

What Becomes of Your Surplus?

One of these days a report will be published which will show how much you spent on yourselves last year and how little you devoted to charity. It is not so bad that it might not be worse, but it is far from being so good that it could not be better. When a student acknowledges, for instance, that he spends one hundred dollars a month on himself, and about a dollar for charity, he lays before us a fact that his superiors cannot dodge. There is no one at Notre Dame so case-hardened in his selfishness that he could be guilty of such egotism if charity had been presented to him in the proper light.

An appeal from the Catholic Church Extension Society prompts these remarks. It calls attention to several needs. First of all, there is the matter of Mexican refugees. Many hundreds of priests, nuns and ecclesiastical students have been forced to leave that unhappy country to seek asylum in this country, and they land here not only homeless but penniless. The border dioceses of Corpus Christi, San Antonio, El Paso, Tucson and Los Angeles (the first four of which are among the poorest dioceses in the country) have been called upon to take care of most of these. In the convents of San Antonio alone, 350 Sisters have been cared for. The burden is more than these districts can bear alone, and the generous help of Catholics throughout the United States is sought for the relief of this intolerable situation.

The domestic problems are just as keen. A Bishop in the southeastern part of the United States writes: "My salary is \$2,200 a year. I give \$400 of this sum every year for the support of a school in my diocese. Last year I contributed \$1,000 to bring four nuns from Ireland for the missions here. I can't give what I haven't." Another case reported by the Society is that of a priest who was given \$30 a month by the Society because his bishop stated that he was one of the poorest priests in his diocese. He died recently and it was then discovered that the \$30 each month he turned over to the two sisters teaching in his mission schools. -- In one of our western states where the Catholic population is 25% of the total (in Indiana Catholics number only 11% of the total population), only five parishes of secular priests have suitable living quarters for their pastors.

Of the needs of Bengal you have heard a word or two now and then. One of the problems faced by the Holy Cross missionaries there is that there is only one priest for each million or so inhabitants; another is that thirty thousand people have asked to be instructed in the Catholic faith and that there are no funds available for the transportation and living expenses of European nuns who have volunteered to instruct them. Converts by the hundreds are being baptized there; this work could be counted by thousand if missionaries with proper financial backing could be sent there.

The movie last week cleared \$202 for the Bengal Mission; the week-end trip to Evanston cost the students approximately \$15,000. This trip was a legitimate pleasure.

How much have you spent on sin and on the occasions of sin this year? Square yourself with your conscience if you can. Appeals for the relief of the poor come frequently to the Prefect of Religion; those who love the beauty of God's house can always contribute for the adornment of the Sorin Hall chapel; the pamphlet rack is usually two or three hundred dollars in debt.

Now We Start All Over Again.

In spite of the edifying fact that many students fasted long and wakeful hours in order to receive Holy Communion yesterday morning, the distressing fact remains that in general a fresh start will have to be made all over the school to reintroduce the practice of daily Communion.