

Religious Bulletin

April 20, 1928

Questionnaire Cases.

A.

A states his spiritual difficulties thus: "The Church seems illogical in many things. I hate to be called a goody-goody." I hate to pray about little things, and there have been no big things to make me realize the power or goodness of God, although I believe in His existence."

Any unchanging institution that has accomplished as much as the Catholic Church has in the past nineteen hundred years can hardly be illogical. You have heard of the old Irish lady who said after the parade went by, "They're all put of step but my Johnnie." There have been a lot of requests for prayers for big things; it needs unselfishness to make these personal. Right now there is a boy very sick at the Hospital.

B.

B, a senior, writes: "I don't have enough will power, especially regarding impurity. I haven't an ideal girl to help me fight against my flesh. I don't exercises enough to prevent strong temptations to impurity both in mind and in body. Impurity is my course." He also states that he is a daily communicant and makes use of spiritual direction at times.

He needs a change of mind, a feeling that he can win his fight. A general confession and a frank talk with a priest outside of confession will give the impetus to this, and for a guide for future conduct he can adopt the course laid down in Perseverance.

C.

C, another senior, says: "Sometimes I am a good Catholic and other times very, very poor. When I get off my stride I find it very hard to get back. For example, during the last two summers at home I went to Communion only once each time. Procrastination partly is responsible for this; I keep putting it off until finally I decided to have a wild time while in the city and get the load off and be good after I got back here."

Another case for a general confession, this time as a stabilizer, not as an impulse. This man has gone too much on emotional impulse; and the emotions are to our moral life what the starter is to the car, while the will is the engine that carries us on. The impulses need to be reviewed by the intellect; if they are worth while the work can then be turned over to the will.

D.

D, a junior, tried to analyze himself: "I have good intentions until I meet very strong temptation, when I weaken, or rather, assume an indifferent attitude. I am always sorry afterwards. I have become indifferent to the Church in general since the beginning of my junior year. I have convinced myself that this condition is at least partially due to compulsory attendance at church. It is my first year on the campus." He also volunteers the information that his father has not attended church for years.

Spiritual direction is much needed here. Did compulsion cause his father's defection? There's a discrepancy somewhere. His "sorrow" after sin looks more like natural repugnance than supernatural contrition. Spiritual reading will correct some false impressions; spiritual direction will give the much-needed encouragement to keep going.

PRAYERS: Deceased grandparents of Eugene Vallely, Robert Roach, and Leo Rees; a sick relative of Morris Lahey; a special intention.