

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
November 15, 1954

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Let's Not Be Gullible

Out of the mailbag comes a grievance regarding the Bulletin of the other evening wherein we wrote of Purgatory as a jail. Says the writer of the note:

"Your Bulletin of November 8 was read with a bit of interest on my part; and after talking with a few of the students it was very evident that they thought the same as I. Referring to the statement, 'My father in jail? Let him rot there,' I believe that it is crude and barbarous, as you put it, for the most part -- in fact for the entirety. I do not believe that there is a person on this campus who does not pray for his departed relatives and friends. It is necessary to use a strong statement occasionally in the Bulletin; but isn't this one a bit vitriolic?"

Listen, Reggie, if you think they are all praying for their deceased grandmothers, the next thing you know somebody will be telling you that Marilyn Monroe is a great Shakespearean actress -- and you'll swallow it. Occasionally, the Bulletin takes a look at the hall morning check lists. Occasionally we count the Communions received each day in the various hall chapels. For us, it is a matter of mathematics, and we subtract the number of Communions recorded from the 5000 Catholic students eligible to take part in Catholic spiritual life. How many hundreds forgot all about the Novena to the Poor Souls last Wednesday? How many hundreds daily forget about the Family Rosary with the 3 plenary indulgences available each week? How about those who dodged the Missions at the beginning of the schoolyear, and haven't yet got to a confessional? A healthy half of the campus forgot all about First Friday, last week -- and do you think that hundreds who won't pray for a Happy Death for even themselves are going to be zealous for the Poor Souls? No, Reggie, they won't be zealous -- and we have the figures to prove it.

And that, Reggie, explains the occasional reminder to them that they are missing the whole idea of a Notre Dame education, namely, living in the state of grace, and making daily use of the Sacraments and the other means of grace at their disposal.

We're not too much worried about the hundreds of exemplary men at Notre Dame -- God and His Mother will take good care of them. Occasionally we find it necessary to go out beating the bushes, in an effort to bring in the strays. And there's the job of waking up the indifferent element that numbers not a few, who go along taking nourishment and growing -- like prize vegetables, nothing more.

Occasionally we give them a good verbal whack. You don't get very far tickling a tough, old rhinoceros with a feather; his tough, leathery hide won't register the shock. Nor do you have to be a Phi Beta Kappa to catch the meaning, either. And have you ever thought of exerting your own influence on the Easter-minded neighbor who just gets under the wire annually?

Time To Return The "Survey"

The Prefect of Religion and the Class Chaplains will appreciate your filling out the Survey and returning it as soon as possible. Deadline will be the middle of this week. If you haven't as yet worked on your copy, and have no mind to do so, return the blank to this office (117 Dillon). Only a limited number were printed, and we are eager to make use of every one. We have had many requests for blanks, but none to give. Few, if any, Off-Campus men were included in the distribution; and we are interested in their point of view. Hence, we have need of your unused copy.

PRAYERS: Deceased: Fred Snite, Jr. '33; father of Wm. J. O'Hara, '52. Ill: friend of Gene Brennan of Dillon; Van Wallace, ex. '23; Edward Funk; uncle of 3 Alumni.