
Are You Still In The Red?

We are getting around to one of those times when we check up to see how we stand. You have been here nearly three months now, almost long enough to have an idea of Notre Dame ideals and principles; you have been through several warnings and several tests; you are soon to see your parents again -- many of you for the first time since September; -- and Santa Claus is coming, and you want to be able to tell him in your letter that you have been a good little boy.

Have you? Are you a better boy than when you came here in September? If not, you are worse, because there is no stationary position in the spiritual and moral life. Can you honestly greet your mother and tell her you have made Notre Dame proud of her? Have you had a sense of your obligations towards God? Have you paid Him the worship that is His due? Have you shown gratitude for the favors He has given you? Have you been sincere in your repentance for past sins and in your purpose of amendment, including the avoidance of occasions of sin?

A bookkeeper puts his assets in black and his liabilities in red. You are still in the red if you are living in mortal sin, or if you still find it easy to commit mortal sin. On the side of assets you can set down the Masses you have heard, the Holy Communions received, the Novenas made, the visits to the Blessed Sacrament and the Grotto, your spiritual reading, your prayers for Jack Gleason, for the team, for the sick, the dying, and the dead; the efforts you have made to bring others to the Sacraments; the hours of study faithfully performed; your contributions to charity; your fidelity to the trust your parents have placed in you; your cheerfulness.

In red you can set down the money you have spent on sin or squandered foolishly for trivial things; the scandal you have given; your free rides on the street cars; your crashing gates; your destruction of the property of others; your failures to respond to appeals for prayers; your selfishness; your general infidelity to the graces God has offered you.

Are you still in the red? You haven't a whole lot of time left to strike a balance, but you have the mercy of God to draw upon if you want to make up a deficit, and the mercy of God is infinite. It's hard to do, however, because you must apply to that treasury with humility in your heart, and humility is a virtue that doesn't just spring up over night. You can at least do this: make a novena for Christmas, and a good resolution to make up for lost time as soon as you return after the holidays.

General Confession.

There are always some inquiries about the general confession at this time of the year, so it is well to repeat what we have said before. A general confession is a review of all your confessions over the period you wish to cover -- whether it be your whole life or a portion of it. It is necessary if you are certain that somewhere in the past you have deliberately made a bad confession; it is not necessary, but useful, if you wish to sum up, for your own encouragement, the favors God has shown you in the past. It is neither necessary nor useful for scrupulous persons.

Off-Campus Smoker.

The success of this social event, scheduled for 8:00 o'clock tomorrow night in the K.C. gymnasium, is problematical. Too many day-dogs are scared to death the school will give them a little something besides book-learning.

Prayers.

Francis Fuld's grandmother died Sunday. Edmund Hogan is showing considerable improvement since the blood transfusions; the two students in Brownson Hall who gave their blood to him have reason to feel encouraged.