Now and then, in the history of Christendom, there is an upheaval in the Church. Whenever religion becomes particularly active, Satan increases his forces, and attacks with renewed energy. And whenever that happens, some of the best work for Satan is done by apostate Catholics -- renegades.

Arias and Nestorius were bishops -- and if they were alive today, they would have a large following of shallow "intellectuals." Augustine, Athanasius, and Cyril of Alexandria opposed these arch-heretics -- and are saints today.

Julian the Apostate tried to wipe out the Name of Christ, and in attempting to rebuild the temple at Jerusalem brought about the literal fulfillment of the prophecy of Christ: "There shall not remain a stone upon a stone."

Berengarius, in attacking the doctrine of the Holy Eucharist, brought forth St. Thomas Aquinas and his full expression of the theology of the Blessed Sacrament.

Gibbons the historian was a Catholic for awhile, before he became a skeptic. Voltaire was educated by the Jesuits. Hugo was a Catholic in his youth; so was Rousseau. With a swift pen they sought to destroy both the Church and the Truth which the Church guards.

But God in His goodness raises up other pens to fight for Truth. And as the renegades depart from the One Fold and One Shepherd, He calls new pens and hearts, and minds into the One True Fold. Thus, we are willing to trade a James Joyce for a Joyce Kilmer, a Dollinger for a Cardinal Newman, a Tyrrel for a Kinsman, a Gerald O'Donovan for a Shane Leslie, a Sean O'Casey for an Evelyn Waugh, a Dean Pike for a Ronald Knox, and a whole pack of clam-diggers for a Chesterton. Let them go. God always has, and always will, raise up a new and better crop of champions to use the graces which they rejected.

The fight comes home to Notre Dame. Whenever the Devil finds religion active, he comes seeking recruits. His campaign is insidious. He comes well- armed with such slogans as: "Art for Art's Sake," and "To the Pure, All Things Are Pure." Then again, "Let's Be Broad-Minded" is another adage of his origin. "The Church Has Always Opposed Progress" can be laid at his feet. And "You must read a man for his style" is his jibe at the Index of Forbidden Books. With these, and a hundred wise-cracks, the Devil catches fools, and crowns them with a dunce-cap. And the fool, delirious in his emancipation, merrily scampers on -- maybe into hell!

The best recruits for Anti-Christ is the man who has resisted strong spiritual environment for four years, and has sought a philosophy by which to justify himself and his attitudes. Notre Dame expects some failures. She also expects to develop great workers for God.

Which group would you care to join. Remember: bad Catholics are more dangerous than all the external assaults against the Church.

A few men have come to Notre Dame and lost their Faith. Thousands have come here and acquired the foundation for a saintly life. The former chose to exercise their own free will -- nothing more. The latter chose to make the most of the sacramental life at their disposal.

Your devotion during the month of May will go far to insure your success in life.

Tonight at 7:30 in the Law Auditorium: Marian Lecture. Father Schaerf speaks on "The Whoman Whom even God Dreamed Of."