

Prayers.

Edward Anton continues in grave condition in St. Joseph's Hospital; Jerry Jones, brother of Herb, is suffering from a broken kneecap; another Jerry Jones, of football fame a decade ago, and now on the coaching staff at St. Xavier's, Cincinnati, is very low with pneumonia; a student asks prayers for a deceased relative, and another for one who is ill. Three special intentions are recommended.

Alarming reports come from Europe of the spread of the flu there. England reports 667 deaths in a week. We must pray that this scourge will be checked, and that it will not visit our own country. We must pray particularly that Notre Dame will be spared. In the plague of 1918-19 we had 250 cases and five deaths -- a small number in comparison with the general number of cases and fatalities -- but even five is too many for us to spare in that way, and we must pray for protection.

Late Reception of Holy Communion.

Late risers should direct their steps to the Sorin chapel today and tomorrow, and not forget their early morning devotion to God. Early or late, Our Blessed Lord awaits us.

Are Ideals the Bunk? II.

Objective ideals may be concrete or abstract. We may meditate upon, love, hope for, aspire to, preach upon, read about goodness, purity, honesty, good sportsmanship, loyalty, frankness, fidelity, piety; or we may consider these virtues as exemplified in the life of Christ, or in the lives of those who have been His most faithful imitators; or again we may, in our imagination, synthesize the virtues we admire into an imaginary person who becomes the ideal friend, the ideal companion, the ideal girl, the ideal wife, the ideal Catholic, the ideal Notre Dame -- and with this ideal yardstick we measure friends, acquaintances, strangers, all who come within our range, seeking in life the counterpart of noble dreams.

Many of our most tragic disappointments in life come from these quests; but so do some of our deepest satisfactions. We find a boy who seems to exemplify all the virtues of our ideal Notre Dame man; then some day we hear him swear, or tell a lie, or make a cutting remark to a companion, or let fall a vile word, or refer slightingly to something sacred, or we see him go to an off-color show, or read a book we would not have him read, or do something else unworthy of the ideal we have pictured for him; we feel a hurt in the neighborhood of the heart and we make a mental note that after all human nature is but human nature. Then again we see our ideal Notre Dame man meet one after another of the common enemies of our human frailty and conquer them all; or if he slips we see him rise quickly, and more determined than ever, and we make a mental note that after all, human nature, when it is aided and stirred up by grace, is capable of many noble things.

God's heroes save us the pangs of disappointment. From the point of view of character building, the veneration of the Saints in the Catholic Church, if it were merely a human institution, ~~xxx~~ would be one of our strongest natural stimulants to the formation of ideals. It is more than a human institution, however, for God Himself has first honored His Saints -- with the gift of wisdom, of miracles, of prophecy, and so forth, and He has taught us to honor them. The scrutiny of the canonization process assures us that human littleness is eliminated from these heroes; in them we see realized our noblest dreams; in them we grow brave to fight to be what we inwardly want to be. If we want to be honest, we know that they were honest when they had many occasions to be dishonest; if we want to be pure, we gain courage when we see that some of them fought and won many harder battles for purity than we will ever have to face; when we want to be humble, obedient, patient, loyal, faithful, their example drives us on to win.