwarranted pressure from groups that seek unjustly to aggrandize their power and will restrict them to their lawful ends. . . .

"It will have an immediate effect in every sphere of life—in the home, in the office, as well as in the workshop, in the factory, in our schools, in our cultural groups."

The statement blamed much of the undermining of personal responsibility on "the marked decline in the force of religious convictions.

"In spite of the much discussed increase of church membership," the prelates said, "it cannot be doubted that for a long time religious influences have been losing their vigor among the American people with a debilitating effect in consequence on both public and private life."

The bishops urged every American, Catholic and non-Catholic as well, to start re-assuming his personal responsibilities.

#### Our Past Recalled

"The history and achievements of America stand as a monument to the personal responsibility of free men," the statement said. "Our institutions and our industry, the fruit of the American sense of responsibility, have in the past inspired, guided, and helped many other nations of the world.

"If our future is to be worthy of our past, if the fruit of America's promise is not to wither before it has reached full maturity, our present pre-eminent need is to reaffirm the sense of individual obligation, to place clearly before ourselves the foundation on which personal responsibility rests, to determine the causes of its decay and to seek the means by which it can be revived."