

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.  
November 1, 1924.

Read and Understand.

Under the title of "Casus reservati" (reserved cases, i.e., cases in which absolution is to be withheld by confessors) the statutes of the diocese of Fort Wayne have the following regulation:

"Any Catholics who give public balls or dances on Saturday evening or on the eves of Holydays of obligation, or on Sundays or Holydays of obligation must not be absolved unless they promise in writing that they will never again give such public scandal."

If the giving of such dances is thus prohibited under penalty of what is popularly called episcopal excommunication, attendance at such dances includes two sins: public scandal and cooperation with another's sin.

Notre Dame has in the past tolerated private dances on the eve of Sundays and Holydays of obligation, but it has not the authority to tolerate the participation of its students in public dances (i.e., dances to which everybody is invited), either as musicians or as dancers.

The law is clear: your conscience can be clear only when it conforms to the law. Today is All Saints' Day, a Holyday of obligation.

The Case for the Poor Souls.

Today we begin the month of the Poor Souls. We call them poor because they are helpless: they must suffer until their time is up, unless we help them. We call them holy because they are sure of their final salvation: they are the friends of God, but they are not the kind of friends God wants with Him in heaven.

We Can Help the Holy Souls.

It is the doctrine of the Church, supported by Scripture and tradition, that we can help the Souls in Purgatory by prayers and good works, and especially by the gaining of indulgences for them. They in turn can help us by their prayers. An indulgence is a remission of all or part of the temporal punishment due to sin after the sin has been forgiven. The Church out of its stor<sup>e</sup>house of the merits of Our Blessed Lord and the Saints has opened to us a vast treasure of indulgences.

We Must Help the Poor Souls.

If you found a poor, sick beggar at your home, utterly helpless, and in terrible suffering, you would have to be pretty hard-boiled to turn down his plea for help. (They say that some people are that hard-boiled. Our Lord described one who eventually went to hell.) We don't want to be that way. We want to share what we have with God's poor. All we have to do to find cases for our charity is to open the eyes of faith and see the poor souls begging our prayers.

How We Can Help.

No devout practice will help the Poor Souls more than Holy Communion, with its numberless indulgences, offered for their release from the flames that encompass them. Your practice of devotion for the month should be daily Communion for them, together with the prayer before a crucifix, to which a plenary indulgence is attached, and the other highly indulgenced practices which the Church places at our disposal.

John F. O'Hara, C.S.C.,  
Prefect of Religion.