

(FOR THE CATHOLIC STUDENT AT NOTRE DAME)

University of Notre Dame

Religious Bulletin

January 4, 1944

The Devils Were Amused.

Satan had a successful Sunday on the Notre Dame campus, particularly at the 10:10 o'clock Mass. It must have amused him to see the large number of students, civilian and military, who slapped Christ in the face by coming late for Mass.

Those guilty of tardiness at Mass may know their moral theology, at least the section which says only a venial sin is committed by missing a minor part of a Mass of obligation. It is a sad demonstration of love of our Blessed Lord to take the matter lightly. A little sin is still a sin, a deliberate insult thrown into God's face. It may not have caused torrents of Blood to flow from the wounds of Christ, but it did draw the Precious Blood.

A Warning.

Beware of contempt for little things and for minor violations of the laws of mother Church. Reflection on the sufferings of Our Lord on the cross for sin, and on His words may help to uproot the terrible sin of indifference towards the law requiring attendance at a whole Mass. "He who hears you (that is, the Church), hears me; and he who rejects you, rejects me; and he who rejects me, rejects him who sent me." "I know thy works; thou art neither cold nor hot. I would that thou wert cold or hot, But because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to vomit thee out of my mouth..."

A Whole Mass.

God expects complete worship on the Lord's Day, His Day. Sundays have been made days of rest from labor for the purpose of giving men the opportunity to worship their Creator and Father. Those who come late to Mass water down this worship to almost nothing. After arriving late, they spend time looking for a seat and a little more time in turning their attention to the Great Action that is taking place. The first part of the Mass is designed to prepare the mind and heart for the Sacrifice. There is not much preparation made by late-comers.

Sacrifices Must Be Made.

Every Catholic has an obligation to make preparations to rise on time for Mass on days of obligations. It can very easily be a mortal sin of negligence for one to retire taking a chance on awakening on time. Precautions must be taken. Set the alarm clock. Request someone to awaken you. Linger in one's room, loitering on the way which produces tardiness is sinful carelessness. If you wish to know your attitude towards the venial sin of Mass tardiness, recall the frequency of the sin in your life, and then recall whether you ever think worthwhile to mention the offence in confession.

Also Sin Against Charity.

It is unkind to interfere with the worship of our neighbor. Those who arrive late for Mass are a distraction to the celebrant, to the preacher, to the congregation. The Third Commandment obliges all who wish to participate in the Mass to be ready for united worship when the priest starts the prayers at the foot of the altar. Walking down aisles, crowding the pews after the start of Mass, disturbs the worship of others. Lack of consideration for others is a breach of charity.

CONFESSIONS: All morning and after 7:30 P.M. in Sorin; during morning Mass and after night prayer in civilian halls; in military halls, during 5:00 P.M. Mass, also during 6:45 P.M. Mass in Dillon. Every evening, in Basement Chapel at 6:30 P.M. and after 7:30 P.M. in B-P. LATE MASS: 7:20 A.M. in Sorin. LATE COMMUNIONS: All morning in Sorin.