

Religious Bulletin
September 29, 1926

First Friday for the Bishop.

Your Holy Communion, your attendance at Mass, your adoration, all your good works of the First Friday are claimed for a spiritual bouquet for the Bishop, in appreciation of his goodness in giving you this Mission. Make the offering complete. Bring laggards with you. For once let Notre Dame make a complete act of Love of God. It is in a good cause.

So There is a Difference.

The number of sophomores living off-campus is just about equal to the total of juniors and seniors down town. The largest crowd of sophomores assembled for Holy Communion on any day last week was fifty-three. Yesterday the number of junior and senior off-campus communicants was seventy-five.

Confessions All Day.

Nearly a thousand confessions remain to be heard to make a complete success of the First Friday offering for the Bishop. To avoid congestion at the confessionals at night, there will be constant attendance at the Sorin Hall chapel today and tomorrow. Ring the bell at the chapel door if there is no priest in the chapel -- but take care of your confession today or tomorrow to avoid crowding on Friday morning.

Why Can't It Be Done?

Seventy-five per cent of the possible number of communicants is the largest ever assembled on one day at Notre Dame. What various excuses the other twenty-five managed to scrape up no one knows. Some were sick; some chewed gum after midnight; some were afraid to go to confession; some tried to go to confession in the morning and got tired of waiting for the long line to end; some thought more of a cup of coffee than of their God, and went to the cafeteria direct instead of through the church; some went dumb and missed for the first time in the year; some were mad at the world because the course of true love did not run smooth; some were the victims of scruples which they would not expose for a cure; some let themselves be led astray by the false notion that a purpose of amendment is a conviction that one will never sin again; some, possibly (which God forbid) could not go to confession because they would not give up an occasion of sin; some were plain lazy.

Not an excuse in this long list is valid, is worthy of an intelligent man, of a Catholic who loves his God and prizes his favors. The real reason lies much deeper: it is a matter of the grace of God. While God always gives the sinner sufficient grace, it is the overabundance of grace that sweeps the sinner off his feet and effects the conversion of a hard case; it is the overabundance of grace that brings the good Christian to the higher life and heroic virtue.

Now it is a strange fact that under given conditions at Notre Dame the number of communicants will not vary more than five or ten from one day to the next, although there will be each day quite a number of new communicants. Last week in the basement chapel for instance, there were 180 communicants of each of three days; on another there were 178; on another, when there was a drop of 18 in the basement chapel there was an increase of 15 in the church. There were many new communicants each day, but they seem to have received the graces neglected by others.

Let us pray that the grace of God will reach every student of the University for this first Friday, so that for once we will have a complete demonstration of Love of God.