

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
September 16, 1932

For Weak Heads And Willowy Spines.

When you enter the Navy they start you off with a bath. When men returned from the front-line trenches during the world war they were sent through a fumigation process. When men come to Notre Dame - whether fresh from the world or back from a summer vacation in the world - they are put through a spiritual cleaning.

The Mission is more than a bath, more than a deodorizing process; it is a tonic - especially designed for weak heads and willowy spines. Your spine isn't wobbly? Examine your conscience. Have you ever failed to live up to your principles? Have you never in your life fallen short of the ideals you set for yourself? Have you never in your life, never this summer, acted through human respect - doing something you knew you should not do, simply to avoid the voiced or unvoiced criticism of others? Most people have a few weak spots in the spine. If you haven't, you will enjoy the Mission because of its glorification of your sanctity.

Your head isn't weak? Don't be too categorical about that. Have you still, untarnished, all the ideals your mother implanted in your heart? Has the world given no jolts to the principles you learned from the nuns and from your parish priest? Have your ideals unfolded and grown strong, as the flower from the bud, with no unseemly deviation from what you know in your heart to be the Justice of God? Contact with the world has a tendency to besmirch ideals; you are lucky if you have escaped it entirely. If you have, you will attend the Mission with a sound heart, because every spiritual opportunity presented to you will be welcomed for the chance it gives you of drawing closer to God.

Get your head and spine together, then, for the Mission - next week for the freshmen and the sophomores in St. Edward's Hall and Off-campus, the following week for the rest of you. The Mission begins Sunday night and ends Saturday morning. The evening services are at 7:30, the morning Mass and instruction at 6:30. (Breakfast is at 7:20 during those two weeks.)

The Opening Sermon.

The solemn opening of the school year will take place Sunday at 9:00 o'clock Mass. The sermon by the President of the University will give you a notion of Notre Dame that you won't get from the newspapers or the movies. No freshman who is here for an education will miss the sermon; if there are any of the other kind around they might as well attend too, for they won't be here long and they should get what they can while they may.

Holy Communion Sunday Morning.

The Sunday Masses are at 6:00, 7:00, 8:00 and 9:00. Confessions are heard and Holy Communion is distributed during all these Masses. For the convenience of those who wish to receive Holy Communion before breakfast without attending an early Mass (those who want to attend the 9:00 Mass without fasting), the Dillon Hall chapel will be attended on Sunday mornings from 7:30 till 8:15.

Don't be dumb about this matter. Read the above paragraph again. It happens every year that students who have been receiving Holy Communion regularly for years on Sundays, will miss on their first Sunday at Notre Dame - just because they have played dumb. Notre Dame attempts to offset your thoughtlessness and laziness by giving you every opportunity in the world for receiving the Sacraments - but she hasn't yet found a cure for stupidity.

PRAYERS: Jos. Dunn, '27, of Brainard, Minn., asks prayers for his deceased mother.