

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 7, 1934.

A Question Box.

One letter just received contains all of the following questions:

1. Frequently I have wondered about the possible spiritual fate of Judas. He appears to me to have been a necessary agent.

Ans. Don't wonder about it any more. It doesn't concern you. History is full of "necessary agents" as we look back at their work; so far as we can judge in particular cases, however, they were responsible for their actions, and God, the only Judge, pronounces upon their fates. Had St. Peter not denied Our Lord, we would not have had the sublime example of the first Pope being confirmed in his high office on his doing penance. He was a "necessary agent" for that lesson; yet he realized that he denied Our Lord of his own free will, and his tears brought his reward.

2. To me the unequal distribution of will power, the other factors of heredity and surroundings, varying capacities for experiencing religious emotion, and so forth, are beyond understanding.

Ans. Then don't try to understand them. God alone understands them and He alone judges. You are responsible for your own opportunities and graces; save your own soul. If you have charge of others, try to make allowances for their varying faculties, and try to offset unfavorable factors that have held them back from God. But do not usurp God's place and judge them!

3. How can my religion become to me the one beyond all others?

Ans. By making the Morning Offering and meaning it. If you offer all your thoughts, words, and actions of the day to God, and recall that offering from time to time during the day, you will overcome the selfishness that always tries to work into our day and spoil this offering, your religion will become the great directing force in your life. Be not disturbed by what others say. As an old nun used to say, "They can't do anything more than kill you, and they won't do that."

4. The idealism of the Bulletin impresses me. Do the young men at Notre Dame carry these feelings into non-Catholic atmosphere?

Ans. The Bulletin is a daily reminder that they should. How well they succeed is another story - or as many stories as there are boys. The Religious Survey of the Alumni (a second one will be issued soon) tells many stories of idealism in contact with the world. The whole story, of course, will be revealed only at the Last Judgment - and since we don't have to know the answer now we might as well be patient about it. God does not hold us responsible for results - only for effort.

5. Since the Church frowns on mixed marriages, how can Catholic associations be fostered?

Ans. That question really belongs in the society column rather than in the Religious Bulletin. The editor's observation is that when two people want to meet they meet. The person who makes that complaint is too shy to forge ahead or is bold enough but is looking for an excuse for having avoided Catholic companionships. Catholic societies and parish affairs offer social contacts. The problem is local, and largely personal.

6. How can I become better acquainted with my Guardian Angel?

Ans. By daily prayer to him. He is powerful and good and helpful.

7. Should a woman marry if she wants to continue in her position?

Ans. It's better not to do so. Sacrifices for a home are worth while.

PRAYERS: Deceased - the grandmother of Alfred and Jack Loritsch; Maurice Lee's grandfather. Ill - the mother of Fr. Bapst, formerly of Mishawaka; the father of Frank Nulty, '32; John Stecker's grandparents; two friends of students. Four special ints. ANNIVERSARY MASS, Thursday, 6:25, Sacred Heart Church, for James Gleason's father (Rochester Club)