

Mass, 6:25, tomorrow morning for the Team. Request of the S.A.C. Be up!

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
November 6, 1936

Poor Souls-First Friday
devotions tonight 7 and
7:30 main church.

To The Infrequent Communicant (Confidential).

Take up a pencil and try to write down one good reason why you should abstain from frequent Holy Communion. Look now at the reason you have written. Are you proud of it?

"I'm not good enough," you've written. Ah, that sounds fine and noble, doesn't it? "I'm not good enough." But, stupid! It is as if, through superstition or vague fear, a thin, starving man would obstinately refuse nourishment. Holy Communion is a Spiritual Food intended especially for souls who are "not good enough." Frequent Holy Communion is bound to make persons who are not good enough, much better. Cross that reason out at once!

"But I fall into mortal sin!" Be sure that you know what mortal sin is--grievous matter, willed with full consent, after wide-awake consideration. But let's assume that you really fall into mortal sin. You're discouraged, disgusted with your efforts to be good. You're weak. And because you succeed so poorly alone, you're going to keep right on going it that way--alone. Logical, isn't it? You refuse the encouragement of a confessor who will direct your path out of the swamp. You refuse the omnipotent "Hand" that Christ offers you in daily Holy Communion. Smart reasoning, isn't it, if you really want to avoid mortal sin?

"I feel ashamed to go back to Confession and Communion so soon after sinning." What delicacy of conscience! "I'm in mortal sin, and I'll remain in mortal sin at least for a few days longer, to show respect to the good God who despises mortal sin more than anything else. To honor my God I shall leave myself open to this argument of the devil: 'You've already committed this sin once; you might as well go ahead and commit it again and again. Then after a month or so you can go to confession and smuggle off all your sins together.'" A "delicate" conscience, eh? Clever strategy, no doubt!

"If I go to Holy Communion often, I don't get as much thrill out of it!" Because you don't feel a great thrill you reason that your Holy Communion doesn't express proper love of God. Silly! If your mother were beautiful, accomplished, sought after, you naturally would get a thrill out of accompanying her in social gatherings. But suppose your mother were ignorant, ugly, poorly dressed, and, nevertheless, you showed her the respect due to a queen. In which case would you manifest the nobler filial love? "Thrill" is not the test of love. Thrill is not terribly important at the time of Holy Communion. If, free from mortal sin, you take time out to meet Christ every morning in the close embrace of Holy Communion, you'll show Him the love that He is after. Never mind the thrill, you get out of it. He'll be pleased.

Don't dare write down that you're merely indifferent! Your mother, your sweetheart, even a casual acquaintance, would be crushed if you gave that crude excuse for inattention. God hates indifference. The indifferent, He says, "I begin to vomit out of my mouth!"

Lay aside your pencil a moment, and think! You are blessed now with unusual opportunities. You live under the same roof with your God. A few steps and you're in the chapel. If you get up late you can go to Communion any minute until noon--on your way over to breakfast. You can go to confession almost any minute of the day or night.

You'll not enjoy these extraordinary graces and conveniences all your life. But you choose now to nullify them.

Why, really; and at what cost? Take up your pencil and try to write the answer.

PRAYERS: (deceased) relative of Father C. Carey, C.S.C.; Thomas Mulhall, uncle of Joe Mulhall, '29. Ill, Jim Blakeney, Kansas University; mother of Dick Foley (Dil.); three friends of Jim Burke (Walsh); friend of Bob Malarney; father of Rev. Leo Ryan, C.S.C.; Right Rev. Francis Johannes, Bishop of Leavenworth. --Mass Sat. Octave, 1941.