

TELLS GRADS CHRIST IS ETERNAL TEACHER

Dr. H. G. Smith in Sermon Cites Jesus as Contemporary of Modern Times

"I am come that ye might have life and that ye might have it more abundantly."

Dr. Horace Greeley Smith, pastor of the Wilmette-Parish Methodist church, in the baccalaureate sermon to the graduating seniors at Northwestern university, Sunday, June 19, talked of "the abundant life," and said that one's life may not properly be confined to one endeavor, to a single achievement, like a great run in a hard football struggle, nor a remarkable musical achievement in a hall like Patten gymnasium, nor by any single act, but by the entire abundancy of a rightly-lived career. He referred to a heroic achievement on the Purple football field last fall when a fleet and skillful warrior made an 87-yard passage through the entire team of the opposition; then he spoke of the North Shore Music festival and the beauties of the vocal offerings of the artists; next he emphasized the life of the ascetic Francis of Assisi, a man born of wealth and privilege who chose the narrow path of self-sacrifice and whose name and deeds will live forever. The abundant life is a life of self-forgetfulness in aid of others.

Owe Much to Teachers

Referring to the difficulties of college teachers of the present day, Dr. Smith, who was graduated with honors at Northwestern university in 1905, and who received, in 1924, the honorary degree of doctor of divinity from his Alma Mater, declared that if a college professor teaches only a little to his students, "that is no small achievement."

He added: "Tomorrow with your diploma safely in your hand you will admit that from these teachers you have learned at least something. Your sense of indebtedness to them will grow with the years. Before very long you will return to this campus and make grateful acknowledgement to some of these men for the very large service they have rendered you in the enrichment of life. That is the joy and reward of the teacher's task."

After all, the minister declared that the life and teachings of Jesus form the basis of the abundant life, saying in part:

"Jesus, the teacher, has led not only individuals but social groups, large and small, into a fuller enjoyment of life. There has been a new appreciation in recent days of the value of His teaching in the solution of social, industrial, and even international issues. Even such a man as Shaw confesses that he sees no way out of the world's trouble but the way Jesus would have found had He undertaken the work of a modern, practical statesman."

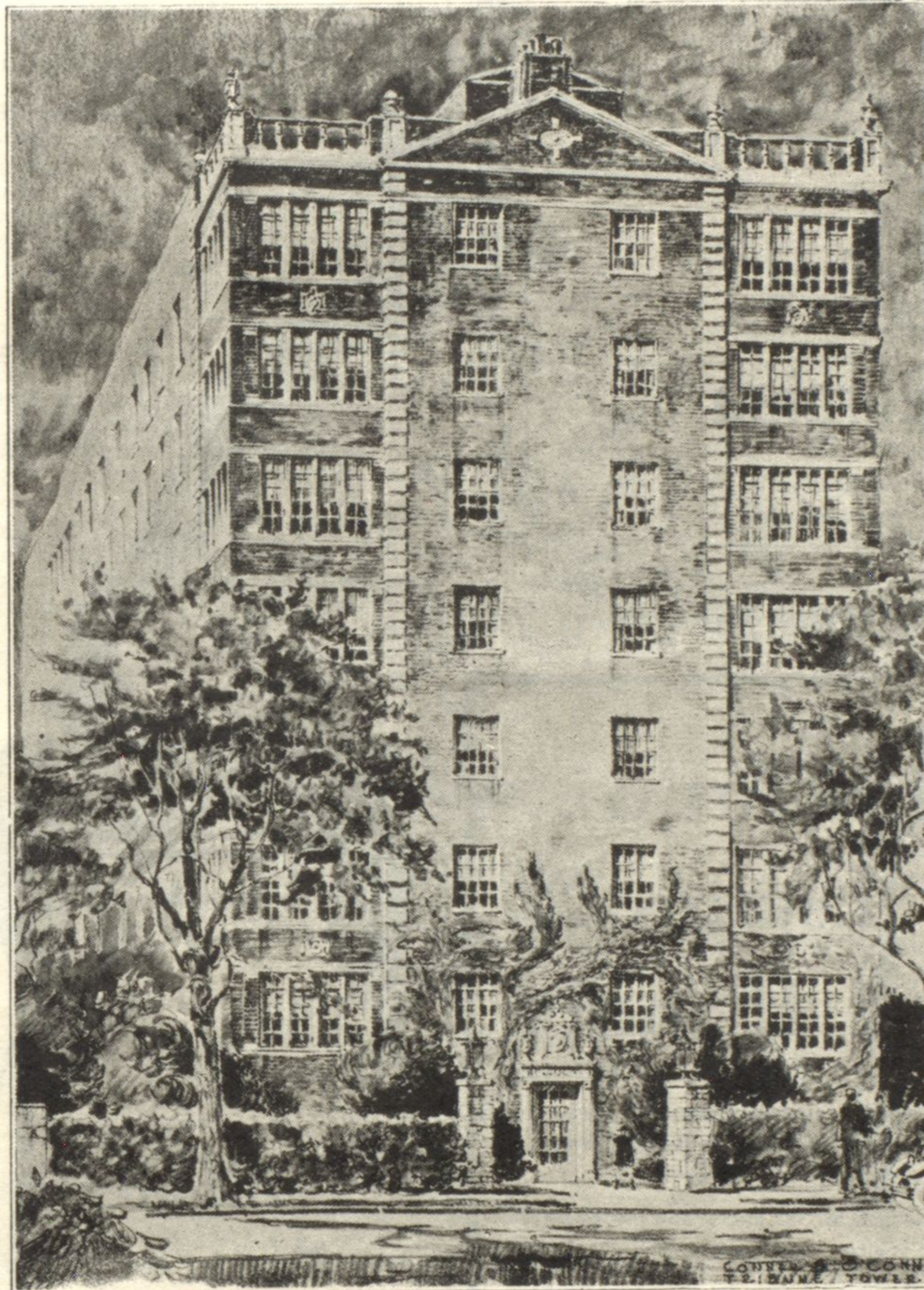
"Slowly the conviction deepens that by applying His teachings we may find the way to that new and better social order. At this aspect of His teachings some men are astonished. Others turn away sorrowful. Still others follow Him with confidence and hope.

"Jesus as a friend, as a teacher, repeats His offer. This is your year but it is also His year, for He is the one eternal contemporary of all modern history. 'He is not for an age but for all time.' Other teachers come and go but He gives promise of going on forever. He still leads the procession. 'He still lives, great and unexplained.' Advanced thinkers early discover that He has not only been there before them but that He has gone on beyond them."

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