

78

Religious Bulletin
December 10, 1925

Don't Forget Van.

We haven't turned Van-Wallace-over entirely to Father Brooks and his little heathens. A year ago we gave Van a big share in the Christmas Novena, and we sent him a great stack of spiritual bouquets to show that we were with him. We might just as well do it again this year. If you want a card to send Van, telling how much you have prayed for him this year, call at room 141 Sorin Hall.

Thanks.

It was gratifying yesterday to see so many off-campus students begin the Novena of Thanksgiving for the gift of daily Communion. Reminders of the Novena were mailed out Monday -- 770 of them made up in two hours, thanks to the generous cooperation of some twenty students.

Go Home Clean.

Unfortunately, not all the students who came here in September with high hopes have realized them. There is a long list of things that can come between a student and the realization of his spiritual ambitions -- none of them beyond the power of a student to overcome, but many of them not overcome by the individual who encounters them.

If you have not been what your parents have expected you to be, what they sent you here to make yourself, you can blame anything you like, but you must, in justice to yourself and in vindication of your self-respect, start now to correct what has gone wrong. Your mother expects an affectionate kiss when you come home for Christmas. Are your lips clean? Is your mind clean? Is your heart clean?

While thousands of boys have developed strong characters at Notre Dame, others have fallen by the wayside. Fear of confession is a weakness in character. Fear of developing too strong a character seems to be an obsession with some.

Clean up, if you need to, before you go home. You can't feel right when you are not in the state of grace if you have faith enough to know what the state of grace means. You are not square with yourself if you haven't the nerve to make a good confession, you are not square with your mother, you are not square with Notre Dame, you are not square with God.

Fear of confession implies a narrow mind. You should know, as a good Catholic, that when you confess your sins to a priest you are telling them to God's representative, not simply to a man. It is a consolation for us to know that God chose men instead of angels for the priesthood: the priest can understand our human weaknesses; an angel could not without a special revelation, because an angel has not body. And a priest's great delight is to bring comfort to a sin-laden soul. Don't be afraid of scandalizing him: if you can tell him anything he hasn't heard before, he will say a Mass for you.

Go home clean! You can then receive your mother's kiss with a stout, honest heart.

Prayers.

Henry Altman has left for home to undergo an operation next Saturday. J. E. Paradi has been called home by the illness of his mother. An urgent special intention has been recommended to your prayers. Mr. and Mrs. Powers were here yesterday, and requested a continuance of prayers for the repose of the soul of Jimmie, and for their own welfare as well, as his death has been a very serious loss to them.