

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
May 13, 1953

Go To Mass Tomorrow Morning

Tomorrow is the Feast of the Ascension. Note the changes in your routine:

Masses in Sacred Heart Church - every hour on the hour, 6 till 11 inclusive.

Breakfast schedule -- 8:30 until 9:15.

Meeting of Third Order of St. Francis - Cavanaugh chapel - 11 a.m.

From Our Question Box

Query: Most non-Catholic denominations regard gambling as a grave sin. Why do we teach that it is not a sin?

Reply: Don't make such sweeping statements in behalf of the Church. You would be more nearly correct if you were to qualify the statement by observing that the Church teaches that gambling in itself is not sinful. I may lawfully spend my money for recreation, and give my neighbors some of it, if they prove more skillful or more lucky than myself. A game of poker becomes of interest only when some stake is in sight for the winner. Gaming becomes sinful even here when we force a person to play against his will, if we cheat, if we stake money that is not our own, or use money needed for our debts, or for the support of our family, or for other obligations.

Betting also is not sinful in itself, if the event at issue is really uncertain; if both parties understand the bet in the same way, and if both are prepared to pay if they lose.

But all Catholic moralists are agreed that gambling and betting may lead to grave abuse and sin, especially when they are prompted by mere gain. The gambler usually frequents bad company, wastes much valuable time, becomes adverse to hard work, is strongly tempted to be dishonest when luck is against him, and often brings financial ruin upon himself and those dependent upon him.

Gambling is a sin for you if it involves any of the following points:

- 1) Disobedience to parents;
- 2) The risk of expulsion, or any other penalty that will bring grief to parents;
- 3) Extravagance, the failure to pay just debts, or give properly to charity;
- 4) The risk of contracting a dangerous habit that will later harm one's family;
- 5) Dissipation of time that belongs to duties (i.e., study, etc.)
- 6) Cheating -- or stealing, to recoup losses;
- 7) Cooperation in the sin of another who cannot gamble without sin.

It is true that many denominations regard gambling as sinful in itself. They are usually the ones who hold dancing, drinking, card playing, and the theatre, in much the same light. But our point of view is that of St. Francis de Sales -- that all these things are indifferent in themselves; that the morality they engender depends entirely upon the use we make of them.

The Catholic Church has never seen eye to eye with the old, stern, New England tradition. Rather, we believe that God delights in seeing His people enjoy themselves in an innocent manner. His Church has never condemned these things as evil in themselves. But the Church will muster a healthy frown whenever they become proximate occasions of sin.

PRAYERS Deceased: Mrs. Adolph Oberer. Ill: sister of Milt Beaudine of Dillon.