

Religious Bulletin

May 29, 1929

We Have Much To Be Thankful For.

Before the tabernacle closes after the last Benediction this evening, and our successful beginning of Perpetual Adoration comes to a close, we wish to lay before our Eucharistic King an acknowledgment of the bounty we have received from His Hands during this year. Most of the story, of course, cannot be told here: the greatest blessings that have come to us are those inner transformations wrought in our hearts -- deeper and more understanding love of God and broader charity towards our neighbor; these are secrets reserved for another day, when they will be manifested to the whole world. But of public blessings we can recognize there have been many.

In first place we would mention Perpetual Adoration. This is such a singular blessing that it stands in a class by itself. It is a living testimonial to the private fruits of your devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, because it proves beyond cavil your willingness to take time from secular occupations to be near Our Blessed Lord. Credit is due those whose signatures made adoration possible; without their pledges there could have been no adoration, and those who prefer to adore without pledging themselves to it would not have been able to satisfy their private longings before the Blessed Sacrament solemnly exposed.

Devotion to daily Communion made progress. The increase in registration this year was 73; the increase in the daily average reception of Holy Communion will be about 75. Clear indications are that the total number of Holy Communion this year will be well over 330,000, a total increase of 19,000 over the previous year, and of 62,000 over two years ago. The daily average this year will be 1400 or 1401; and with deductions made from the registration figure for the 233 non-Catholic students and those who have spent less than a year at school, the average reception per student will be approximately 3.9 Communions per week. When you consider that the average Catholic registration of off-campus students was about 725, and that of this number more than 100 were Villagers (few of whom came to the campus for Holy Communion), the average is an impressive one. We may thank God from the bottom of our hearts for this.

There was approximately a 60% increase in the demand for rosaries this year, and a beautiful new devotion was begun -- hymns at the Grotto. The Novena for Mother's Day this year averaged approximately 200 Communions a day more than last year. These are at least indications that devotion to the Blessed Virgin has made some progress.

A singular Providence has watched over the life and health of the students this year; No deaths from sickness, and at least a dozen restorations to health for which the physicians are unwilling to claim full credit; one accidental death, and at least a score of thanksgivings on the part of students who say that nothing but a miracle saved them. Only once since the first of January did the number of students in the Infirmary exceed six at one time; December was the only month that saw anything like a serious health situation, and that was not bad.

Half a dozen students were received into the Church during the course of the year, and nine conversions were reported from the Church Unity Octave. In addition, there was manifest an intense interest in the work of conversions, applications for reading matter for non-Catholics being more numerous than ever. Contributions for home and foreign missions totaled not far from \$2000. Charity made its appearance in various forms -- it is often so intangible a thing that it cannot be measured. One of the most touching evidences of it came in the form of a check for \$100 received from an alumnus, "for the most deserving charity at hand." It came when there was serious need for just such a sum to take care of a sick student who was homeless and without funds. -- All in all it was a good year; we have much to be thankful for.

Prayers.

Little Jack Edwards died Monday; Roy Enright's brother died the same day. It is reported that Bob Nickells, '28 died recently. Joe DeBott, '28, underwent a serious operation yesterday.