

April 16, 1926

Mass for Wm. Dockman.

The 6:30 Mass in the basement chapel tomorrow morning will be offered for the repose of Wm. Dockman, who died on Holy Thursday, April 17, two years ago. In your Holy Communion tomorrow morning you should also remember Orestes A. Brownson, who died April 17 fifty years ago, and who lies buried in the basement chapel.

Questions From the Questionnaire.

85. What degree of intoxication is a mortal sin?

Ans. Read Perseverance, pages 23 and 24, and root out of your system the unholy ambition to gain heaven simply by keeping out of hell. These Catholics who spend all their time trying to find out just how far they can go without committing a mortal sin give one a large pain in the ear. Notre Dame was never intended as a training field for mediocrity.

86. What is the matter with a fellow like me who is not athletically inclined?

Ans. What do you mean, athletically inclined? If you mean that you are not interested in exercise, you may be just plain lazy; if you mean that you can't enjoy playing games you may be too self-centered; if you mean that you can't go crazy watching athletic contests, you may be prematurely old. Sports are helpful, as they give both participants and spectators clean recreation that invigorates the mind and the imagination; they keep one out of the dumps. If you don't need them, well and good; if you do, use your head, get busy and learn to like them.

87. Refute the assertion: All religions are good, as they are all trying to get men to the same place.

Ans. God has told us how he wants to be worshipped. He established a Church, not churches. If God had given us no revelation, reason could lead us by devious paths to God; but God has spoken.

88. I would like to see some of the agnostic arguments answered.

Ans. "Why Should I be Moral," by Father Hull, is an excellent brief treatise on modern false philosophies. There is one copy in the pamphlet rack. All of them were answered 700 years ago by St. Thomas in his Summa Contra Gentiles, which contains answers to hundreds of errors that people nowadays would be glad to hold if they were smart enough to think them up.

89. Explain fully the attitude of the Church on Masonry.

Ans. The Catholic Encyclopedia does that very well. The question cannot be treated adequately on the Bulletin. Ask your Masonic friend if he doesn't feel that if he lives up to the tenets of Masonry it's religion enough for him. If he says Yes, as most of them will, tell him that's why a Catholic can't be a Mason -- that Masonry is a natural religion and Catholicity is a supernatural religion. One naturally excludes the other.

90. Why is that men crib so much in examinations and then brag about it?

Ans. Those who have sense are ashamed of it. It's getting less popular here.

91. What is the ideal age for marriage?

Ans. The age of reason. Young couples are more adaptable than old ones.

92. Is swearing without knowing what we are doing a sin?

Ans. No; neither is going to college and not knowing what it is all about. The requisites for sin are knowledge, will, and objective fault. If one has no brains he can't sin.

93. How can one overcome temptations to anger?

Ans. In the ancient days, corporal punishment took a lot of it out of children. In the later Victorian era, fist-fights accomplished the same result. In this milk-and-water civilization of ours, you need to resort to spiritual means entirely. Offer up for the Poor Souls the things that try your patience; that will help you keep your head.