

(FOR THE CATHOLIC STUDENT AT NOTRE DAME)

Confirmation Sat.  
8:00 A.M. in Church.  
Resolve never to deny  
Christ.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
April 25, 1944  
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Sign up for weekly  
period of Adoration  
during May...Mother's  
Day Novena starts soon.

He Slapped Your Face, Remember?

The passing of the years may have dimmed your recollection of the event. But it happened. A bishop slapped your face, and you submitted to the act without anger or resentment. In fact, you had looked forward eagerly to the hour when that hand would pass across your cheek. This action took place on your Confirmation day. After anointing your forehead with the Holy Chrism, the rite which brought supernatural courage to your soul, the bishop gave you a fatherly pat on the face. The slap was a forceful reminder of the opposition you would encounter in living up to the Christian doctrine you professed.

Timid Peter.

Peter was not always courageous. During the Passion of Our Lord, a young girl accused him of being a follower of Christ. Peter denied any association with the Master. The girl was persistent. She asked the question three times. Each time Peter was ashamed to admit the truth. Three times he denied Christ, even confirming his denial by an oath. Peter needed fortitude, some new energy, in overcoming his timidity. God gave him the grace he needed on Pentecost when He sent the Holy Spirit to the apostles. From that moment on, Peter feared no man.

Weak-Kneed You?

The same Holy Spirit Peter received at Pentecost, you received in Confirmation. You need the grace to be unashamed in confessing that you are a Catholic. You need strength to live the Catholic life Christ wants you to live in spite of the comments, criticisms and unchristian living of others. You have the grace; it was the effect of the anointing at Confirmation. But are you using it? Let's see.

It was after midnight Saturday, and you had planned to receive Holy Communion on Sunday—maybe it was Easter, or Christmas or Mother's Day. Did you say "No" to your companions? Or did you let them influence you to change your mind about keeping the Eucharistic fast. Confirmation works in restaurants.

It was a week end in the city, and you were a guest of non-Catholic hosts. Did you tell them you were a Catholic? Or were you ashamed to tell them the truth and ask them to awaken you for Mass on Sunday morning? Confirmation never takes time out.

The fellows said it was a great show. And when you discovered that it was risqué just as you were about to step into the ticket line, did you suggest other entertainment and excuse yourself? Or did you fear what your companions might say and sin with them. The Holy Spirit has lost many battles at the ticket window. Have you ever pained Him?

There are legitimate business deals and there are rackets. When you discovered that justice or charity would be violated in some transaction, how did you act? Were you silent? Or did you face the issue as an apostle of Christ, fearless of the comments of others?

Night prayer is an important item of the day. It's a man's last minute conversation with his Father in Heaven. That little talk filled with gratitude, sorrow and renewed resolution is best performed beside one's bed. What's your procedure? Do you prefer to say your prayers in bed, lest the boys in the barracks cast slighting remarks? The Holy Ghost made you a soldier, and gave you a commission to serve Christ, supplying you with all the courage you would need. Are you living up to your duty, or are you playing traitor when you see the enemy?

PRAYERS: (deceased) Cardinal O'Connell of Boston; Dr. Deno O'Connor; Irene Flanagan.