

(FOR THE CATHOLIC STUDENT AT NOTRE DAME)

Eight days of prayer
for conversions, for
return of lapsed Cath....

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begins 18th (Church Unity
Octave). Plan to help one
soul by daily Mass and Comm.

Easy Way To Work Off Demerits.

Last week, an apprentice seaman displayed unmilitary conduct in ranks and was given 5 demerits for his violation of regulations. Another seaman was unshaven; he received 10 demerits. A penalty of 20 was given to a guilty party because: "Room - complete disorder". "Sleeping through calisthenics" increased another's total by 25. Everyone sees the justice in the administration of punishment for deliberate infringement of orders.

God has His system of demerits too. Deliberate violation of His orders or Commandments is called Sin. Every sin deserves proper punishment, and the greater the sin the more should the sinner be penalized for his misconduct. Every man realizes the justice in God's demanding more from a person who misses Sunday Mass than from one who has been unkind in speech.

There is a difference between God and the Navy or the Marines. A fellow can "get away with" violations of rules in military service, at times. Not so with God and His laws. A man lives in the Presence of God; there is no hiding from the Creator of heaven and earth. Our neighbor may not know what we thought or said about him, but God knows. So there is demerit levied for every sin according to its gravity. Imagine the demerits being recorded against the man who is impure in speech and action, who cheats and steals, who abuses his mind and body by over-indulgence in drink.

There is still another difference between God's demerits and those given the military student. God's MUST be worked off. Navy orders allow freedom; they MAY be worked off by extra hours of drill or by other activities. If at the time of death a man has not worked Off ALL the demerits caused by sin, then God sends him to Purgatory, an abode of suffering, where the person remains until the scales of justice have been balanced.

And here is where we catch a realization of God's Goodness.

In military service the guilty party must work off his own demerits, if he chooses to remove them from his record. God permits one man to work off the demerits of another. God allows the living to pay the debt of those suffering in Purgatory. Here is a chance for charity towards friends and towards those who may be suffering for the sins into which we lead them.

Good works of any kind: suffering, recreation, drill, classes, study, prayers, gain merit which can be transferred to the account of a soul in Purgatory. Another source of help for the Poor Souls is the INDULGENCE. Many short prayers are indulgenced, and by that we mean that the Pope will, by the power given him by Christ, open the Spiritual Treasury of the Church and withdraw a sum of merits of Christ and the Saints and offer them to God knowing that He will accept them on the account of some Poor Soul. The Pope acts in this manner providing we do something, namely, carry out a condition he lays down. Here are samples of a few indulgenced prayers. If we say these, even once, a Poor Soul will be relieved of suffering:
"Jesus, Mary and Joseph." (7 yrs. indulg.) "Mother Mary, my hope." (300 days Indulg.)

Say these short prayers on particular occasions. When you overhear profanity, make reparation for it and assist a suffering soul by "Blessed be God" (50 days indulg.). When in rank, besides offering up the cold, repeat some ejaculation, for example:
"O Sweetest heart of Jesus I implore, that I may ever love Thee more and more."
(300 days indulg.)

Work off demerits for the Poor Souls, and in return for your charity, God will inspire some heart on earth to pray for you when you reach that stopover on the way to heaven.