

Religious Bulletin

May 28, 1928

"To Whom Shall We Go?"

The promise of the Holy Eucharist is contained in the sixth chapter of St. John's Gospel. It was made after the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, when the people sought out Our Lord to make Him king, because they "did eat of the loaves and were filled." Our Lord told them not to labor for the bread which perisheth but for the Bread that would give eternal life; and He promised them, over and over again, to give them His Flesh to eat and His Blood to drink.

"After this," St. John says, "many of His disciples went back; and walked no more with Him. Then Jesus said to the twelve: Will you also go away? And Simon Peter answered Him; Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life."

A homesick alumnus once wrote back from a foreign land where religion is neglected: "God always seemed closer to Notre Dame than any place else; at least it was always easier to find Him there." Like that alumnus, you are now leaving this shrine of the Blessed Sacrament, where God always seemed so near. Are you leaving like the apostate disciples? Or like St. Peter do you say, "Lord, to whom shall we go?"

An anonymous writer in The Acolyte last winter attacked the idea of the Religious Survey, and drew dark conclusions from some of the facts revealed in it. One of the hopeless signs he saw was that students will receive Holy Communion daily or frequently during the school year and then stay away from the Sacraments all summer. He was answered recently by another writer in Emmanuel, who blamed not the school but the parents for such a condition where it existed.

The condition does exist, not generally, but too frequently. It can be readily understood, of course, where it is a necessity of environment; a cowboy, two hundred and fifty miles from a church, for instance, cannot be a daily communicant during the summer, and will do well to approach the Sacraments once during the vacation; likewise, working hours may conflict with confession hours. But too often it is sheer neglect or love of pleasure -- and when these intervene it is certain that deep religious conviction is lacking.

You can always find God if you look for Him; you can take Him with you wherever you go. If daily Communion is impossible, you can always say the beads. And you can recollect yourself and make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, even though the nearest church may be many miles away. And you can show others by your actions that you always have God in your heart, and His Name on your lips -- in prayer.

God does not take a vacation. He appreciates your homage as much in summer as in winter, in joy as well as sorrow, at home as well as at school, in health as much as in sickness.

Say your prayers and be yourself -- your better self -- this summer. If you do your vacation will be as much a time of spiritual profit as your school year. We love to hear parish priests say that the Notre Dame men in their parishes are good examples of young Catholic manhood -- that they seem to know what it is all about.

Accidents.

Yesterday's papers carried news of an accident in which one student of the University of Michigan was killed and another perhaps fatally injured. A student asks prayers for a friend who was killed in another auto accident. This is a season for such things, unhappily. Pray God that all our boys may get home safe. And receive the Sacraments before you start for home. For Holy Communion before 5:30 any morning leave word the day before with the Prefect of Religion, 141 Sorin Hall. (And please say a prayer for those who would go home to mother without fulfilling their duty.)