

THE FONT LETTER

Vol. 2, No. 27

Fontbonne College, St. Louis 5, Missouri

May 16, 1950

 Mother M. Marcella, president of Fontbonne, received this week a communication from Father Owen J. Quigley, C.M., much esteemed chaplain of last year. Through THE FONT LETTER, she wishes to share with faculty and students Father's greetings and significant message about S D S.

ST. JOHN'S SEMINARY
 247 Felisa Street
 San Antonio, Texas

May 13, 1950

Dear Mother Marcella,

The ever welcome "Font Letter" brings word of the formation in Saint Louis of the SDS organization and of the part which Fontbonne is taking in its development. Please God, may this crusade bring Christ triumphantly into the market place!

All who know Christ are conscious of the progressive loss of decency in women's attire. This cult of nudity in entertainment, advertising and dress is the worship offered by a demi-world to its animalistic ideals of beauty, ideals measured in terms of sensual appeal.

Washed with the beautifying waters of Baptism, signed with the sign of the Cross, blessed with the Benediction of its Eucharistic Lord, the body is not destined to be the instrument of man's destruction. The body is the living temple of God. "Your members are the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God..... you are not your own." (Cor. vi 19) The vesture which clothes the body is actually raiment which adorns the tabernacle of the Most High! It must ever be such that the custodian of the Temple may say with Paul: "...at all times Christ will be glorified in my body." (Philip. i 20) This is your cause!

Anxious with a mother's true love, the Church repeatedly has warned her children through the voice of her Bishops against the serious dangers created by the fashion world's lack of modesty, an influence which flows quickly throughout all human society. These warnings are expressed with even greater force in a decree of the Sacred Congregation of the Council issued by authority of Pope Pius XI of happy memory. A copy of that decree is enclosed in the hope that it will give you direction and encouragement in the warfare you have begun. The Immaculate Mother of God will obtain for you the needed Divine assistance with its aids to courage and perseverance in this work for God and for souls.

Through your efforts a world whose soul is spiritually void may yet be brought back to life. Vested in robes of eternal glory, its people will stand before the Lamb of God, your labor of love and of mercy, to speak your praise before the throne of the Almighty: "I was naked and you covered me." (Matt. xxv 36)

Invoking God's blessing, through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, upon you and all at Fontbonne and upon all associated in this work, I remain, respectfully and devotedly,

Yours in Christ,

(Signed) Owen J. Quigley, C.M.

THE SACRED CONGREGATION OF THE COUNCIL
 Instruction to the Ordinaries of Dioceses
 ON MODESTY IN WOMEN'S ATTIRE

In virtue of the Supreme Apostleship which he exercises in the Universal Church, His Holiness, Pius XI, has never ceased to inculcate in word and writing the precept of St. Paul (I Tim. II, 9, 10): "Women also in decent apparel; adorning themselves with modesty and sobriety . . . as it becometh women professing godliness, with good works."

And on many occasions the same Supreme Pontiff has reproved and sharply condemned the immodesty in dress which today is everywhere in vogue, even among women and girls who are Catholics; a practice which does grave injury to the crowning virtue and glory of women, and moreover unfortunately leads not merely to their temporal disadvantage, but, what is worse, to their eternal ruin and that of other souls.

COME TO THE MEETING OF S D S TUESDAY EVENING AT 7:30 IN FONTBONNE AUDITORIUM

It is no wonder, then, that Bishops and other Ordinaries of places, as becomes ministers of Christ, have in their respective dioceses unanimously resisted in every way this licentious and shameless fashion, and in doing so have cheerfully and courageously borne the derision and ridicule sometimes directed at them by the ill-disposed.

Accordingly this Sacred Congregation for the maintenance of discipline among clergy and people, in the first place accords merited approval and praise to this vigilance and action on the part of the Bishops, and moreover earnestly exhorts them to continue in the purpose and undertaking they have so well begun, and to pursue them with even greater vigor, until this contagious disease be entirely banished from decent society.

That this may be accomplished with greater ease and security, this Sacred Congregation, in pursuance of the orders of His holiness, has determined upon the following regulations on the subject:

I. Especially pastors and preachers, when they have the opportunity, must, according to those words of St. Paul (II Tim. 4, 2): "be instant, reprove, entreat, rebuke," to the end that women may wear clothes of becoming modesty, which may be an ornament and safeguard of virtue; and they must also warn parents not to permit their daughters to wear immodest clothes.

II. Parents, mindful of their very grave obligation to provide especially for the moral and religious education of their children, must see to it with special care that their girls receive solid instruction in Christian doctrine from their earliest years; and they themselves must by word and example earnestly train them to a love of modesty and chastity. After the example of the Holy Family they must strive so to order and regulate the family that every member of it shall find at home a reason and inducement to love and to cherish modesty.

III. Parents should also prevent their daughters from taking part in public drills and athletic contests. If the girls are obliged to take part in them, the parents must see to it that they wear a costume that is entirely modest, and must never permit them to appear in immodest dress.

IV. Heads of girls' schools and colleges must strive so to imbue the hearts of their girls with the love of modesty that they may be induced to dress modestly.

V. They shall not admit to the schools or colleges girls who are given to immodest dress; and if any such have been admitted, they shall be dismissed unless they change their ways.

VI. Nuns, in accordance with the Letter of 23 August 1928, of the Sacred Congregation of Religious, shall not admit to their colleges, schools, oratories, or amusement centers, nor allow to remain there any girls who do not observe Christian modesty in dress; and in the education of their charges they shall take special care to sow deeply in their hearts a love of chastity and Christian modesty.

VII. PIOUS ASSOCIATIONS OF WOMEN SHALL BE ESTABLISHED AND FOSTERED FOR THE PURPOSE OF RESTRAINING BY COUNSEL, EXAMPLE, AND ACTIVITY ABUSES REGARDING IMMODEST DRESS, AND OF PROMOTING PURITY OF MORALS AND MODESTY OF DRESS.

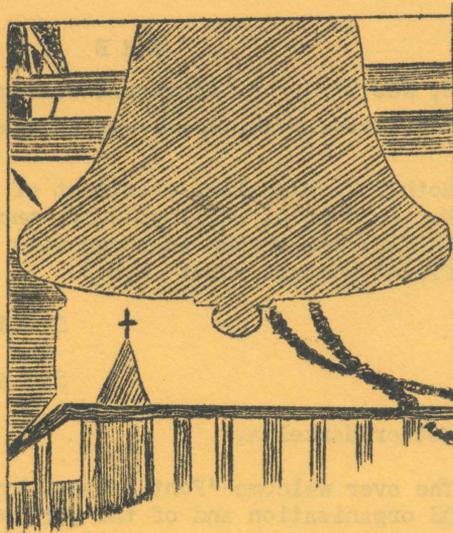
VIII. Women who wear immodest clothes should not be admitted to these associations; and those who have been admitted, if they afterward commit any fault in this regard and fail to amend after being warned, shall be expelled.

IX. Girls and women who are immodestly dressed are to be refused Holy Communion and excluded from the office of sponsor in the sacraments of baptism and confirmation; and in proper cases cases are even to be excluded from the Church.

. . . Given at Rome, at the office of the Sacred Congregation of the Council, the twelfth day of the month of January, on the Feast of the Holy Family, the year 1930.

Acta Apostolicae Sedis, vol. xx, pp. 26-28.

This Translation is taken from *The Canon Law Digest*, by the Rev. T. Lincoln Bouscaren, S.J., vol. 1, pp. 212-214.



LIKE A BELL CALLING

TO PRAYER

S D S CALLS YOU TO AID
THE CAMPAIGN FOR MODEST DRESS.