If you are hazy as to just where you first saw this combination of words,—to know, to love, to serve,—refer to the first page of your catechism. You remember now these words form the reason why God created you. They explain the principal work in your life.

If you lose sight of the first two,—to know, and to love God,—you are not going to serve God in this life nor be happy with Him forever in the life to come.

Sometimes you feel that too much is demanded of you when, faced by temptation, you are required to restrain yourself and avoid sin? Why should you be bound by so many restrictions that do not hamper your non-Catholic acquaintances?

If this be your attitude towards the laws of the Church, check up on your love of God. You cannot expect to give cheerful obedience to One you do not love. And by 'love of God' is meant gratitude and reverence based on personal appreciation of what He has done for you.

Now you are back at scratch—knowledge. Have you a personal knowledge of Our Lord? Do you make Him a part of your life? Of yourself? That is required as the foundation of every Catholic life. You cannot build successfully without it.

Out of your own personal interest, then, read the Gospels and a good Life of Christ. (There are excellent Lives by de Vivier, Le Camus, Fouard, and Fillion.) What do you know of the life of Christ?

Can you instruct a painter regarding the physical details of Bethlehem? Was it located on a hill, two hills, or in the lowlands? Can you place the stable?

Have you a definite picture of the persons who took part in the drama of Christ’s birth,—of Mary and Joseph, of the shepherds and the Three Wise Men? Can you imagine the way they talked and acted?

Have you ever pondered upon the singular lesson of obedience which Christ taught by His thirty-years’ subjection at Nazareth? What sort of family life do you think Christ lived? Did He work and play? Was He cheerful?

When Christ was your age, what type of young man do you think He was—intelligent, serious, industrious? How would He have changed Himself to live your life here at Notre Dame,—back in the hometown?

Christ came into the world, not only to redeem, but to concretize God’s love, to make God’s love apparent, visible, more knowable. If you want to feel God’s love you must know Christ.

Christ came to be a model—the way, the truth, and the life. He can be a model only in the proportion that we know Him.

During your intimate experiences at Mass and Holy Communion, while you visit Him alone in the chapel, while you walk and think privately about His presence in you, you will come to know Christ.

And to know Christ is to Love Him. And to love Him is to serve Him in great joy.

PRAYERS: Deceased, Sr. Mary Basil, St. Mary’s Academy, Mich.; uncle of E.J. Donahue; friend of student; John Stack, Jr., Auditor General, Michigan; sister and niece of Mr. Victor J. Hartzel; grandfather of E.J. Keffer (Morrisey); aunt of Tom Weigand (Dillon); friend of G. Schaefer (Dillon); Miss Lucille Dayland, Ill.; Joe Sullivan, Bill Rankin (Morr.); John Hackett (St. Ed’s.); appendectomy; Joseph C. Smith, old student; brother of Ray Mulvihhy (Howard); cousin of student; father of Jewey Claeys.