

Mass, Tues. 2nd feast of  
St. Agnes p. 725. Col-  
lects pp. 724 and 111.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
January 27, 1936

Ill, sister of Mrs. Henry  
Froning; Mr. Frank Fitch,  
father of Ed, '32 & George, '29.

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Losing The Faith.

Sins of weakness--impurity, drunkenness, sloth, and the like--while they are very serious because they offend God grievously and soon become a habit if they are not checked, are not usually an indication that a person is losing his faith.

People may slip and fall into these sins when they are really trying hard not to offend God. Human nature is weak and we find a law in our members fighting against the law of our minds and captivating us in sin.

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But the sin of missing Mass on a Sunday, or on any holy day of obligation, is usually not a sin of weakness. It seems to be rather a deliberate sin of the mind by which a person says to God: "You want me to give You an hour or a half-hour on Sunday. I refuse to do so!"

This is an indication that a person is losing his faith. There is no slipping here. Passion and weakness have very little to do with making us commit this sin. It is much like the sin of the rebel angels who stood up before Almighty God and said: "We will not serve!"

You remember how God dealt with that sin. The rebel angels were never given a second chance. They were cast like lightning from Heaven into the pit of Hell. That's the way God looks upon this sin.

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God is exceedingly merciful with sins of weakness. Recall the way He dealt with Magdalene, with the woman taken in adultery, with the denial of Peter. He more than allowed for their weakness. He even gave Cain another chance after the murder of his brother. But not so with the rebel angels!

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If you think lightly of missing Mass on Sunday, it is a sure indication that your faith is slipping and that you are on your way out of the Church.

There is very little point in your going to confession unless you have made up your mind to go to Mass every Sunday. You may have a firm purpose of amendment in the case of other sins and yet fall when a sudden gust of passion arises. There is no sudden gust of passion to break your resolution of attending Mass on Sunday. If you break it, you do it deliberately.

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Over-sleeping on Sunday morning is usually not an excuse. It's just a sure sign you don't care. The prefect will wake you specially if you ask him. There are at least a dozen of your companions who will be glad to get you up. If you sleep through the four Sunday Masses, when you are not sick, it means you are losing your faith. It would be ever so much better for you to go to a State University. Your guilt would be less because of the fewer opportunities.

A Notre Dame student who misses Mass will have a mighty hard time begging for any mercy on the day of judgment. Don't ever be mistaken about that!

PRAYERS: (deceased) Sister Assumption; brother of John Burns '27. Ill, father of Cyp and Harold Spurl in critical condition; brother of Tom Mulligan (Morrissey); friend of Jack Fitzgerald; mother of Bishop Sheil; nephew of Matt Sheley (Brownson). 7 sp. ints.