

Easter Duty
next Tuesday

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
February 24, 1932.

Lenten devotions
7:00 and 7:45

Inferior.

An alumnus asks the following question:

"Am I right or wrong? It is my decided impression that the Notre Dame team... and the Notre Dame student body... were away off, much below the '29 and '30 football season daily Communion averages, especially before important games when the graces of sportsmanship, protection from injury, and the like, were always most needed, and used to be remembered in prayers. In other words, it is my impression that the campus fell down spiritually, possibly under the delusion that such rigorous religious practices weren't needed with such a potent squad on the field. I hope to see the answer in the Bulletin."

For a long-distance observer, the alumnus is remarkably correct in his surmise. Up to the last week in November, the number of Holy Communions for the fall months was about 3000 below the total for the previous year. The Bulletin does not publish information on the religious practices of such small groups as athletic teams, unless they are especially favorable; however, some information on larger groups, such as halls or classes, is published from time to time - whether favorable or unfavorable.

The Bulletin has remarked several times that this is a dull, colorless year. It is the observation of the editor that the senior class (which has just paraded before our eyes in the Washington's Birthday exercises) is an inferior class, and that this inferiority goes down through the school to the freshmen.

To be specific, let us consider this Lent. The alumnus we quote can remember when it was thought that there was something wrong with a senior who didn't make an effort to hear Mass and receive Holy Communion daily during Lent. By actual count, there are 187 seniors who haven't received as yet during this Lent, and the number hearing Mass daily is less than a hundred. Isn't that inferior? Furthermore, no class in the history of the school has had more spiritual opportunities offered for its use. Daily adoration began at Notre Dame when these seniors were freshmen; the daily Bulletin has been delivered at their doors for the past two years - a very costly enterprise; the four-Mass schedule on Sundays was adopted for their benefit - and they insist on dragging the Prefect of Religion back to hear confessions at a fifth Mass (he feels it is his duty to go where they are); and finally, they have been given the benefit of the Religious Survey of the Alumni to stimulate their spiritual activity before it is too late. You see the response. Is the class inferior?

It's a pity the let-down had to come this year, which the Eucharistic Calendar calls "Home Folks' Year." But perhaps it had to come this year. It is our observation that when the commandment, "Honor thy father and thy mother," is violated, it is usually because the parents have not demanded honor. The attitude of the seniors toward their parents presents a none-too-inviting picture of happy home life.

There is a remedy, of course. The spoiled child has his knuckles cracked many a time when he gets his first job.... and also while he is looking for his first job. It is a bad year for the spoiled child to go looking for a job. South Bend manicurists may not be able to recognize the knuckles of some of our seniors a twelve-month from now. (And then, of course, we may be all wrong. There are 243 seniors receiving daily just now out of 486 Catholics. That's 50%; the passing grade is 70.)

PRAYERS: Leonard Donoghue, of Sorin Hall, underwent an operation for appendicitis this morning. A continuance of prayers is asked for Fr. Hudson, Bro. Cyprian, and John Bergan. Wm. Powell's father has just undergone a delicate operation. Richard Balliot's father is very ill. Bob Dewey's grandmother has just died. A deceased friend; a sick friend; two thanksgivings; four special intentions. Martin Gaspard, of Brownson Hall last year, lost his mother Monday.