

Weeping tears beyond all human stopping,
Torn hair askew her brow,
She left her cabin
And the couchy propping
Of the pliant hemlock bough.
Deserting Abegweit forevermore,
She fled—
Far, far southward from our shore,
To visit cousins,
Aunts,
And Abegweit no more.

—A. P. C.

THE ROLE OF THE STUDENT IN THE COMMUNITY

During his time as a student, the Catholic student generally lives in three different communities. The primary and fundamental community of which the student is a member is the college community itself. The Catholic college should have a real community life including faculty and students and centered around its religious and intellectual activities. The second community of which the student is a member and in which he should have an active interest is the community in which his college is located. Finally the student is a citizen of that community in which he spends his holidays and vacations. This may either be his home community or the place where he is employed during that period of the year.

The college community is made up of faculty and students. The prime purpose of that community is the education of the students. As both faculty and students are interested in achieving this end, they should work together as a team. This demands close student-faculty relationship, both formal and informal, through student-faculty committees and frequent casual intercourse of individual members of each group. Ordinarily the students need to develop a greater sense of responsibility for the institution as a whole. If students had this sense of responsibility, there would be many things that they could do to promote the welfare of their college, and especially the first aim of the college, their own education. Frequent exchange of ideas

and attitudes by students and faculty should give the students a greater sense of responsibility. Partaking in the solution of problems of getting the students more interested in education, some problems of administration, disciplinary, and even financial difficulties would help. The presence of difficulties in getting Catholic students to realize the value of Mass and Communion, of mutual help and charity, should arouse students to help out in the solution of some of these problems because they affect them so closely.

Once students see clearly the many problems that face them, they should take an active part in solving them. It would be the task of the student organizations and leaders to disseminate this information and lead the attack on the various problems. Each student, however, has a responsibility in charity to help any individual student in any way he can. Moreover, he has an obligation in social justice to work for the common good not only of the state but also of the community in which he lives. Thus, the students themselves have the obligation of promoting their own education by promoting good study habits, especially in a student residence, and of checking actions contrary to such good habits. They have the obligation of promoting the moral and religious life of one another and of discouraging any tendencies in the opposite direction. Ordinarily student organizations attempt to run their social functions in a becoming way but with more students living up to their responsibilities, it would be possible to eliminate a number of abuses.

Examples might be multiplied, but it seems that students playing a full role in the student community would attempt to promote everything that was for the good of that community and to prevent anything contrary to its good. This includes a great deal and would vary from college to college. But from charity and social justice, it seems each student has such a responsibility.

The college as a center of thought and intellectual activity should not only take an active interest in the activities of its own institution but should consider it its duty to show leadership in thought and activity in the affairs of the community in which it is located. It is largely through the activity of the students in community enterprises that the college is able to enter into the arena of public thought and public influence. Participation by the students will not only serve to influence thought but will

also be a very creditable way to advertise the institution. If the college student shows enthusiasm and zeal in community activities, such as Red Cross Blood Donor Clinics, their example will be a stimulus to the citizens to follow their initiative. Catholic college students could help in the work of Catholic welfare bureaus. This would be a fine expression of charity as well as a practical work of Catholic Action. In their welfare work students would have an opportunity to see the existing social conditions in their community and to help in improving them. Since Catholic college students have had the privilege of receiving a sound training in Catholic principles, they should take a definite stand on issues which may arise in the governmental or civic organizations. Students should first analyze the issue to determine the questions involved. When this has been done they should apply Catholic principles to arrive at the solution. Having established what their stand will be, they should take strong and effective means to bring it to the attention of the authorities. The use of the press may be the best means to accomplish this work. Other means may include campaigns, personal interviews, radio, or peaceful demonstrations. Public letters or articles could be published in the local newspapers while speeches and discussions could be presented to the radio audience. Widespread campaigns such as the "Bring Back Christ to Christmas" campaign carried out by the Canadian Federation of Catholic College Students could be undertaken. Posters, displays, distribution of literature, along with press and radio co-operation would be effective methods to disseminate ideas. Campaigns against bad movies and indecent literature would help to eradicate these evils from the community.

During the period of the year when the student is absent from the college on vacation and holidays, he has a very particular role to play in the community where he finds himself, either at his home or where he is employed. Since he is a Catholic college student he shall be regarded critically by the members of the community. He will be expected at all times to show those qualities which should be characteristic of a Catholic gentleman. His failure to observe good conduct in every phase of his life will be reflected not only on his own character but on his college as well. The student should always be mindful that while he is a student he is dependent upon the community for his support. He should always be trying to help that community which supports him. When the student is absent

from his home community, he has lost touch with it by outgrowing it. On his return he must be careful to integrate himself again, not by rushing into everything heedlessly nor by staying out altogether. He must use an indirect and diplomatic approach to regain his contact with the people and to understand them. Students must avoid the tendency to withdraw to themselves and form college groups or cliques. They must diffuse themselves into the life of the community, each in his own way, for the betterment of the society as a whole.

The student may be considered a member of two communities during his vacation, his parish and his civic community.

The student may accomplish the greatest amount of good by showing good example and leadership in his participation in the religious exercises in his parish. Daily Mass and Communion, if it is possible, or Communion on Sunday should be considered essential. The student should assist the pastor in any parish activity especially teaching catechism and assisting in parish functions. He should help organize and take a leading part in sports, camps, or other church group activities. The Catholic student has a wonderful opportunity to show his friends and associates how they can enjoy wholesome entertainment. His example and advice could help to impress upon other young people how they can really entertain themselves without offending God.

It is in his civic community that the Catholic college student can perform achievements in the field of Catholic Action. Many students spend their vacations in army or navy establishments, industrial plants, summer resorts, or such places. In all these places the Catholic student should take advantage of the numerous opportunities which will inevitably present themselves to give good example, advice and correction. The student should make an effort to obtain summer employment in occupations of influence where he can apply his training and principles. Community activities and meetings of social groups give the student a chance to meet the people in the community and to become interested in their problems. He should be very diplomatic but alert and willing to accept any tasks which he may be asked to perform.

The student should thus integrate his life with the life of the communities in which he finds himself. His

primary aim is to get an education and this does require him to cut himself off from too many outside activities. However, his position as a student does not relieve him of all responsibility to the community in which he lives. The obligation of loving his neighbor still rests with him. An intelligent use of his abilities in the service of his fellow students will be beneficial to his education. One learns much by doing and by contact with others. The practice of solving problems in practical life will redound with benefit in his speculative studies. He will grasp more certainly the value of these studies and thus get a deeper insight into them from study. It is, therefore, my conclusion that students should play a greater role in their communities than has become the custom in our western world.

—JOHN MULLALLY '53.

Nuit D'été . . .

Vous étiez là, Lise, et vous savez sans doute
Ce que mon cœur rêva tout le long de la route.
C'était un soir d'été calme et silencieux,
Un de ces soirs charmants qui font rêver aux cieux.

Un soir pur et serein, les vastes solitudes
Semblaient prêter l'oreille aux étranges préludes,
Aux premiers sons perdus du sublime concert
Que l'orchestre des nuits dit au vent du désert.

Le firmament s'ornait de brillants météores,
La brise roucoulait dans les sapins sonores,
Et les petits oiseaux dans le duvet des nids
Chantaient sous l'œil de Dieu leurs amours infinies.

(a suivre dans la prochaine publication.)

Charles Pelletier '53.

So full of artless jealousy is guilt,
It spills itself in fearing to be split.

—Shakespeare.