

Do You Know What It Is All About?

At the close of this Lent we have to thank God for many things. Barring the lapse occasioned by Washington's Birthday, there was an evenness of spirituality that is very gratifying. Holy Communions for the season will number something more than 72,000, a new Lenten record; the Easter Duty list is down to 111 names, another new record; the religious spirit of the off-campus students has been extraordinarily good.

The daily Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was a source of countless graces. Custom has not lessened its power; familiarity has not brought neglect. Hour by hour, day by day, week after week, it has drawn young men from their daily tasks and from their recreations to kneel in silent prayer and meditation before their Eucharistic God. The patience of the Divine Prisoner in the tabernacle communicates itself to them: the time passes swiftly. And always there is some one there, laying your petitions before God.

This Lent has meant much to Notre Dame and to the majority of Notre Dame men. What has it meant to you individually? There are men here who do not know what it is all about. They live among us, but are not of us. Two letters received in the last few days will illustrate this. The first is from a recent graduate. In his four years here he did not discover Notre Dame. He was not a bad boy. He was merely worldly - and he lived in a circle of worldly friends. He has read the recent Religious Survey (perhaps the first report of the kind he has ever read) and it has left him mystified. He says:

"The spirituality of the students has amazed me. Perhaps I had a wrong idea of the average student's attitude in this regard, but I have previously labored under the opinion that the boys were not half so genuine as the Survey shows them to be. It was interesting. You certainly need a strong religious conviction when you are out of school, facing the problem of finding a future."

The other letter is from the pastor of a small parish in a frontier state. He and his assistant have been so impressed by the good example of a boy who spent two years here that they felt obliged to tell the officials of the University about it. He says:

"During Lent he was at Holy Mass and Holy Communion every day without fail -- and he was always on time. In the city this might pass unnoticed, but in a mission district, where Catholics are few, untrained, and indifferent, it stands out. This young man had no encouragement from any of us, and he is 160 miles from home. He is the only Catholic in the office where he works; he boards and rooms with a non-Catholic family. He does not know of this letter. His good example here is the best of preaching. Notre Dame may be renowned for its athletics. Down in this mission district it bears lasting spiritual fruit...and your fruit shall remain."

You may admire the honesty of the graduate who acknowledges that he spent four years here and had to wait for a Religious Survey to tell him what Notre Dame means - but you must pay everlasting homage to the sophomore who learned in half that time what Notre Dame was founded to teach: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His justice, and all these things shall be added unto you."

NOTICE: A pass disappeared from a student's pocket last week; it might as well be returned, as the railroad has been notified and will arrest any unlawful user.

PRAYERS: A brother of Pat and Ray Troy died Sunday; there will be a Mass for him at 6:25 Wednesday in the Sorin chapel, by request of the New Jersey Club. John Wallace's mother died Sunday. A deceased friend; a sick friend. Four special intentions. Wm. Gadok's brother died a year ago today. Norb Skelly, old student, is in critical condition from exposure during the Kansas blizzard last week.