

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
December 1, 1931

Shift The Load To Your Knees

An archeological expedition into our desk has brought to light the following communication:

"Dear Father: So you have discovered the Rexall Rangers. Believe it or not, they are pikers for standing when it comes to the endurance contest staged by the upholders of the American Trust corner. Are they waiting for the bank to re-open? —A Street Car Patron."

A few weeks ago the *Bulletin* announced that it would leave the four-corner men to the depression, after a final warning that if they did not bestir themselves spiritually they might wake up some morning to find blood on the balcony. In those three short weeks several things have happened to arouse individuals from their spiritual lethargy. Some of these events were of private nature, and cannot be disclosed here. Others were public. Among the latter were the death of a student, the involuntary divorce of nine others from the University, and the loss of a national championship *in spe*. We include this last event only because on Sunday morning following the Southern California game we saw at the altar rail some faces we hadn't seen for months.

You have certainly been the "idlers in the market place" this fall. Previous to the Thanksgiving recess, the number of daily Communions averaged 49 less than a year ago; there was some gain on this during the past few days, which corresponded to a week-end vacation last year.

How much did you help the team? Just about as much as a hundred-pound weight on the ankle would help a swimmer. After injuries became very numerous you were asked to make a Novena for the team. The number of Communions the next day was 233 below the general average of last year. Previous to the California game the *Bulletin* reminded you each week of the Mass on Saturday morning for the team; then it quit in disgust, for your response during the previous seven weeks had touched bottom—had even broken through. The following figures show the loss or gain in Holy Communions on those Saturday mornings, as compared with the previous day each week: 161, 301, 81, 78, -4, 164. Let the idlers in the market laugh that one off.

On Thursday, November 19, a special bulletin announced the death of Herbert Roesener, a graduate student. On the following day the number of Holy Communions dropped 38. Explain that to your own satisfaction—and when you get to Purgatory, if you are that lucky, don't be surprised if you find your own measure of charity meted out to you.

Do you remember the parable of Dives, the rich man who feasted sumptuously, while Lazarus, the poor man, was denied even the crumbs that fell from the table? If you have forgotten it, we will remind you that when they came to die Dives was sent to hell while Lazarus was carried by angels into Abraham's bosom. We are then told of a colloquy between Dives and Abraham. First, Dives was denied the drop of water he craved to cool his parched tongue, then he was refused his request that Lazarus be sent to warn the rich man's brothers of the fate that awaited them if they did not mend their ways. "They have Moses and the Prophets," said Abraham; "if they will not believe them they will not believe one risen from the dead."

Think that one over. Are you waiting for the Risen Saviour to come to you personally and plead with you to come to your senses? Remember that when Our Saviour did come back He came only to those who believed in Him and had been more or less faithful; He preached no more to those who had rejected Him. Are you waiting for the Good Shepherd to come seeking the lost sheep? The man who pitches his tent at Notre Dame is not in the position of the stray sheep; he is more like the prodigal son if he rejects all the riches of spiritual opportunity Notre Dame offers him. Think that over—and shift the burden from your heels to your knees before some real tragedy overtakes you.

Announcements

Friday of this week is the First Friday of December. Adoration all day—for the home folks this month. This is Home Folks Year.

Father Farley's mite box has netted \$10 for Bengal thus far. There are boxes still available at 141 Sorin.

Holy Communions to date this year number 106,807.

Prayers: Jas. Godfroy suffered a bad fracture of a foot yesterday morning. Jas. Doyle asks prayers for a deceased aunt. Ivan Sharp, an alumnus, lost his sister yesterday. Four special intentions.