An Open Letter To An Anonymous Critic.

Notre Dame gives no assurance that all her students will be loyal to the ideals of the Church, that all will live up to their Catholic responsibilities as devoted modern apostles. There will always be those who fail. The kingdom of God on earth, Our Lord tells us, will be made up of cockle as well as wheat, of bad fish as well as good.

He came not to call the just but the sinner to penitence. Only those who are ill need the physician. But the scandals of the wicked have the unfortunate quality of attracting headlines, just as crime is bigger news than virtue which seldom makes the front page.

There is a particular brood of scandalmonger who knows everything about a few bad Notre Dame men, but know little or nothing about all the very many good ones. How true it is that the evil of the few can obscure the virtuousness of the many.

It is no valid objection against Notre Dame, or any other Catholic institution for that matter, to argue that some of her graduates do not turn out well. Notre Dame no more expects to have perfect graduates than Our Lord expected to have perfect apostles or an unbroken succession of canonized saints as popes. If Notre Dame graduates or undergraduates are bad, it is not because they are Notre Dame men. It is because they have failed to cooperate with the graces offered them when students and after. These graces increase responsibility, but they do not force compliance. They increase blame, but they do not guarantee impeccability.

Why is it that outsiders are so scandalized at graduates from Notre Dame who betray their faith and blame them more than they blame graduates from a state university? Because they expect more, abundantly more of Catholic college graduates. Evil discolors its own viciousness when compared to the ideal. The very disgust the vigilant express at the fall of a Catholic College graduate is a tribute to the courageous virtue they expect of him.

Prospective converts will not be forced but led into the Church by good example. A Notre Dame man who pursues moral excellence, who manages to master himself, modeling his life upon the Master of all men, is alone best capable to lead others in the way they need to be led today.

Notre Dame teaches that that brand of leadership can be learned by all her students. Some do not learn their lessons well.

Prayers: (deceased) sister of Prof. Frank Skeeler's wife; friend of Fudy Unger (Mor); father of Rev. Jos. English, '37; Ill, friend of J. Dobyns (D11); mother of C. Zweber.