

January 15, 1929

Most Parents Care.

At the pamphlet rack you can get a copy of the Bulletin for December 1, the one giving the Daily News cartoon, "That He May Have an Education," and the Mother's Letter to her probationer. The day that it appeared several fellows got practically duplicates of it in the morning mail; hundreds of duplicates have come in since the examinations.

Most parents of Notre Dame men are concerned about their success. And, happily, most sons are anxious to make their parents happy. Unfortunately, however, so many of them are at the squirrel age, during which they forget what things are essential to their parents' happiness.

Examinations are upon us. There is just time to squeeze in a Novena before they begin. You may feel like a cad that you haven't paid any attention to God since the last time you needed Him, but you may make the Novena just the same, taking a real resolution this time to be more mindful of His interests in the future. God, Who gave you your brains, is even more interested than you are in your using them to good advantage; His hand is not shortened; He can and will help you if you ask Him.

If you have no personal interest in making a good academic record, make the Novena for the sake of your parents, who have done everything, under God, for you. On the other hand, if you are bent in failing in order to leave school definitely, make this final Novena as an act of reparation for your ingratitude to your parents.

A Kick in the Head Might Help.

Several years ago a student was brought into the Infirmary unconscious from a kick in the head received during an interhall massacre. A Protestant friend of his followed him up and told the Sister to get a priest for him if he was in any danger, because the victim had missed Mass that morning. He snapped out of it later that evening, but the experience was not enough to make him go to the Sacraments.

Three weeks later the incident was repeated by the same principals under identical circumstances. The second warning had more effect than the first, however, as the lad got around to the Sacraments a few weeks later. The following year he transferred to another school, and when he came here with the football team of that school for a game, he rounded up all the Catholic members of that squad and brought them to Holy Communion.

From time to time information comes to this office that certain anonymous individuals have missed Mass. Aside from such reasons as laziness, indifference, rebellion, or lack of Faith, the usual causes assigned are athletic events, special classes, and examinations that take place in the morning at the time of late Masses. Any one who misses Mass for any of these reasons needs a good kick in the head. It has worked in the past, and there is no reason for believing that it would not work now.

A Catholic who misses Mass on Sunday is in a fair way to die without the last Sacraments. It is a serious matter. The priest knows that it is, because he deals with death. When a priest hurries up on a sick call and gets there too late, he finds as a rule that if the person in question needed the last Sacraments he has been missing Mass on Sunday or eating meat on Friday. The mercy of God seems to go out to the poor fellows who have gone bad through human weakness, but the indifferent have a tougher time of it. We have the Faith because our ancestors made sacrifices to worship God once a week. A Catholic student in a Catholic school who starts on the down grade by missing Mass on Sundays may find at the Last Judgment a long line of descendants who were denied the Faith because one man slipped.

PRAYERS: A professor asks prayers for his mother, who is to undergo a dangerous operation this week. A nephew of Geo. Monroe is very ill with double pneumonia. Jas. P. Noyle, secretary of the Sophomore Class, is quite ill at home.