

Questionnaire Cases.D.

D stands for Dumb. He has attended the Sacraments twice this year, but not at all at Notre Dame; he classifies himself as a "wise guy, very dumb." He has made an attempt at the cultivation of purity (without using Holy Communion as the great means God gave him for this purpose) and failed miserably. He says that he is scared stiff of confession and would like to have a priest grab him and pound his troubles out of him. Meanwhile, he is making a brave attempt to convert a non-Catholic.

He is certainly dumb or he should realize that when a fellow goes to confession -- as he has done on his questionnaire -- he should apply for penance and absolution. If he really means that he wants a priest to grab him by the neck he should get within arm's length of one before the day is over. He will be the happiest man on the campus by tonight if he does so.

E.

E says that he is Irish and proud of it; but Ireland, the Mother of Martyrs, cannot be proud of him because he has lost the Faith through a petty grievance. He gives an Indexed book as the one that has made most impression on him; loyalty and obedience to Mother Church keeps the real Irishman away from the Index. He has sundry criticisms of priests; the nations have laughed at Ireland for the worshipful devotion and reverence of her sons for the priesthood. He says that he follows Nature's Law.

E needs a spring housecleaning, including a sound beating of the blanket of self-confidence in which he has wrapped himself. The passage from Newman that opens the Introduction to the Sixth Survey shews him what becomes of Nature without Grace. Since he had Faith to lose, he must have in his veins some blood of martyrs who kept the Faith through centuries of persecution. And if he is really Irish, and not a shaun-oen, he will make haste to come out from behind the protection of an anonymous questionnaire.

F.

F's trouble is that he got bawled out the last time he went to confession, so he has stayed away all this year, although at one time he was a daily communicant.

He is not so much a coward as he thinks; he is brave enough to risk getting knocked off suddenly without a chance for the Sacraments he has rejected in health and prosperity rather than accept the bawling out he needs (and which he may not get) if he goes to confession again. It takes a brave man to keep that state of mind.

Send In Your Case.

The intention in the discussion of cases on the Bulletin is not to amuse the populace but to reach the individuals who are holding themselves aloof from the spiritual helps God is offering them so bountifully. The discussion must be public, since the individuals do not come in person for the help; the public discussion helps, also, in that it may cover the cases of those who have not returned questionnaires and that it will supply amateur missionaries with arms for the fray. -- And there is no intention of insulting the writers beyond endurance; the desire is merely to get under the skin of those honest enough to expose their difficulties, and produce action. Experience has justified the method of procedure. They usually come around to talk.

Prayers.

Jos Cardosi asks prayers for his mother, who is ill. Another telegram from Jerry Morches states that Maurice Smith's condition remains unchanged; he is ill with pneumonia at his home in Binghamton, N.Y.