
Some Stories of Conversions.

The coming of the Church Unity Octave recalls many incidents from the past in which the power of prayer was manifested in the conversion of some one dear to a student. The first year that names were handed in a student came back after Easter and said that his father, for whom prayers had been offered for twenty years, had received his First Holy Communion Easter morning. Another reported that in his effort to hand in five names he had been balked for a while trying to find a fifth; he finally put down a name, and that person began instructions within a week after the close of the Octave. Two years later this same student said that two more of his original five had found their way into the Church. -- Here are a few more detailed stories:

I.

Several years ago a freshman living off-campus read an item on the Bulletin about converting non-Catholic parents and came in to discuss his case. "I would give anything," he said, "if I could get my father to become a Catholic. He is a good man, has never interfered with mother and me in the practice of our religion, and has paid my way through Catholic schools." The boy was advised to make a Novena for him, and did so, but no results were apparent. For the next three years he talked about it a great deal, and prayed some, but not much. His mother died meanwhile, and the boy was more anxious than ever to give his father the consolations of religion. He finally came to the point of putting his name in on the Octave, and later made a Novena for him. He believed in action more than prayer, however, and wanted to take a hand in it himself. He wrote to a Brother who had taught him in high school, asking him to offer to instruct his father. The Brother wrote back that his father had been taking instructions from the parish priest for the past three weeks -- which was when the Novena had ended. Within a year the father died a beautiful Catholic death.

II.

A sophomore requested prayers for his grandmother, a non-Catholic, who had taken down with what they were afraid was a fatal illness. Members of the family asked her to see a priest and she refused; every suggestion of the kind was firmly repulsed. She finally fell into a coma, and the family redoubled prayers for her conversion, and placed on her a relic of the Little Flower obtained from a near-by convent. Two days later she became conscious, and her first words were: "Where is the priest? I thought you were going to get a priest for me." The priest came and administered the Sacraments; half an hour later she was dead.

III.

A very lazy freshman, slow at his prayers, obtained a great favor for his father by a Novena to the Little Flower, most of the Holy Communions for which were received in the Sorin chapel after ten a.m. It was a favor that required the intervention of the President of the United States after the matter had been turned down three times in Congress; the favor came on the ninth day, and not a wheel had been turned in the case in nine months. Six months later he aroused energy enough to make a second Novena, this time for the conversion of his mother. He looked for results on the ninth day, but nothing came. At Christmas he sent this wire: "She held out on me. She made her First Communion on the Eighth of December."

Prayers.

A brother and a sister of Sheridan Wells are quite ill. Al Gall, who mimeographs the Bulletin, asks prayers for his sick mother and for an uncle killed a few days ago. Wm. J. Smith's mother is ill. Frank Driscoll's grandmother died a few days ago. Three special intentions. One thanksgiving.