

Drop in the box in your hall list of names for remembrance in Octave.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
January 18, 1937

NOVENA FOR EXAMS starts tomorrow. Octave and Novena can be made together.

--Prayers: four spec. ints.

-----  
The Problem.

When George Washington and the first Congress voted, there were in the United States about 26,000 Catholics and some 3,930,000 non-Catholics. For the most part those 26,000 Catholics had no priests, no church buildings, no Sacraments to aid them in that non-Catholic atmosphere. As a result, many grew careless and fell away.

During the middle and the latter half of the 19th century Catholic immigration came in on flood tide. Some of those Catholics stuck; others, ill prepared in doctrine and morals, broke away from the Faith of their Fathers. And you have a second historical cause of leakage in the Catholic Church.

After a thorough study of the facts, Father Talbot, S.J., makes this surprising observation: "We Catholics should number upwards of 60,000,000." We would be today triple our actual number if "every Catholic who came to our shores should have remained faithful to the religion he brought with him from the old country, should have handed on his heritage; and that they, through succeeding generations, should have remained Catholics." We should be 60,000,000. We are, according to the latest figures, 20,735,189.

Toward A Solution.

Catholic growth through immigration is now practically over. If we are to increase it must be by babies, by converts, and by keeping the Catholics that we already possess. Last year there were 63,454 converts to the Catholic Church. How many perverts--how many in that one year lost their Faith?

"When one thinks of the great number of mixed marriages, of the social advantage of not being a practising Catholic, when, I repeat, one thinks of all the holes through which a Catholic can slip out of the Church and remain irrevocably out, then one wonders whether or not the adult gains to the Church are more numerous than the adult losses."

So writes Father Talbot. "...Our duty," he continues, "is to strike just as hard to keep our Catholics in the Church as it is to bring non-Catholics into the Church. Let us preserve the Faith to each one who has it. If we had done that since the birth of the nation we would now be the rulers of the nation."

Christ died on the cross that all men might be one in Faith. Listen to Him, His heart aflame with love, on the night before He died: "And not for them only do I pray, but for them also who through their word shall believe in Me, that they all may be one as Thou, Father, in Me and I in Thee; that they also may be one in Us; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me."

The Church Unity Octave started this morning on the Feast of St. Peter's Chair. It will continue to January 25, Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul. On the Communion altar in Dillon Hall a Mass will be offered on each of the eight mornings of the Octave, especially for the conversion of those whose names you hand in.

This minute, if you have not done so, make a list of the non-Catholics and lapsed Catholics within your own circle of relatives and friends. Drop the list into the box provided in your hall. Get up every morning if possible during this Octave and offer Mass and Holy Communion for conversions to the Church of Christ. Good Catholics the world over will be on their knees with you.

PRAYERS: (deceased) Jack Griffin's (Morr.) and Marie Griffin (St. Mary's) grandfather; aunt of Joe Langton, '28; Bob Geyer, friend of Bill O'Toole (Carroll); grandfather of Richard Bohn (Dil.); father of Joe Hartzler--anniversary tomorrow; Msgr. Ryves, Evansville, friend of the University. Ill, Fred Snite; Bill Byrne (Sorin); Joe Frendergast, '36; mother-in-law of Tom Medland; mother of Mary Frances Shaff; daughter of Mr. Henry Wurzer ill following operation; mother and father of Jerry Green (Carroll); grandmother of Charles Wagner (Brown); grandfather of Paul McCormick (Carroll); Bert Holycross, South Bend; Mr. Joseph O'Donnell, New Rochelle, N.Y.; nephew of John Wallach