

University of Notre Dame

Religious Bulletin

January 12, 1933

Random Shots.

If a demonstration were needed that off-campus is no place to get a Notre Dame education, the present generation of off-campus students is furnishing it. Their average daily attendance at Holy Communion in the Dillon chapel hasn't reached 10%. Attendance at their 8:00 Mass on Sundays hasn't averaged 30%. Probably 30% haven't seen the inside of the Dillon chapel - which is conducted mainly for their benefit; how many of that 30% have received the Sacraments at all this year is problematical.

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There is something more than superstition in certain old Irish beliefs. An expression often heard from Irish lips is, "Mark my words - no good will come of it." The usual sins which call forth this comment are the following:

1. Blasphemy (not many Irish are guilty of it - Shaw and Donn Byrne and a few others were never the right kind of Irish).
2. Disrespect to priests and religious.
3. Grave dishonor to one's parents.
4. Missing Mass on Sunday.
5. Eating meat on Friday (the correct Irish instinct regarding this is that you will choke on the meat).

A word about the second point. Another Irish expression is, "God takes care of His own," and it is used principally with regard to the clergy. It is true. Good or bad, God takes care of them - with reward or punishment. Disrespect to the clergy has never brought luck to anyone.

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If American isn't Catholic it is largely because Catholics do not live lives in conformity with the teachings of the Church and do not use the means of grace to better their lives.

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Gambling is a sin if it involves any of the following points:

1. Disobedience to parents;
2. The risk of expulsion or any other penalty that will bring grief to parents;
3. Extravagance, the failure to pay just debts or to give properly to charity;
4. The risk of contracting a dangerous habit that will later harm one's family;
5. Dissipation of time that belongs to duties;
6. Cheating - or stealing to recoup losses;
7. Cooperation with the sin of another who cannot gamble without sin.

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Praying for help in examinations and then cheating is an infantile form of disrespect to God. Perhaps "infantile" is not the right word; most infants, so far as we have observed them, have straighter minds than that.

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If a fellow shocks you by his speech or conduct, it means that you have thought better of him than he has thought of himself. Bring him up to your ideal if you can, but mark him down meanwhile to his own estimate of himself or your attempts will be frustrated by your discouragement.

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Don't steal food from the poor. What you leave on your plate goes to the garbage; what is left on the platter goes to the poor. (Waiters, please note.) Waste is always sinful; at this time it is especially so. The University has given tens of thousands of meals to the poor during the depression; don't cripple this work by letting your eyes get larger than your appetite.

PRAYERS: Deceased - two friends of Frank Hochreiter; an aunt of Francis Martin. Ill - John Van Etten (phlebitis); Louis Crystal (pneumonia); a sister of John Cox O'Connor; a nephew of Anthony Giruzzi; a friend. Five special intentions.