
Obstinacy in Sin.

The fact that while frequent Communion is the normal practice of level-headed Notre Dame students, there is no obligation to frequent reception, has led many a student to the false assumption that a sinner has no obligation to get sin off his soul.

There is a sin called obstinacy in sin. It is a terrible sin, and it has tragic effects. It is one of the six sins against the Holy Ghost, and theologians place it next to last in the list:

1. Presumption of God's mercy;
2. Despair of God's grace;
3. Impugning the known Christian truth;
4. Envy at another's spiritual good;
5. Obstinacy in sin;
6. Final impenitence.

Your attention has been called repeatedly to the fact that we have had three deaths this fall in three weeks, a freshman, a sophomore and a junior. All three have been fully prepared to die. The last one lived long enough to drive home the danger of death, and to pray and offer up his sufferings for those who are not prepared to die.

This is God's Mission. Those who reject it to go on in sin may look well to their spiritual condition. God is not mocked.

Is Gambling a Sin?

You had this question answered very well by Father French during the mission, but it still persists. Here is the teaching of Theology: Gambling in itself is not sinful; that is, a person has just as much right to risk a dollar on a fortuitous venture as he has to spend it on a show or other form of amusement. In its circumstances it may become sinful, and gravely so; and gambling among students is seldom free from some sin. The circumstances that make it sinful are the following:

1. The prohibition of parents and of school authorities;
2. The danger of expulsion from school;
3. The tendency to form a bad habit;
4. Extravagance, and the use of money for unlawful purposes when just debts have not been paid;
5. Cooperation in the sin of others. Some person in the crowd of student gamblers is practically sure to be sinning by gambling, and those who play with him are sinning; most of the thievery in college is traced to fellows who "borrow" to recoup losses, and are plunged into deeper debt.
6. Occasions of other sins. Gambling joints are not holy places.

Prayers.

A freshman asks prayers for his aunt, who is paralyzed. Three students ask prayers for special intentions. You are urged to remember the football team in your prayers and Communions tomorrow.