

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
February 27, 1931.

Way of the Cross.

At 7:00 in the church; at 7:30 in the hall chapels. It is a reminder of the Passion and Death of Our Lord, fruitful in graces, and highly indulgenced. You must be in the state of grace to gain the indulgences.

Obstinacy in Sin.

Do you remember from your catechism the six sins against the Holy Ghost? There are in the list some pretty big words for small boys to handle. Here they are:

1. Presumption of God's mercy;
2. Despair of God's grace;
3. Impugning the known Christian truth;
4. Envy at another's spiritual good;
5. Obstinacy in sin;
6. Final impenitence.

Presumption is the mother of despair. There is always the tendency of the pendulum to swing back as far as it has gone forward. Judas learned this lesson on the night of the Passion. He presumed too much when he sold Our Lord for thirty pieces of silver; his thefts had been forgiven perhaps, but his avarice remained. He made the usual short-cut from presumption to despair, when he saw that Our Lord did not deliver Himself out of the hands of his enemies. He went out and hanged himself.

Impugning the known Christian truth was the sin of the Pharisees of whom Our Lord said: "He that blasphemeth the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him either in this world or in the next." They had attributed the manifest miracles of Christ to Beelzebub, the prince of devils, and by so doing they had so hardened their hearts that they would never repent. It is the sin of those who today reject the truth when it is manifest to them -- Catholics and non-Catholics alike. The ignorant are incapable of it; it is the sin of the enlightened.

Envy at another's spiritual good is seen in those who tell you all the faults of daily communicants and none of their good qualities - all the vices of Christians and none of their virtues. It revels in evil; it hates good. Perhaps enough is said of it when we say that it is a sin against the Holy Ghost.

Obstinacy in sin is a hard thing to correct. It is the sin of those who will not repent when they can and who discover later that they cannot repent when they would. It begins with presumption, and it contains its element of despair. Its votaries are wont to impugn the truth to cover up their delinquencies; envy at the spiritual good of others is a usual accompaniment. When it is full-blown obstinacy it ends in final impenitence - not that the mercy of God is not offered to the sinner, but that he continues to reject it with his last breath.

There are almost 2000 confessions heard here every week - by eleven priests who hear daily; there are more than 10,000 Holy Communions distributed to students here each week. And there are some 150 students who have not received the Sacraments at all this year. Is that obstinacy in sin? God knows. We hope and pray that it be not. If any of the poor victims feel that it is, they should read Newman's "Neglect of Divine Calls and Warnings" before it is too late. Accidents happen.

PRAYERS: Wm. DuBois' sister is quite ill. Byron Smith's father died two days ago. Ten special intentions - among which are a conversion, a restoration to health, two vocations, financial help for a family.