

TRUTH IN ACTION

Charles MacIvor, '46

One way of expressing the thought contained in the title would be to say that actions speak louder than words. This is not a difficult statement to prove. The whole world around us is full of glaring examples of evils caused by bad influence, and in the Catholic Church, on the other hand, may be found a living example of a norm which may be followed to keep the world from ultimate destruction. Preaching, whether good or bad, may have some small effect on the actions of the hearers, but such an effect is not so lasting and the impression made is not so great as that made by the actions of those around us.

Man is prone to imitate, and if a bad example is shown him he will usually follow an evil course. But few people are turned from the straight way by wicked advice. In the same way, the odd person is turned from evil ways by hearing a good sermon, but more people are effected by the actions of good-living men or by reading the lives of the saints.

The best illustration to bear out this argument is the life of Our Lord. Christ came on earth to save men, but the method He used to convert them was one of example rather than preaching. For thirty years He lived with Mary and Joseph and was subject to them, but He gave only three years to teaching the public. His actions had a much greater effect on those about Him than had His preaching. He was setting an example for the Christian to follow. For instance, His greatest theme was penance and suffering in order to gain perfection. He set an example by going through the greatest suffering ever endured by man. He taught love of God and love of one another; He exemplified this love by dying for us on the Cross.

Other illustrations may be cited all through the history of the Church. The lives of the saints, who were not primarily preachers, have had a great effect on those about them. John Bosco, a poor priest and son of a poor farmer, did for his fellowmen greater things than Napoleon Bonaparte ever dreamed of. John Bosco never saw Napoleon. But he also was a conqueror: By the peaceful ways of Christ he became the Beloved Apostle of Youth. All the days of his long

life he saw the world through the gentle eyes of Jesus and his dear Mary, Help of Christians. He also cherished high ambitions. He did not waste his time in talking about them but set us an example by immediately setting out to have his cherished dreams become splendid realities. He conquered men by showing them a better way of life. No mother ever cursed his name for leaving her son, pale and horrible, on some European battlefield. But many a mother brought her son to his side and many a motherless boy came to his shelter and there learned to bless the day that he had come under the influence of this Father of Orphans. For these immortal souls, which he saw in his boys, he toiled and begged and fathered. Puis XI said of John Bosco, "In the life of this Servant of God, the supernatural became as the natural and the extraordinary appeared ordinary."

Another example nearer to our day is that of the Jesuit Martyrs. Their preaching could not have had too much effect on the Indian savages, but the example set by them in dying for their faith must surely have left an impression on these heathens. One thing the Indians could admire was the strength of the Jesuits to undergo torture and die without a fight for a cause. This surely gained admiration.

Those are sufficient instances in which good actions tend to make us lead good lives. Now let us look at some of the evils around us resulting from bad influences. In the larger cities all the evils which we see can be traced to bad example. Youths looking for thrills are led astray by the sight of the glamorous and easy life about them. No one has ever stood up and preached in public places that we should lead bad lives, but many have done great harm by bad example. Gangsters and those of the underworld have caused more harm to the world by their actions than could ever be caused by faulty advice. The modern pagans, whom we find in all our cities, are setting forth for us illustrations of a free and easy life which are having a terrible effect on the youth of today. Examples of divorce, free love, birth control, and the like are doing more harm to modern society than the preaching of those things could ever do. That is why the Church today is finding it so difficult to teach Christian principles. People are losing their faith in everything by seeing the actions of the evil-doers around them.

And so we see, in every walk of life, men guided by the actions of those about them. How can we have faith in a nat-

ion fighting for and preaching Christianity while the people of the nation practise paganism? The only solution to world problems now is a strict adherence to Catholic principles. Catholics must first live their religion. It is written in Scripture, "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only." (1 James, VII, 22.) Catholics have the truth, but it is necessary for them to set out and get the example. There is no advantage in students' receiving a Catholic education and then going into the world and acting like pagans. We can do more for the world by leading good lives than by preaching from the housetops.

THE SHORT-WAVE WAR

Walter Murray, '45

Most of the important war news of today reaches us by means of short-wave radio from the warring nations and through neutral sources. Besides serving as the transmitter of news, short-wave is also a channel of communication between nations. Leaders of nations at war convey their messages to their people and to the world. The important meeting at Casablanca between Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt was first made known to the expectant public by worldwide radio transmission.

Perhaps the most important role of radio is its use as a means of propaganda. There are three types of propaganda used. One is the broadcasting to neutral countries so that they will know a warring nation's stand, aims, and ideals, and appreciate the justice of its cause. There is also the propaganda between allies to strengthen ties and to maintain morale. Most important are broadcasts made to undermine the enemy's morale, and to raise the low but perhaps unconquered spirits of people of enemy occupied countries.

Some people have the notion that propaganda is just lies, or exaggerated fact. You sometimes hear some students say, "I don't believe that; it is just propaganda," or "Oh, the picture is not much; it is just good propaganda." I think this is a wrong attitude to take. The Church uses propaganda to inform pagans and to spread her doctrine. There is a proverb about taking things with a grain of salt, but I think