

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.

Feb. 27, 1925.

"In Patientia Possidebitis Animas Vestras."

"In patience you will possess your souls." The judges stand at the finish, not at the start. The blizzard which tested your Lenten resolution Yesterday was one of the trials God sends to weed out weak spirits. For the past six years it has happened on the day after Ash Wednesday -- a blizzard or something of the kind -- and in every case the weak souls dropped out in a hurry. The difference in the number of Communions from Wednesday to Thursday for the past six years is as follows:

1920	-109
1921	18 ( an increase)
1922	- 66
1923	- 65
1924	- 60
1925	-101

What happened in 1921 was that on the night before Ash Wednesday there was a general exodus to the village which resulted in such a panning that the black sheep the next day more than made up for the defections. You will notice that the drop yesterday was 101. The biggest offenders were Brownson, Carroll, and Corby. Freshman Hall maintained its 65%, so did Sorin. "Where is patient endurance?" We will be at the finish line at the end of Lent to report.

Urgent Prayers Needed.

Simeon Mullen, off-campus student, will undergo a serious operation at nine o'clock this morning. Another student was taken to the hospital yesterday evening with lockjaw, and a third last night with a badly injured back.

"One Thing I Have Asked of the Lord."

"One thing I have asked of the Lord, this will I seek, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord." -- From the Gradual of today's Mass.

To appreciate Lent, to draw the real spiritual satisfaction and joy out of it, you need a Missal. (You can get a Missal in English for about \$2.50. Leave an order if you want one.) The Lenten Masses are the most beautiful Masses of the year. They gather the best thoughts on penance from the Old and New Testaments and place them before you that you may know "the beauty of God's house, and the place where His glory dwelleth."

"How should we fast?" God gives us the answer through Isaias in today's Epistle: "Why have we fasted and Thou hast not regarded? Have we humbled our souls and Thou hast not taken notice? Behold in the day of your fast your will is found: and you exact of all your debtors. Behold you fast for debates and strife, and stike with the fist wickedly. Do not fast as you have done till this day, to make your cry to be heard in nigh.... Deal thy bread to the hungry, and bring the needy and the harborless into thy house: when thou shalt see one naked, cover him and despise not your own flesh. Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thy health shall speedily arise...."

After this rebuke to fasting that is accompanied by bad temper and uncharitableness, the Church proposes to us in today's Gospel the Christian spirit of fasting: "Love your enemies: do good to them that hate you: and pray for them that persecute and calumniate you....for if you love them that love you, what reward shall you have? Do not even the publicans this? When thou dost an alms-deed, sound not a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be honored by men: Amen I say to you, they have received their reward."

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