Religious Bulletin December 12, 1929

Atheistic Ministers.

Our Sunday Visitor presents a summary of the findings of Prof. G. H. Betts, of North-western University, who recently made a questionnaire study of the religious beliefs of Protestant ministers and students for the ministry. A list of 56 questions was sent to 1309 ministers and to the students of five large theological seminaries. The answers came from seven hundred ministers and an unmamed number of students; the sect of the ministers were listed as follows: 111 Methodists, 104 Lutherans, 63 Presbyterians, 50 Baptists, 50 Congregationalists, 49 Evangelicals, 30 Episcopalians, and 243 of other denominations. A summary of their denials follows:

| | Ministors | Students |
|---|-----------|----------|
| No belief in God | 13% | 36% |
| No belief in the Blessed Trinity | 20% | 56% |
| No belief in the Virgin birth of Christ | 29% | 75% |
| The Bible not inspired | * | 92% |
| No belief in the devil | ** | 91% |

*The answers of the ministers are tabulated as follows: Lutherans, 2%; Evangelicals, 34%; Baptists, 38%; Presbyterians, 56%; Episcopalians, 60%; Methodists, 70%; other sects, 27%.

**Lutherans, 3%; Evangelicals, 29%; Baptists, 32%; Episcopalians, 54%; Mothodists, 65%; Congregationalists, 83%; other sects, 23%.

One who denies or doubts the existence of a Personal God is called an atheist, in the broad sense. One who denies or doubts the existence of the Blessed Trinity can hardly attach much importance to the baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. One who does not believe in the Virgin Birth of Christ cannot consistently believe in His Divinity. A Protestant who denies the inspiration of the Bible parts company completely with his theological forbears, for with traditional Protestants the Bible is the sole rule of faith.

Is it any wonder that the Holy Father, in his allocution Monday on the occasion of the beatification of 136 English martyrs, affirmed that Protestantism is "becoming more and more exhausted," and that "its own very sterility is inspiring many souls with a nostalgia for Catholicism." He added: "Behold Catholicism, which shines in the clear light, while Protestantism goes from denial to denial, rendering ever more intense in many souls that follow the invitation of truth a homesickness for returning to Catholicism."

The Mass For George Gipp.

Tomorrow, the anniversary of the death of George Gipp, there will be a Requiem High Mass for the repose of his soul -- at 6:25 in the church. Father Haggerty, who baptized George on his death-bed, will be celebrant of the Mass. Members of the Monogram Club should be present; so should all who can remember that in grade school, when they were kids, they prayed for George Gipp and obtained for him the grace of a happy death.

Your Favorite Liar.

Off-campus students should realize that they are included in this contest for the biggest liar on the campus; the term is used in its wide sense. They may submit their nominations.

Prayers.

Anthony Sicuranzo's father is gravely ill. C.D. Jones and C.E. Bliss ask prayers for their grandfathers; both were killed in accidents; bother were in their eighty-third year. Three thanksgivings. Four special intentions. Five persons ill. Francis Connors, 128, is very ill with pyomia.