

GRADUATION

The day that young people graduate from school is an important one. It brings to an end years of study in the classroom. After this, they enroll in the school of life, where, someone once said the class colors are black and blue.

Now the graduates will no longer find books with ready made answers to all the questions and problems of adult living. In life, answers to problems do not come as easily. Every few miles along the road of life the way splits in two, and at each fork they must make decisions. Isn't there someone or something that can help people as they seek answers to some of life's difficulties? Yes, there is help. Here are some questions graduates should ask themselves whenever that have doubts as to which course of action should be taken.

WHAT DOES YOUR CONSCIENSE SAY? The Christian conscience is an important compass for living. But conscience can be mislead or misinformed. It is here that Christian nurture and upbringing comes in. Through prayer, attendance at the Liturgy, listening to the Gospel and Epistle as well as sermons, and study of religious writing, the conscience is trained.

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO HIDE? It is important to keep clear of concealment. There's nothing one can really hide. After all, you can't hide a thing from yourself, let alone others. Keep in mind that everything you do leaves its mark upon you.

IS THIS GOD'S WILL? Every question has a religious dimension. How often Jesus said,"not My will, but thine be done." It is a petition in the Lord's Prayer. What all this means is that the graduate has responsibilities to fill. They have obligations to their Creator, parents, society and world. And the best way, in short, to fill these obligations Is through FAITHFUL SERVICE. The life of our Lord was one of service. Christ said He came into the world "not to be served, but to serve . . ."

Certainly the Church makes a contribution to the upbringing of each young person. We are living at a time when Churches are paying considerable attention to the religious training of youth. Schools, conferences, camps, fellowship organization and discussion groups all help to shape the student and guide them along the best paths of life.

But here is an obligation of the graduate to the Church, too. It needs their loyalty, skills and help. Let us reflect on these things and dedicate our lives in faithful service to God and His Church, along with our family, society and community.

