

NOTES OF THE SECOND DAY OF RETREAT

FIRST CONFERENCE: Up to this conference we have been working negatively to put order into our lives. Now we must do positive things to seek and find the will of God.

Realize that Christ is the Church and the Church is Christ. Participate in your parish activities; your loyalty belongs in your parish.

In seeking God, we must seek our ideal. An ideal is an idea incarnate, Christ as a dive example of human perfection. The kingdom of God is within you. Empty yourself of the power called "ego", and fill yourself with the spirit of Christ. A love of Christ fills you with zeal for the spread of His Church. Zeal comes from doing violence to self; so go against your desires of sensuality and pride.

Is Fontbonne a better school because you are a student? . . . Does your language, deportment, seal in studies influence your fellow students to better themselves? . . . Do you fully realize the contribution to the spread of the Church which is being made by the Catholic educators of today? . . . Do you think about how God wants you to help spread His truth?

Pray about your vocation. The inclination may be present; do not subdue it. Christ has always had a great attraction for women and Christ hasn't changed. Neither have women.

SECOND CONFERENCE: "Dear God, help me to know Thee more clearly so that knowing Thee more clearly, I may love Thee more dearly, and loving Thee more dearly, I may copy Thee more nearly."

To know Christ is to love Him. An excellent way to know Him is to learn of His life through reading the New Testament. Read St. Luke first. He wrote from the woman's angle, thus including all the lovable traits in Jesus. You have a wonderful experience awaiting you if you have not read the New Testament before. The Rosary, too, will help you know Christ, for it is a miniature life of Christ. The beads are for the benefit of the prayers; the prayers for the benefit of the mysteries.

Once you know Christ and love Him, you are bound to imitate His ways because love is imitative. Woman is a self-giving creature through love, and a Christ-like woman reflects gloriously God's beauty.

THIRD and FOURTH CONFERENCES: The will of God is the harmonizing element of the life of every person. It means perfection in an individual's state of life, either of the future or of the present. The Blessed Virgin, "our tainted nature's solitary boast", should be the ideal for every woman. She was part of God's plan for the course of humanity. We, too, are part of a plan, and we should fit ourselves as women according to God's will, His particular plan for us.

As to your present life, the most important phase of which is your education, look to the will of God and take your schooling seriously. Don't get lost in extra-curricular activities. Organize your activities, and put first things first.

If we tend toward matrimony, we must think twice and prepare ourselves. The natural institution of marriage was made in the Garden of Paradise when God created Eve as a separate person, but as a complement to Adam.

We who are contemplating marriage must remember that marriage is forever. During the courtship in preparation for marriage, we must remember that the intimacies of married life are a part of a process which cannot be fulfilled until marriage. Self-control is all important. Self-control comes through self-denial. The age we live in is one of freedom--in thoughts, desires, and actions. We, the women, are the ones to keep it holy.

There should be a community of tastes, ideas, and standards between two persons who are considering marriage, and a willingness to give and take. Your happiness in marriage depends on your physical, intellectual, and emotional maturity, and that of your future husband. Prudence in your choice is most important. Is your future mate frank, unselfish, considerate, constant? It is a natural inclination for a woman to look for an ideal in a husband, but do you work to make yourself an ideal wife? The most common traits in a woman which prevent happiness in marriage are selfishness, gossiping, nagging, extravagance, and coarseness or mannishness. Be feminine. Make yourself an ideal.

CONFERENCE FOR RESIDENT STUDENTS, WEDNESDAY EVENING: Two approaches to God are innocence and penitence. These are typified by the two Mary's at the foot of the Cross--Mary, our Mother, sinless, even from conception; and Mary Magdalen, one of the greatest of sinners, who wept so bitterly in repentance and was forgiven all. The two are shining examples to us--our Mother to help us avoid sin, and Mary Magdalen to give us strength to repent and humbly confess our sins. Mercy is above all other of God's works. It is exemplified perfectly by Christ, not only in what He said, but even more so in what He did. We must all make ourselves like the Prodigal Son, who after great suffering, came to the realization that he must humble himself.

You are invited to the LITURGICAL WORKSHOP being held by the NFCCS region at Fontbonne next Sunday afternoon, Jan. 29, commencing at one o'clock. Fr. Patrick J. Molloy will speak and Peggy Murphy will be chairman of a panel of Fontbonne student-speakers.

READING IN A HOLY YEAR

A Catholic in the NEW HALF-CENTURY needs to follow the world's greatest leader, Our Holy Father, POPE PIUS XII. To do this completely, he must read the Pontiff's pronouncements on the problems of the times. The Pope's principles are given mainly in his encyclical letters, and two of these which have important bearing on tomorrow's thinking and living are

MYSTICI CORPORIS CHRISTI (The Mystical Body) issued in 1943

MEDIATOR DEI (On the Sacred Liturgy) issued in 1947

These encyclicals are published in pamphlet form with notes of explanation at about twenty-five cents a copy by various presses, such as the Paulist, America, and National Catholic Welfare Conference. They are available at most pamphlet racks and in all Catholic libraries.

If you wish more light on the doctrine of the Mystical Body of Christ, read

"That You May Live", L. F. Cervantes

"Our Part in the Mystical Body", D. A. Lord

St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians

"In Christ Jesus" and "Christ and His Brethren", Raoul Plus

If you are interested in learning more on liturgy and Catholic living, read

"Sacred Liturgy" Msgr. Hellriegel

"Christian Life and Worship", G. Ellard

"Liturgy and Life", T. Wesseling

"The Sacramental Way", Mary Perkins

Proceedings of the Liturgical Weeks
Publications of Grailville, Loveland, Ohio

Orate Fratres, a monthly periodical

If you wish to deepen your understanding of the Mass, read

"The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass",

Msgr. Hellriegel

"The Meaning of the Mass", P. Bussard
and F. Kirsch

"The Liturgy of the Mass", P. Parsch

"Study the Mass", P. Parsch-W. Busch

If you would welcome help in preparing beforehand for the Mass of the next day or the next Sunday, read

"Vine and Branches", Msgr. Hellriegel

"Live With Christ" in the St. Louis

Register each week

The St. Andrew's Missal

"The Words of Life", Abbot Marmion

"Lent", Conrad Fepler

If you desire information on the contemplative life, you will find it easy to secure the best-sellers by Thomas Merton (Father Louis of the Trappist-Cistercians) which are

"Seven Storey Mountain"

"Waters of Siloe"

"Seeds of Contemplation"

If you relish the message of Integrity, read these books by its editors:

"Ye Gods", Ed Willock

"Designs for Christian Living" and

"This Perverse Generation", Peter Michaels (Carol Jackson)

If you desire to read the exact words of Christ on the important things of life, read The New Testament, in the Knox, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, or the Douay translation

If you have heard that the French have a name for it and are doing something about the modern problem among Catholics, read

"Growth or Decline" and "The Meaning of God", Cardinal Suhard

"France Alive", Clare H. Bishop

"Priest-Workman in Germany", H. Ferrin

"France Pagan?", Maisie Ward

"Fishers of Men", M. Von der Meersch

"Priest and Proletariat", R. Kothen

If you care to learn of some extraordinary Catholic social action in this country, read

"From Union Square to Rome" and "House of Hospitality", Dorothy Day

"Friendship House" and "Dear Bishop",

Baroness Catherine de Hueck-Doherty

"Tumbleweed", Eddie Doherty

If you would like a biography of Christ geared to the modern mind, read that by Ricciotti, or McNabb, or Mauriac, or Eliot, or Sister Jane Marie, O.P.

If you are curious about the kind of contemporary art Catholics are advocating, read

"Notes on Art for Catholics", C. Fortune
Books by and on Eric Gill

These two periodicals: Liturgical Arts
and Catholic Art Quarterly

If you are developing a curiosity about the Church's Office, examine

"The Short Breviary" published at St.

John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota

Pamphlet publications of Compline, Lauds, Matins, and other Hours

In any event, read many of the attractive biographies written recently by such authors as

Henri Gheon

Theodore Maynard

Daniel Sargent

Thomas Merton

William Thomas Walsh

and modern converts to the Church

If you are at a loss for information for obtaining Christian greeting cards for Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, weddings, ordinations, Baptism, Confirmation, the time of illness, and so on, write to these presses:

Pio Decimo Press, Box 53, Baden Station, St. Louis 15

Pax Press, Sisters of Precious Blood, St. Mary's Institute, O'Fallon, Mo.

Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota

Berliner and Lanigan, Nevada City, California

St. Leo Shop (with the work of Ade Bethune) Upton, Massachusetts

Work of Our Lady of Grace, 31 Race Street, Lowell, Massachusetts

and for your convenience, a useful catalogue with illustrations and information on the output of these and other presses producing Christian cards will be mailed by

Designs for Christian Living, Box 5948, Westport Station, Kansas City 2, Mo.