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Our Own Scribes and Pharisees.

One questionnaire reads: "Seventy-five per cent of the frequent communicants I know are hypocrites and have that holier-than-thou attitude. Their conscience never bothers them when it should." The writer received last in September.

Another student writes: "Except for defects in character which I am working to remove, I am satisfied with my spiritual life. I am more moral than a great many daily communicants.....I have failed to react to your efforts because you have pictured me and others like me as wanting in sincerity, intelligence, desire to get the truth, and character. Let's have an appeal to intelligence, please." (Spelling of intelligence not revised.) He states that he last received the Sacraments ten years ago.

A third states: "I have no faith, and there are many deceivers and hypocrites in churches and at the railing now because of mechanical teaching and human respect." His last Communion was at Easter, 1924.

Since we have here a question of Christian conduct, it is well to recall the attitude of Our Lord with respect to sin and sinners. He was merciless in excoriation of sin, but all gentleness to sinners, with one exception, the Scribes and Pharisees. To the poor victim of weakness of the flesh He showed gentle pity; He raised him up and gave him the start of a new and holy life. But to the "Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel," He said; "Thou hypocrite! cast out first the beam out of thy own eye, and then thou shalt see to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."

The humbled thief, the downcast drunkard, the dejected adulterer,-- these at least acknowledge the faulty of human nature and give God a chance to exercise His infinite mercy; the disgust they feel at their weakness makes them charitable to others and dependent upon God. But the self-worshipping moral paragon gives God an opportunity only for the exercise of Divine justice.

What may be the internal dispositions of those whose comments fill the first three paragraphs above we do not know and we cannot judge; but they have placed themselves in the company of the Scribes and Pharisees. The question they bring up has been worked out thoroughly in the Seventh Religious Survey, Chapter V. The writers need to realize that there are worse sins than impurity and drunkenness; and that pride, infidelity, and uncharitableness are among the worst sins.

Prayers.

Francis Flannery's grandmother died two days ago; another student asks prayers for a deceased friend. Four conversions and three special intentions are recommended.

Tomorrow's Schedule.

Palm Sunday; Masses - 6:00; 6:45; 8:00. Breakfast at 7:30.

Questions.

21. What is a good aid in overcoming concupiscence?  
Ans. The Sacraments and prayer. Eight pages of experiences of your fellow-students in this conquest will be found in the last chapter of the Sixth Survey, which you will find at the rack in Sorin Hall. Stubborn cases should be referred to a priest in an interview outside of confession, where there is leisure for a thorough discussion.
22. How do the priests know so much about marriage?  
Ans. The Catholic Church gives them all she knows about marriage in two thousand years of experience, the Holy Ghost aids them, and people bring them all their mistakes