
Notre Dame's Debt to the Blessed Sacrament.

It has always been true that the love of the Mother of God draws devotees to the love of her Divine Son. Yesterday we saw that Notre Dame owes a profound debt to the Mother of God. Today, on the greatest of her feasts, we are called by a coincidence to consider our other great debt, our debt to the Blessed Sacrament.

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On December 17, 1905, just twenty years ago, Pope Pius X approved the now famous decree on Frequent and Daily Communion, in which it was set forth, in definite settlement of countless controversies, that the only conditions required for frequent and daily Communion are the state of grace and a right intention; and the invitation was extended to all the faithful to avail themselves daily of this Banquet, in which the Son of God gives His Flesh and Blood to be our daily Food.

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It was a providential foresight that prepared this Eucharistic Feast for the young men and women of the age that was then impending. It is an age of great liberty and licentiousness, in which Hell seems to have let loose every possible agency for the corruption of youth. Where temptation abounds, grace must more abound, and through no agency is grace distributed more abundantly than in the Holy Eucharist, in which we receive the Author of Grace Himself.

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What daily Communion has meant to Notre Dame we will not know till Judgment Day. On its benefits to the individual you have countless testimonies of young men who have found in it the remedy of vice and the inspiration and help to virtue; and much could be added, for often our dearest treasures are locked in our hearts, where they never can be seen by the human eye. Those who have experienced these benefits need not be told of them; those who have not proved this Gift of God are "Foolish and slow of heart to believe" if they will not accept the word of their classmates and fellow-students.

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The University itself owes and acknowledges deep gratitude to those students who during the past twenty years have received some two million Communion in the chapels of Notre Dame. Divine favor has been lavished on this school during those twenty years, much more than in all the sixty years that went before. Heavy burdens have been made light; perplexing problems have been solved; the prestige and influence of the University have multiplied many times, and from under the Dome devotion to the Blessed Sacrament has radiated to the farthest corners of the earth.

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Notre Dame is not ungrateful. Tomorrow we begin an act of thanksgiving for these priceless blessings. For the next nine days solemn Homage will be paid to the Blessed Sacrament, in the morning at Holy Communion, and at five o'clock every afternoon with adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The four ends of prayer will be blended: adoration, thanksgiving, reparation and petition. Full success depends upon your generosity.

Off-Campus Students.

Confessions are heard all day in the Scrin chapel. Ring the bell at the door of the chapel: two rings for confession, one for Holy Communion. Make this Novena a spiritual Christmas gift to your parents. Go home happy, with the happiness of a clean heart.

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