

Feb. 28, 1923.

Pay Your Debts.

Give back to God some of the time He has given you -- say a half-hour on the First Friday. It won't kill you, and it may cure you of some distemper.

The Fortune Teller.

"Why is so much religion forced upon a student? Cut out all compulsory religious exercises, leave men* to their own initiative and you will get real religion out of them."

A Twenty-One*Year-Old-Man.

My dear boy: When you were still in swaddling clothes someone forced Baptism upon you. When you were five years old your mother* spanked you when you didn't say your prayers at night. Then she forced you to go to school and the Sisters forced you to learn your Catechism. The Catholic Church took a hand and forced you to attend Mass on Sunday and make your Easter duty. Your folks forced you to attend Notre Dame (and paid your bills) and the rector of your hall forced you to get up for morning prayer by divers means known to rectors. (And it might be well for you to know that at one non-sectarian school not so far from Notre Dame, 65% of the Catholic students, developing Religion on their own initiative, miss Mass on Sundays.

My dear boy, if you are lucky (and God takes care of your kind) you will marry a motherly Catholic girl who will force you to keep in touch with your religion, and as soon as you reach the age of reason -- say about fifty -- you will glad that she did.

The Abstinence in Town.

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"How is it that students are allowed to eat meat three times a day on the campus and only once a day in town -- not at all on Wednesdays? Why don't you up and do something for the day dodgers?"

The dispensation for the campus dates back to the days when the Bishop of Fort Wayne had ample powers of dispensation. He has not had these powers for the past five years. The law which abrogated them, however, states specifically that dispensations previously granted are not revoked.

You are Catholics and you come under the general law of the Church. The Church has no intention of doing away with penance, which is useful and necessary for the soul. Those who make use of the privilege are bound in conscience to perform other works of penance.

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"Are we allowed to eat meat once a day in town even if we have already eaten meat on the campus?"

Yes on all days except Wednesdays and Fridays.

First Friday Confessions.

Confessions in the basement chapel tonight after supper in the hall chapels at 7:30. Newman tomorrow night.