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Why Not Wash Your Hands?

The Communion Rail in the Sorin chapel is white when we start out every morning; it is spotted by noon every day. Accidents may happen, but they shouldn't happen with such regularity.

Find The Owner.

It would appear that in many cases greater efforts could be made by finders to locate losers. Several days ago a sum of money was found in front of Sorin Hall, and left with the Prefect of Religion; this is the second notice to the loser. But two weeks ago a watch was lost in the gymnasium, and although it has been advertised ever since, no word has come from the finder. There is a Lost and Found Department in the Main Building. Brother Julian, who has charge of it, reports that the number of losses exceeds the number of finds four to one.

This may be all perfectly legitimate, but it is up to the conscience of the individual to settle if there is anything that is not what it should be. Theologians state the natural law clearly: a lost article belongs to the finder only after diligent search fails to reveal the loser. The finder who makes no serious effort to locate the loser places himself in a class with the thief, and has the same obligation of restitution. Restitution goes to the owner, if he can be located; it goes to charity only if he cannot be found.

Purgatory takes care of failures to make restitution for light matter; hell, if the matter is grave enough to constitute mortal sin. You can take your choice between restitution here and hereafter. It's a matter of judgment, of course, and some people use poor judgment.

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While we are on the Seventh Commandment we might as well mention again that theologians do not recognize bumming on trains as a legitimate business transaction. They insist that you are getting something for nothing which the railroad company offers for a definite price, and that consequently you are held to restitution unless the railroad company excuses you from it. We know of no company that opens its heart to this extent. Resitution without defamation of character is simple enough in such cases; you need only buy a ticket over the roads damaged and tear it up. (Freight bumming is a different matter. The sin in this is against the Fifth Commandment, but no restitution is due, as no passenger accomodations are offered, unless you consider the bumpers such.)

Is your conscience above the Law in such matters? Many plead that it is. They need to review their moral principles. It is perfectly true that there are people too ignorant to commit a mortal sin, but they don't belong in college. Wilful ignorance, does not excuse. Conscience is, of course, the final arbiter of your actions, but conscience demands that you seek instruction to remove error and ignorance.

"Think of Your Mother Now."

Repeat this phrase at the dinner table. Those most in need of it are too busy now to read the Bulletin; they do all their studying in a lump.

W.K.

There have been several inquiries as to the meaning of these initials in the Line O' Type. By way of lagniappe we might explain that from the dim and distant days of B.L. who originated the Line, they have stood for the w.k. expression, "well known." Thus: Snoopy Van Wart, the w.k. private detective, has unearthed a grave financial scandal the administration of funds belonging to the Third Generation Club at Pedigree College. PRAYERS: John O'Malley's sister is very ill; Fr. Molony, of Loss Angeles, is undergo a serious operation; three special intentions.