

We Can't Quite Finish a Job.

The number of Communions since September was 124,953 -- just short of 125,000. Forty-seven more would have given us a round number. The number up to the Christmas holidays was 99,075 -- 925 short of 100,000. Why do we have to be just a bit short?

The number for the same period last year was 105,689, an increase of 19,000. The daily average this year was 1016, an increase of 163 this year. During January Howard Hall averaged 43 a day, which is an absolute increase since the hall was not in operation last year. Most of the other 120 was due to increased interest on the part of off-campus students.

The recent attendance of off-campus students represented between 25% and 30% of the Catholic students living in town. Howard Hall is running the same average. An explanation from our left-wing freshmen would be appreciated.

Now We Begin Again.

Beginning a new semester is like going to confession: it gives you a chance to start over. True enough, you may still have some temporal punishment due, for past offenses, but if you have the chance at a fresh start and are determined to make the most of it, much of the punishment can be wiped away by new diligence.

The proper way to start the new semester is to go to confession. A clean conscience is an invigorating thing; it means something to your resolutions.

Purification Tomorrow.

Tomorrow might be called the feast of the Humility of Mary. She was not herself under the law of sin, yet she followed the prescription of the Jewish Law that required a mother to appear in the Temple forty days after the birth of her first-born son, there to present him to the Lord and bought him back with a lamb or two turtle doves (the offering of the poor).

The Church blesses candles on this day for use during the coming year. The ceremony of blessing takes place in our church at 5:40, and the Mass begins at about 6:25, after the blessing and procession. You are asked to attend this Mass tomorrow, and to receive Holy Communion with a pure heart in memory of the Patroness of Notre Dame, who will help you to remain pure during the coming semester.

Novena for the Sick.

The Novena in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes begins tomorrow. It is offered for the sick whose names are left in the basket in the basement chapel. During the Novena you should offer Holy Communion every day and recite the Litany of the Blessed Virgin, preferably at the Grotto.

Prayers.

Charles Springer was called home yesterday by the death of his little brother. Henry Barnhart, an alumnus, asks prayers for his father, who died a few days ago.

Laetare Medals.

Some of the off-campus students who braved the storm have not claimed their medal