

## COME FILL THE HEARTS

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HERE WILL BE a little touch of crispness in the morning air when all across the country the bells ring out the challenge to enter again into the fields of knowledge in the "Battle of the Books." From the coaxing tinkle of the kindergarten bell to the solemn chiming of the majestic university carillon on the call is the same, the call to come and learn, that through knowledge you may attain your ultimate goal in life, true happiness. But come and learn does not mean the same to all. For those unfortunate individuals who are lost in the spidery web of confused concepts flowing from the educational theories which place man's ultimate end in a relative concept such as growth, happiness cannot be true and they cannot be truly happy. But for those who seek their final goal in a supernatural union with God through charity, come and learn does not mean an education for a life that ends at the grave, but an education for a life that begins with the vision of God, an education for happiness.

Our reason and common sense have their own contribution to make in opening our minds and hearts to a proper interpretation of all that is about us and within us, but reason and common sense have themselves also to be supernaturalized—to be illumined by the light of a far higher plane of truth. Man is made for truth and it is natural for him to want to know and to understand all things. He gazes into the heavens through powerful telescopes to study the magnificent order and harmony of the universe; he lowers himself into the depths of the sea in a bathysphere to observe the startling creatures which inhabit a world of coral fantasy; he ponders the disciplined regimentation of the ant kingdoms which exist in microscopic perfection under our very feet. "The heavens show forth the glory of God and the firmament declareth the work of His hand." Yet how many miss this unmistakable truth. How many fumble for the ultimate answer in the realm of scientific research or in a homocentric philosophy which always ends up somewhere along the line with "where did it come from" or "how did it all begin" or the more disturbing query of "where is it all going to end." The answer that is evident and readily accepted by the small child as the wonders of the world begin to unfold themselves before his eyes is often shelved by the college professor or the scientist as too old fashioned or too unscientific.

Where then does an education lead if it does not answer the most fundamental question correctly. It certainly does not lead to God and if it does not lead to God, it does not lead to happiness. With an education for the mind without an end for the heart, man is led a merry chase that will leave him hanging between the devil and the deep blue sea.

This, of course is an extreme view of secularistic education, where God gets no hours a week in the curriculum and His chances of an hour of worship on Sunday are proportionately dimmed. If, however, true happiness consists in union with God, our education must aim at the acquisition of knowledge in the light of our ultimate end. For this we must have a form of unity by which we strive to become an integrated whole (to use the jargon of the modern educationalists). We have the world of nature to lead us to the highest form of unity, union with God, and we become an integrated whole by living a life of grace. This is an education of the whole man—the lifting up of the mind and heart to God. In this all absorbing task of seeking true and perfect knowledge we have the divine assistance of the Holy Ghost, the spirit of light and truth.

To concretize these concepts on our own 3-D screen of personal experience we may ask whether with such influential help we are off to class with the odds in our favor to pass a Math or Physics course. What relation does the Holy Ghost have to your I.Q.? Does this mean that a C. student is suddenly going to amaze his teachers by pulling down straight A.'s? Or can we come into class on a wing and a prayer (with little or no study) and baffle the prof with profound answers. This would be more accurately a description of the wishful thinking of someone who staked his odds on the rabbit's foot he carried in his back pocket.

Rather, we should consider it in this way, that God is in all created nature but by a special presence, in proportion to their grace, He is in the hearts of all those in friendship with Him. This is a very real and true presence, the divine indwelling of the most Holy Trinity, which is more properly attributed to the Holy Spirit. The more sanctified we become the more intimately He dwells within us; the more fully is He sent; the more completely is He given to us. Accordingly, this Divine presence has a tremendous effect on our minds and hearts.

By natural knowledge we can know the existence and, to some extent, the nature of God, while Faith puts us in direct contact with God. Yet under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit we can have a more wonderful knowledge of God than we have by Faith alone. For the gifts of the Holy Ghost are habits infused into the soul whereby our natural

powers are strengthened to be docile and responsive to God and our minds and hearts perfected to obey the Holy Spirit. Through our natural acquired knowledge we overcome our ignorance concerning a multitude of the facts of the visible and sensible world around us. But in knowledge as a gift we discover God in all the facets of His creation as so many jewels reflecting the brilliance of the sunlight. It is a new light which leads us to see God everywhere, to penetrate the true inner meaning of the visible things of creation as all the glorious beauty of nature becomes but a veil hiding the sublime beauty beneath.

Each day then, the wonders of nature will hold a greater charm for us; the marvels of man's handiwork a more thoughtful fascination. The study of Physics and Chemistry will be like a fleeting glance into the laboratory of Divine causality; the pursuance of Astronomy and Anatomy, a manifestation of the divine order and harmony in heavenly and human bodies; the delving into Botany and Zoology, an expression of the unique and varied ways in which God has adorned the earth with plants and animals. Man's mind was made for these truths of endless variety—the truths of the arts and sciences and the principles which underlie them. In all of these, the mind must be able to see the shadow of God's hand.

A new awareness of the presence of God will pulsate in our minds and hearts as all things radiate His divine splendour. This is the aim of our education, to acquire an ever deepening knowledge of God through a knowledge of His creatures. The more we know that which is worth knowing the more we must love it and since love is more unifying than knowledge, God becomes not only an object of our intelligence but also finds a place in our hearts. Happiness takes on a new aspect, for we realize that we cannot seek true happiness in material comforts anymore than we would seek to lay our hands on a precious object by clutching at its shadow.

Christ gave us the key to our education for happiness when He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Without this key the door to happiness can never be opened for "without the way there is no going, without the truth there is no knowing, without the life there is no living." When the challenge rings out at the beginning of each year, of each day and of each class, we shall offer a prayer for the help of the Spirit of light and truth that, as we come to learn, He will come fill our hearts to attain the knowledge that leads to love and the love that leads to happiness.