

Religious Bulletin

March 20, 1928

Let's Abolish St. Patrick's Day.

It's a fine idea some people have of the way to celebrate the feast of a Saint. For years it was noted at Notre Dame that the two lowest days in the Communion graph for Lent were St. Patrick's Day and the day following. Attention was called to it time and again, and for a year or two there was some improvement; but the Irish went back into evil ways again this year. On St. Patrick's Day the number of Communion dropped from 1607 to 1530; and on Sunday to 1490. The daily average for Lent, including the two disgraceful days, has been 1618.

It is nothing short of a disgrace, and if there were any of the fine old pride of the Old Country left in the washed-out generation in this country, the disgrace would be felt. You were told to keep your eye on the devil. If you didn't you can look around and see his work now. Sons of St. Patrick, the boldest and bravest of missionaries and mighty in the Faith, were running around Saturday constituting themselves amateur theologians to tell the boys they were dispensed from the law of abstinence, dispensed from Lent, and dispensed from good manners.

If we cannot honor the patron of the Island of Saints and Scholars in a Christian manner, let's not call attention to the day any longer. The early Church made a practice of putting Christian festivals on days devoted to pagan debauchery, to draw the Christians away from temptation and to make reparation to God for excesses committed by pagans. Now the world is turning the tables and setting traps for Christians on the days they dedicate to God: witness New Year's Day (the feast of the Circumcision), Saturday night (confession night in the parishes), Shrove Tuesday (the day before Ash Wednesday), Halloween (the Vigil of All Saints), and St. Patrick's Day.

Our Lord once said: "When the Son of Man cometh, shall He find, think you, faith on earth?" Keep your eye on the devil now.

The Novena for Exams.

This most popular of Novenas should be started tomorrow; it will then finish before the first scheduled examination.

The Questionnaire.

The response to the new questionnaire has been very gratifying. The returns have not been tabulated, but the stack looks like three hundred or so. Some excellent answers have been observed.

If you want a question explained, write a letter to the Bulletin. The questions used this year were nearly all suggested by students who returned questionnaires last year, and it is safe to say that it is the best questionnaire yet devised. Some seniors have complained that some of the questions cannot be answered; and some freshmen have returned very good answers to these same questions. All you are asked to do is to state your own honest views; the tabulation will show you what the rest of the boys do and think. Only one goofy answer has been received as yet -- and that one was a bit sacrilegious in places. We can't all have brains, of course.

Prayers.

Prof. Casasanta has received word that his mother is to undergo a serious operation. Donald McConville asks prayers for a sick brother and a sick friend. Five other students recommend relatives or friends who are ill, and three ask prayers for deceased persons. Add five special intentions.