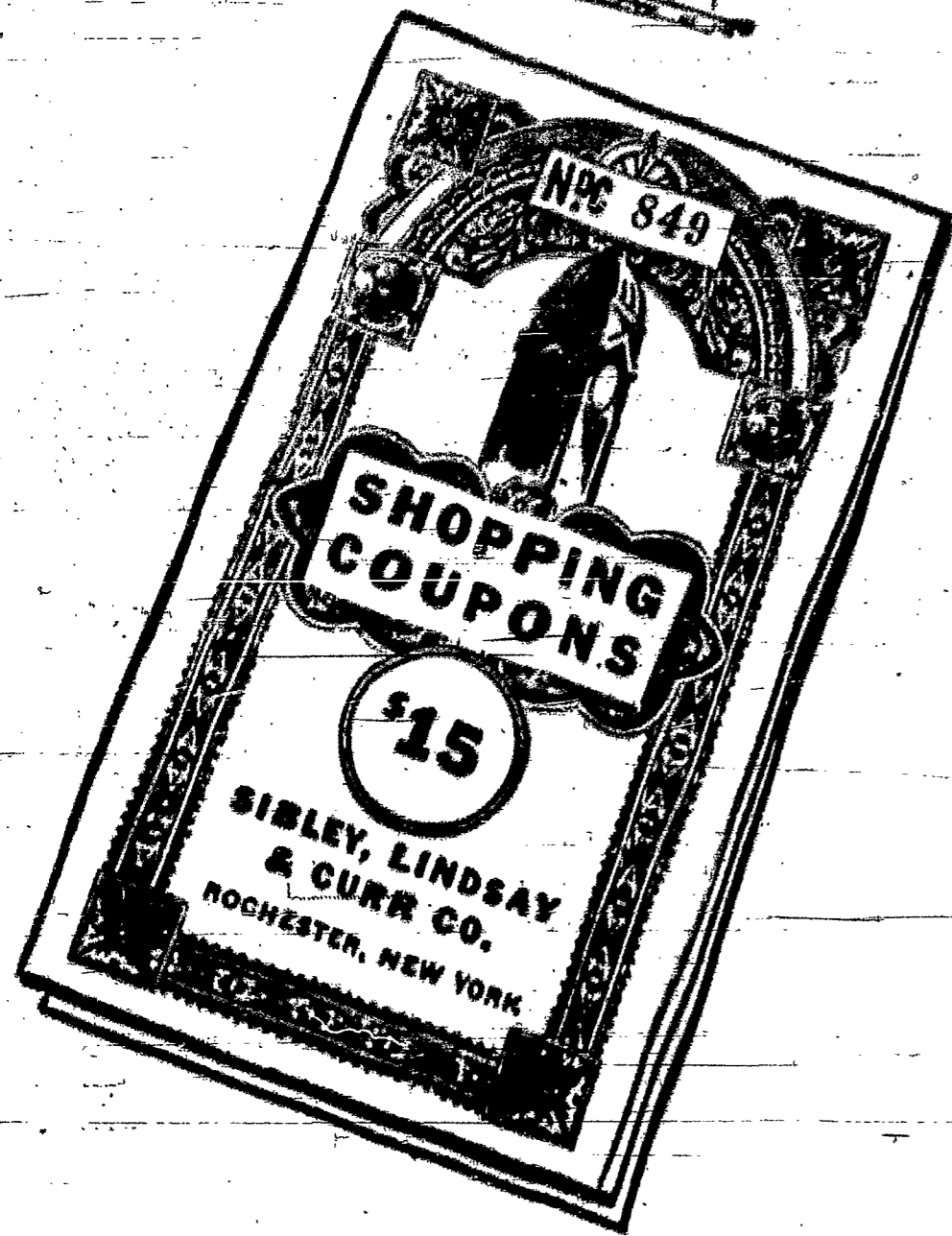


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FRIENDLY CREDIT OFFICE, FIFTH FLOOR

Have You Failed in Giving Enough Thanks to God?

We owe a debt of thanksgiving to God, first of all, because of our existence, which is a gift of His love. He has chosen us from out of millions of possible creatures to call us in to being. Then, for our preservation, which is, at it were, a second creation, belonging to every moment, and which consequently calls for, on our part, a continual hymn of thanksgiving.

On Guard! By Rev. Patrick J. Flynn

(Continued from Page 1)

itled "A Great Insult," THE CATHOLIC HERALD of St. Louis declares that the 'VD' campaign is an affront to American decency and morality.

As this wave of Catholic opposition grows we are inclined to suspect that the War Advertising Council and its cooperating government agencies would like to forget the whole business. Certainly the more cautious business concerns will want to shy away from the 'VD' controversy. As a mere matter of maintaining good public relations, harried business leaders will prefer to demonstrate their patriotism by continuing to sponsor war bond ads.

As a matter of fact, advertising circles are definitely upset by the Catholic opposition to the ill-advised "VD" propaganda. In an editorial entitled "Can Advertising Fight 'VD'?", ADVERTISING AGE, the national newspaper of marketing and the weekly bible of advertising men, publicly admits that the protest initiated by THE CATHOLIC NEWS of New York threatens to upset the apple cart of the War Advertising Council. Attacking the Catholic stand, ADVERTISING AGE states: "It seems unfortunate that church leaders, who must admit that the restraints of religious training have not done much to solve the problem, are inclined to attack what after all is a practical method of eradicating a blight on civilization. When religion finds it impossible to control human nature, science must come to the rescue."

This impertinent piece of peppycock proffered by ADVERTISING AGE is deliberately false because it fails to recognize that it is precisely because religious discipline and moral restraint were outlawed from a vast portion of American life that we are now faced with the frankenstein social monster of 'VD.' At the very beginning of this war our Army and Navy leaders adopted the policy of fighting 'VD' in a non-moral method or as ADVERTISING AGE would probably say "scientifically." In spite of the advice of Catholic leaders, our boys were given a realistic education in social diseases. They were shown "horror films," furnished with literature, and even provided with the

means of preventing infection. But NOW, after four or five years of this type of "practical enlightenment" the War Advertising Council itself tells us that cases of infection are increasing at the rate of ONE MILLION each year. Worse yet, the War Advertising Council now wants to spread the very system that has failed with the armed forces to the entire civilian population, even the children. We Catholics are very anxious that true science do anything it can to combat 'VD'. We agree with ADVERTISING AGE that "science must come to the rescue," but we are suspicious about bureaucrats and short-sighted advertising propagandists coming to the rescue. They have done enough damage already.

The new 'VD' campaign, as proposed by the War Advertising Council, tends to minimize social diseases to such a degree that they have no more social significance than dandruff or three-day measles. By shouting from the house tops that 'VD' is really nothing to worry about as long as one goes to a doctor or a clinic will not stamp out 'VD'; it will spread it more than ever. To try to solve human problems apart from moral principles and even in defiance of God's laws always ends in tragedy. Years ago we Catholics argued that divorce would not solve an unhappy marriage. Today we see that divorce has not only failed to solve unhappy marriages but it has destroyed millions of happy ones. Long ago we rejected birth control as a solution to the problem of child-bearing. Today we see very clearly that birth control was not an answer to weary motherhood but rather a plot against all childhood. In spite of all these blunders American society is still trying to save man without following the rule book which is God's laws.

The deeper significance of the "VD" menace is this: once man deserts God he has taken his first step towards self-destruction. Just as all the kings' horses and all the Kings' men could not put poor Humpty-dumpty together after he had fallen off the wall, so also all the false scientists and propagandists can not rescue America as long as America refuses to admit that she has fallen.

We owe thanks for all the evils of the soul and body which He spares us from in preference to numbers of others who are attacked by them; for all the sins which we have not committed, thanks to His preventing grace.

For all spiritual and corporal benefits, whether they are those which are common to all or those which are conferred especially upon us, thanks are due. Also, for all the beings which surround us and which have been created for us, animals and plants, air, water, fire, the heavens and earth.

Then, too, for the care His providence takes of us at every moment directing the course of the world, disposing the seasons, sending His rain upon the earth, regulating all events with so much attention that it presides over even the fall of one of the hairs of our head, with so much assiduity that even during our sleep it watches by our bedside.

And where shall we find words to express what we owe to Him for the numerous benefits which belong to a superior order? A God incarnating Himself in the bosom of a virgin; a God born in a crib; a God living by labor and toil; a God scourged, crowded with thorns, crucified between two thieves; a God covered with ignominy; a dying God; a God surviving Himself in the Eucharist and remaining there hidden, forsaken, so often offended by irreverences, profanations, and sacrileges; a God pursuing us with His graces, offering us His Sacraments, instructing us by His Church, which He always maintains as a faithful depository of His doctrine.

Oh, what a wrong we have hitherto inflicted upon ourselves by reason of the little gratitude we have shown for all the benefits we have received!—Father M. Hamon, S.S.

Only Possible Way

There can be no correct understanding of democracy and of the institutions of our government for which our young men and women are fighting and dying to defend without an understanding of their religious foundation. And the only possible way in which to get an understanding of that religious foundation is by a sound religious education.—Catholic News (N.Y.)

A friend may do you a big favor, but the monotonous little services day after day require love.

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