

Requiem High Mass,  
Wed., Moreau Seminary,  
for Frank Gallagher--  
7th anniversary.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin.  
November 6, 1934

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Talking Turkey.

One of the analytical intellects on the campus argues that there is too much compulsion at Notre Dame. Men would live a more regular life, would go oftener to the sacraments if they were not "forced" to do so. Asked whether, in his own case, a rector or prefect or anyone else had, within the last two years, even talked to him about frequenting the sacraments, he replied no. Asked how often, under this "compulsion," he had been going to the sacraments in the last two years, he replied once every three months.

Did he feel satisfied? No. Why didn't he go oftener? He was just lazy, indifferent. But he thought less compulsion, less discipline, would cure him and everybody else afflicted with the same disease!

More cases to the point: All Souls' Day and the month of November came round. Most probably there is not a man on the campus without some relative--most have near relatives--or, at least, some close friend in Purgatory. An opportunity was announced to gain a plenary indulgence, for anyone of these souls, by simply visiting the church (or a hall chapel), in the state of grace, by receiving Holy Communion once, and by saying, each visit, 6 Our Fathers, 6 Hail Marys, and 6 Glory-be-to-the-Fathers.

Was the church crowded with strong-willed, self-propelled students anxious to help their friends and relatives out of Purgatory? Was the church filled on All Souls' Day? The church emphatically was not. Hardly 100 of the 2600 students enrolled in the University made any visit to the church for the Poor Souls.

Ponder this: all that a student has to do, even now, is go to the Pamphlet Rack in Sorin or in Dillon Hall, list, on a blank form provided, the names of the deceased relatives and friends he wants to share in the Masses and public prayers of the Novena. Even if he is too lazy to make the Novena himself he certainly ought to go to the trouble of filling out a blank. But not 100 students out of 2600 have so far put themselves to that extraordinary inconvenience.

A Mass was announced for last Monday morning for the repose of the soul of Gilbert Behrens, a Freshman, who died only last Wednesday. Did the student body, out of pity, or respect, or charity for one of their own, crowd the church to the doors? It would be shameful to set down the number of those who received Holy Communion at that Mass.

Do you remember Mr. Mitchell's letter, published in the Bulletin a few weeks ago, how he marvelled at the way Notre Dame men of 1927 got up morning after morning and offered Masses and Holy Communions for his son? That, in those days, was considered ordinary decency. Has the Notre Dame man of today gone soft? Is Notre Dame spirit, is anything, except his own ease and his own will, any longer sacred to the Notre Dame man?

Everything has to be dished up well-decorated, on a silver platter. If he doesn't get it that way someone is taking advantage of him. If he does get it that way he is too lazy to reach out and take what is offered him. If his pulse is not perfectly regular he's thrown out of kilter. Some ugly thing is going to sneak up and get him. If his liberty is slightly curtailed he whines and pouts.

The cure for that kind of spirit is not more freedom (and certainly not more easy facilities) but more discipline. If that discipline isn't soon self-imposed, no thinking man could free the University from the obligation of imposing it.

PRAYERS: Deceased, Most Rev. John N. Shaw, D.D., Archbishop of New Orleans, friend of Congregation and the University. Ill, Bishop Boyle's (Pittsburgh) mother (accident); Don Allen (Badin); two friends of a student; John Francis (St. Ed's.), appendectomy; mother of Tom Havican, '11; Norman Baker (Freshman). Four special intentions.