

University of Notre Dame
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"Let The Dead Past Bury Its Dead."

The first semester is now a thing of the past. It may linger in the memory of those who go on probation for the new semester, it may live again in reminiscence when Lyons meets Dillon at alumni reunions and the bonfire is discussed, some of those who have had hard sledding financially may later recall it as the year of their best marks, it may come back as a fitful nightmare to the managers of the Christmas dances.

Its only records of eternal consequence are those set down in heaven and in hell. We have no duplicate set of the Devil's records, so we can't detain ourselves long on those. He knows what he knows, and you know what he knows about you. If you have devoted the past semester to his loyal service, go to him for your reward. You know what Chesterton says of him: "The Devil is a gentleman and never keeps his word."

Neither have we a duplicate set of the books kept by the Recording Angel, but we know a bit about some of the things he has set down to your credit during this semester. We know, for instance, that 166,202 Holy Communions were received during the semester, and that this was a drop of 8,861 from the same period a year ago. (This was a loss of 73 a day, on the average, and the registration this year was 394 lower than a year ago. Our calculation is based on figures up to and including last Sunday, which corresponds with the semester of last year.)

We know, too, that we have disbursed about \$650 in poor relief. Not all of this came in from students, of course; in fact, more than half of it came from others - alumni, parents, and other readers of the Bulletin. Nearly \$900 has been contributed for Bengal, most of it by students. Father Barron's Christmas present amounted to \$52. A few other donations for mission work amounted to a similar sum. Readers of the Bulletin contributed \$840 for the stations in Dillon and Alumni Halls; a student has given a window for the Dillon Hall chapel (\$200). Perhaps our records would disclose a few more donations for one thing or another - we don't have to go to the books to know that the Poor Relief owes the Pamphlet Rack \$52 for donations to the poor since New Year's Day. (The calls still come, the donations not so fast.)

How much your hearts are changed only the Recording Angel knows, and he won't tell. You don't even know yourselves. You can see some things, your parents observed some others during the holidays, even your professors find a bit of encouragement in you at times. But there are many angles of your development that only time can appraise; for the time being you must take them on faith, and keep plugging away at them.

It is to these intangibles that your attention is directed at the beginning of this new semester. Have you more charity in your heart than you had six months ago? Are you more tolerant of the idiosyncrasies of others? Have you helped them to overcome their really objectionable faults? (or have you rather confirmed them in their faults or even led them into sin?) Are you more considerate of your parents, more attentive to them? Are you faithful to study, to prayer? Are you more trustworthy than you were? Is your control over your tongue all that it should be? Have you your temper well in hand?

Give yourself a good examination of conscience. If you have made mistakes, acknowledge them honestly and set about correcting them. If you have made a bad choice of companions, open your eyes to the fact that you can have for the seeking some of the best company in the world. If you have neglected the Sacraments, the supreme source of grace, ask God's pardon for it. Don't give the Devil a chance for a black mark any more.

Let's begin the semester with a Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes. The feast is February 11. The official Novena of the Confraternity begins Feb. 3 - the First Friday. A box at the Grotto will receive your intentions.

FOUR special intentions. Wm. Gorgen's grandmother has suffered a stroke.