

THE UNIVERSITY AND RELIGION

1. THE UNIVERSITY:

i. Its definition:

- seeking after the truth
- living the "good life"
- according to Cardinal Newman, the responsibility of the University is more for the intellectual than for the moral development of the students.
- according to the Church, the University life should cover all aspects of human life, including material benefits; it should acknowledge a common end—God's truth, it should maintain a critical sense of the limits of its disciplines as a technique and it should recognise their place in the whole field of creation.
- etc. etc. etc.

ii. Its historical origin:

- Universities owe their origin to religious studies, i.e. the study of theology, which was the "queen of science", etc.

2. RELIGION:

- seeks after the truth—God, Who is the Truth
- what other definitions can you give?
- is there any difference between the Catholic Religion and the Catholic Church? → *is a life*
- can you belong to the Catholic Religion without belonging to the Catholic Church? and vice versa?
- do you think the Catholic Church belongs to any particular civilisation? For instance, the western civilisation?
- do you think certain ceremonies in the Church can be adapted to the African culture? which ceremonies? how can they be adapted?
- etc. etc. etc. *the expression of mystery, symbol which are real values in the Church*

3. THE NEED FOR RELIGION IN THE UNIVERSITY:

i. General:

- consider the following statement of John Stuart Mill: "The moral or religious influence which an university can exercise, consists less in any express teaching than in the pervading tone of the place. Whatever it teaches, it should teach as if penetrated by a sense of duty; it should present all knowledge as chiefly a means to worthiness of life, given for the double purpose of making each of us practically useful to his fellow-creatures, and of elevating the character of the species itself, exalting and dignifying our nature".
- how far do you agree with this statement?
- is the best University one which is based on Christian principles? why?
- should a University make religious subjects compulsory? compel worship? why should it not? even a Catholic University?
- do you think the curriculum should include the principles of morality and sacred theology?
- do you think courses should be planned to deal with the nature and existence of God, nature and destiny of man, the purpose of human society?
- do you think religion has no place in the University because it is insignificant, outmoded, and equivalent to superstition?
- do you think religion has any purpose, or that higher education should supply the intellectual foundation of morals and religion?
- what are the general shortcomings of your University as far as religion goes?



- do students generally realise that the knowledge of the arts and sciences should automatically lead to the formation of good moral habits and the knowledge of God?
- what is the actual spiritual and mental state of the University?
- do the students consider the University only as a place of mass production of technicians of law, medicine, education, and commerce, etc.?
- do they consider that they have specific duties to study the truths of particular discipline?
- how can you instil intellectual honesty i.e. the personal pursuit of truth in given subjects, leading to the knowledge of Truth?

ii. The Faculty of Theology:

- is there the necessity of having a Faculty of Theology in your University?
- does it offer opportunities for research as other subjects?
- do you think the policy of academic freedom is defeated if the State excludes the study of Theology in the University?
- do you think the Faculty of Theology by itself is enough to inspire the development of religious life?
- who teaches in the Faculty?
- if the lecturers and professors are Protestants can a Catholic student enter for theological studies? should he?
- are Catholic lecturers and professors admitted in the Faculty? if no, are there any reasons?
- do you think the presence of a Catholic lecturer in the Faculty would make the University more aware of the need for religious life.
- how is a Catholic theological student, if any, looked upon by his companions in the University?
- do students take theology for its own sake, or as an easy subject to make up the requisite number of subjects for the course?

4. THE ACTUAL SITUATION IN THE UNIVERSITY:

- does the University realise that its life is stimulated by religion?
- does the University allow freedom of worship?
- does it afford suitable places of worship?
- are other religions preferred to the Catholic in the granting of funds for maintaining the places of worship on your campus? in your State?
- does the State prevent, through the University authorities, the free exercise of your religion?
- in public Universities, where places of worship are not provided for all religious bodies, are the outside religious bodies permitted to build chapels near the University for the Catholic students?
- in a State where there is no state religion, are any religions preferred to yours?
- what is the reaction of the Catholic students to this? what action do they take when freedom of worship is denied? do they appeal to the University authorities? or are they indifferent?
- does the University employ chaplains for your Catholic group?
- are they full- or part- time chaplains?
- is it a condition that the Chaplain also be a lecturer before he can be employed as such?
- does this condition apply to the Chaplains of all religious bodies? if not, why is it so with the Catholics?
- what action do you take if you have no full time chaplain?
- do you consider a part-time chaplain suitable for helping you in your religious activities?
etc. etc. etc.

5. THE APOSTOLIC MISSION:

i. The Milieu:

- what sort of milieu have you in your University?
- what is the quality of the spiritual life of the students?
- is there any relation between their studies and the practice of religion?
- what can be done by you, as a student or professor, to make them realise the necessity of living a life of truth?
- are some of these facts brought to light in the teaching of the different subjects, e.g.
- in Medicine, that the human body should be respected; are you made to appreciate its wonders and weaknesses, and made to recognise the primary and fundamental fact that it is the Temple of God?
- in Law, that the human law derives from the natural law, and that it is the participation in the supernatural and eternal law; that the end of the civil law is to make men "good"?
- in the Natural Sciences, that there should be no indifference to nature since it is the work of God, and that the discoveries made are all part of creation and not out of it?
- in Doctrine and Metaphysics, that there should be no indifference to particular sciences, since in each the way leads to the truth?

ii. The method of Approach:

- how best can the Catholic group lead the University to the development of spiritual life?
- by the tactics of pressure groups?
- by importing the Church into the University at special intervals in the form of lunch or dinner talks?
- by thinking this is the work of the Chaplain and his friends?
- by holding solitary arguments with our non-Catholic friends?
- by being a bigoted Catholic?
- by launching a religious Crusade on your friends?
- by preaching apologetics, and being unmindful of the natural good represented by the University?
- by divorcing your mission from a consideration of the sufferings and aspirations of the world at large?
- by remaining ignorant of your own religion?
- consider which of the above methods and any others for their suitability.
- do you think there is the need for more lay Catholic lecturers in the University? why?

iii. Your part as an Individual:

- what is your attitude towards your non-Catholic friends? hostile or sympathetic?
- do you shun their company or do you take every opportunity to explain Catholic viewpoints?
- what is the depth of your own knowledge of religion? do you read about it? do you relegate it to a subordinate place as regards your secular studies?
- do you attempt to relate personally the pursuit of truth in your study to the Great Truth? how?
- do you live a full Catholic life?
- by regular attendance at services?
- are you ashamed to be known as a Catholic?
- is this fact due to the reason that Catholics are in the minority? if not, why?
- do you do your part in contributing articles for Student Newspapers, the Catholic press? do you read Catholic papers, pamphlets, etc. do you pass them on to your non-Catholic friends? etc.

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- what other practical activities should a Catholic student undertake in order to live the good life in the University?

iv. Your part as the Federation:

- consider the following characteristics of the Apostolate, and see where your work can be improved:
 - a. Oneness: the necessity of having one group with a main policy; can there be intellectual freedom in religion?
 - b. Holiness: the group should be a school of spiritual formation; under the guidance of the chaplain it should give students love for the truth of Christ and His Church and a profound love for the truths of their special calling.
 - c. Apostolic: the group should be a missionary movement; it should produce messengers who have the complete love for and give whole service for the milieu.
 - d. Universal: a group embodying all that is there of the living Christ and that is truly human in the aspirations of the University; it should represent all the aspects of the Church; it should help to increase awareness of students of the appetite and meaning of the pursuit of truth, and it should live an exemplary life of the Church and the University.
- is the Catholic life and group strong in the University? in proportion to the population to the University? if not, why not? does the group include all Catholic students?
- have you recognised the need for basic knowledge of religion? what methods have you used so far to teach this?
- have you felt the need for group work? how?
- is there the necessity of having more than one group in the University? if so, why? if not, why not?
- what have been your activities since your group was formed? etc. etc.
- what activities do you undertake to improve your knowledge of religion? debates, bible studies, lectures, talks, etc?
- do you ever study the Papal Encyclicals on social doctrines bearing upon economic, political, and social problems?
- how do you spread Catholic religion in the University?
- do you find it useful to learn more about other Christian religions? how do you go about it?
- do you consider specific problems which arise out of the Church and native customs, e.g. native marriage of Catholics, Christian marriage, puberty rites, chieftainship and Christianity, libation, etc.

6. THE PART OF THE CHAPLAIN:

- how far should the chaplain direct the group?
- is the chaplain the director or the adviser of the group? does he automatically attend Executive meetings?
- should he be the filing cabinet for the group?
- do you agree that the primary preoccupation should be the spiritual development of the student, i.e. the development of a personal, individual spirituality?
- how can the student group aid the chaplain in his work? etc. etc.

7. YOUR PART IN THE CHURCH OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY:

- as an individual do you take active part in religious activities in your village during holidays?
- do you help the parish priest, generally, in explaining the religion to your less educated brethren?
- do you help the formation of lay Apostolate groups in your parish?
- as a group in term time, do you do any evangelical work in the villages that surround your University?
- do you have any contacts with outside Catholic Societies? do you get yourself invited to their meetings? how do you help them?
- how are your views on Christianity and native customs conveyed to the illiterate majority in the Church, etc. etc. etc. ?

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