

Tonight - at the Novena: University of Notre Dame
Morrissey and St. Ed's halls. Religious Bulletin
May 27, 1955

Tomorrow at the Novena:
Breen-Phillips and Cavanaugh.

"I Feel Like A New Man"

...That's what one student told his pal after making a General Confession. Perhaps you want to make one before you go home. Think about it. Why? Because a General Confession is helpful and useful for those who want to make a good start in a new period of life. As we move from one phase of life into another, it's good to review the past from the spiritual point of view.

What is a General Confession? It is a confession of sins, and worries, arising from actions covering a certain period of one's past, -- a year, college days, or single life, or army days, etc. The profit arising from this General Confession is not in the mere re-confession of sin. Its purpose is to give one a new start, a new determination, a new desire to live faithfully for Christ in the new state or phase of life. Confession of sins, of forgotten sins now recalled, of worries about actions of the past, of old doubts, throws off possible fears, and leaves the penitent with the happy assurance that the past is past, and forgiven by God. Ask your confessor about making this General Confession.

How go about it? You might well take a few days to prepare for this confession. A rushed General Confession of Devotion is of little value and uplift. Two things are important -- make acts of sorrow for your sins, and make many resolutions to do better in the future. A review of your past life will show many infidelities to Christ -- and acts of sorrow will come almost spontaneously. Moreover, failures and the forgiveness of Christ after sin, should drive the sincere man to make resolutions to obey Christ hereafter -- indeed, resolutions to amend our lives will flow naturally.

When? Select a time for this confession when the priest is not busy with many penitents -- at night after night prayers, or any evening in Dillon, Cavanaugh, Howard, or Sorin chapels.

Some of you will be going into service; others will be graduating; some will be getting married; maybe others (undergraduates) will be dropping out of school. All these men will be terminating one phase of life and entering a new one. For all of them a General Confession is eminently in order. Or, if you are being plagued with doubts about past confessions -- even worried about possibly bad confessions, this General Confession will do the job you need to have done -- once for all.

But, if you are inclined to be scrupulous, and have made General Confessions in the past, it is very likely that another General Confession will do you more harm than good. In this instance, you should follow the advice of your confessor.

It can be easy. Simply tell the confessor to run through the Commandments, and the duties of your state in life. Answer his questions, and give the approximate number of times for individual sins. Add whatever else might be on your mind, or in your memory, in the way of doubts and fears. And then forget the tabulations entirely -- remembering only that God's Mercy is above all His works; that you are a sinner, and in need of that unfailing Mercy; and that, with His help, you will avoid both the sins, and the occasions for those sins, in the future.

It takes but a few minutes to bring great peace of mind and heart. And that is something that even money cannot buy for us!

This Sunday: The Red Mass at 9 a.m., for the Lawyers' Guild. Fr. Hesburgh preaches.

Tonight at 6:45 -- Novena to the Sorrowful Mother.

Directives For Ushers

The general idea for all ushering is that of maintaining good order; it is also that of helping people. Hence, many small services are involved in this task. Note the following pointers which are adequate for the ordinary Sunday:

Courtesy: In directing people, be courteous, saying, "Would you please..."

Number: Normally 4 ushers are sufficient for a Mass; 2 on the sides to usher the early arrivals into the sanctuary seats; 1 to stand in the middle aisle (front) to fill up the pews there, gradually moving back toward the main door of the church; and one to stand at the front entrance directing people up the middle and side aisles to the front.

Time: All ushers should report 10 minutes before the beginning of each Mass; otherwise they are of no help in seating the crowds. The first Mass at which ushers are needed on Sunday is the 7 o'clock Mass (2 sufficient here).

Doors: See that the doors (outside and inside) are open or closed, according to the season, and the comfort of the crowd. Be sure that they are opened for the exit, regardless of the weather. When the crowd departs, close them again.

Collection: Four men are needed for the collection. They should move about the church as quietly as possible (even wearing quiet shoes). They should empty the baskets into one, and one usher should take the collection to the sacristy at Communion time, moving up with the crowd, so as to be as inconspicuous as possible. He can pick up the breakfast permits at that time.

Once Mass begins: There should be as little movement about the church as possible. Late-comers are to be directed to the pews nearest the doors -- but not paraded up the aisles because they are a distraction to those already intent upon the Mass. If there is no room near the doors, late-comers are to be directed to the Lady Chapel behind the main altar -- by an outside route. They are to be told that confessions are heard in the Lady Chapel.

Confessions: Normally, confessions are heard at all Masses. Penitents should be directed to the confessionals before Mass. After going to confession, they should be directed to pews nearest the confessionals; they should be discouraged from parading through the church once Mass has started. Leaving pews vacant nearest the confessionals will help in this respect.

At Communion: After the Agnus Dei, ushers should proceed up the middle aisle and side aisles, and encourage those in the first pews to approach the Communion rail -- both at the front and rear of the main altar. This procedure enables everyone to be in place before the priest opens the tabernacle. All should be kneeling when the priest turns toward the people to say the prayers before Communion. If the ushers will kneel when the tabernacle is opened, so will the people.

During Communion: the ushers should observe the number of priests distributing Communion, and try to direct the crowd to the rail in an even manner -- directing them to the front and rear rails so that the priests will not be kept waiting.

Information: There are rest rooms in the Main Building. Sick people should be directed to the sacristy. Take lost-found items to the sacristy.

-- The Prefect of Religion

September, 1955

To: All Rectors and Prefects
From: Class Chaplains
Subject: Spiritual Life in the halls

- 1) Class Missions: In order to effect a large attendance, we ask that you post the notices conspicuously throughout the halls; that you ring the hall bells as soon as you hear the church bells ringing; ask your prefects to circulate among the men on their particular floors, encouraging them to attend; remind the men of the morning Masses in Sacred Heart Church -- at 6:45, and ring the hall bells to enable them to be on time for these Masses; try to discourage any hall activity that might tend to interfere with attendance at the missions. A persuasive and interested attitude on the part of the priests in each hall may have much more effect than one of sternness. If you are interested, the men will take more notice of the event.
- 2) Football weekend Masses: On these Sundays, Sacred Heart Church is jammed with visitors. Hence, there should be a Mass, (Perhaps a little talk), and a collection, in each hall at a rather late hour in the morning -- in order to relieve the pressure on Sacred Heart Church, and to make way for visitors. We suggest 10:00 o'clock, because the late Masses are most crowded. Senior halls will continue with their regular 10:00 o'clock Mass throughout the year, with sermon, and collection. All collections are to be deposited with the Treasurer of the University.
- 3) Occasional: Now and then, it might be a good move for the Rector of the hall to have a Sunday morning Mass in his hall chapel, possibly a Missa cantata, for some particular feast, or occasion. This is left to his discretion. Whenever there is a Mass scheduled in any hall for such events, the rector should always provide a confessor.
- 4) Concerning Freshmen: Freshman rectors are urged to use adequate means to bring the residents of their halls to one of the early Masses at Sacred Heart Church -- on Sundays other than football weekends. This means they should awaken the men for one of the 7, 8, or 9 o'clock Masses, -- thus leaving the last two Masses for the Upperclassmen and visitors. To this end, we again suggest that bells be rung by 8:30 at the latest.
- 5) Missing Mass: We have ample evidence that many of the students are missing Sunday Mass. Hence, the need to revive the old custom of checking the rooms on Sunday to see that all men are up. A Freshman rule to the effect that all residents are to be up by 8:30 would solve the problem there; in the other halls that all should be out of bed by 9:30 would take care of the matter adequately. If this were made a disciplinary rule, as formerly, no one could possibly sleep through. And if this is to be done effectively, then prefects should be on the job--not out on a mission -- because their work in the hall should come first. We believe that any Catholic student who repeatedly misses Sunday Mass here should be separated from the University.
- 6) Recitative Mass: We suggest that all halls have one Recitative Mass per week-- the better to acquaint all with the use of the missal, and the liturgy. Mass-serving classes in each hall are to be encouraged. And it would be good to have an occasional Missa Cantata during the week with a hall choir, and ultimately congregational singing.

The Class Chaplains