

Religious Bulletin  
December 11, 1930.

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The History of Daily Communion at Notre Dame.-II.

During the next few years, the practice of daily Communion grew slowly but solidly. A branch of the People's Eucharistic League was established, but it died a natural death because too many other activities interfered with meeting nights. One beautiful practice begun then has continued until now, and has grown into something of great interest to us: with the permission of Bishop Alerding, the High Mass on the Third Sunday of the month was made a Mass of Exposition, to enable the students to make an hour of adoration monthly without serious inconvenience.

Facilities for the reception of the Sacraments were added gradually: confessions in the hall chapels after night prayer (1918); reservation of the Blessed Sacrament in the hall chapels, and late distribution of Holy Communion (1922); First Friday Adoration (1922); the present facilities of the Sorin Hall chapel (1924). The first Religious Survey, conducted in March, 1921, opened the way of suggestions in ways and means of increasing devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, and many of the present features of your religious life -- Novenas, special devotions, and the like -- were begun at the suggestion of students submitted through the Survey.

Just how fast the practice grew prior to 1920 we do not know, as there were no statistics kept. During Lent, 1920, there were 21,221 Holy Communions received by 1003 Catholic students; by the end of the school year the number had increased to 33,135. The annual totals since that time have been as follows:

1920-21.....	119,531	1925-26.....	250,790
1921-22.....	146,584	1926-27.....	267,337
1922-23.....	162,103	1927-28.....	311,226
1923-24.....	193,190	1928-29.....	331,073

Up to and including November 30, 1930, there were an additional 107,957 Holy Communions for this scholastic year; and the grand total for the years covered by the statistics is thus 2,473,322. This does not include any figures for summer sessions, when the average is higher than during the year because so many of the students are religious; nor does it include the hundred of thousands of Holy Communions received here during those years by the religious who are not students. It includes only registered students of the nine-months sessions.

Is it any wonder that the University has asked you to thank God earnestly and sincerely during these nine days for the blessings which have come through the happy decree of Pope Pius XI? This record of individual blessings is enough of itself -- the fact that so many souls have been brought into intimate union with Christ day after day, for Him to work in their souls those marvels of grace that we admire in strong character. For this blessing alone we could well spend nine days on our knees and still say, "we are unprofitable servants."

But these blessings are not all. The full fruits of this devotion we will never know until we come before the Throne of God, but some of them we do know at least in part, and it is only proper to point them out to you. The first of these is the prosperity of the University, spiritual as well as material; on this point we need not dwell at length, for you see its evidences all about you. The student body has almost trebled in ten years -- and in spite of the materialism of the age it has grown more spiritual, more capable of sacrifice (as is shown in the charity to the Missions, Perpetual Adoration, and the like). New buildings have come and more are coming. The second of these is the increased spiritual influence of the University abroad -- but that belongs to another chapter.

PRAYERS: Jos. Kearney's father died Tuesday. Three relatives ill; four special intentions.