

Tomorrow at 4:45 -- The
Holy Hour in Sacred Heart
Church, as usual.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
December 14, 1955

Today, Friday, and Saturday
are Ember Days. Your exemp-
tion is local only.

The Example Of Al Smith

Some people will remember the late Al Smith for his brown derby and big cigar. Others will think of him as an outstanding statesman in New York. The death of Al, not many years ago, disclosed that many of his friends considered him a great Catholic. The good acts one performs often go unadvertised until death. Al's intimates are now telling of incidents that show the depth of his Catholic Faith.

A story recently published is about Al's conversation with a delegation of citizens from Atlantic City. A committee had come to invite Al to speak in their large auditorium. There would be a capacity crowd, some 25,000 or so. Mr. Smith promised to speak. The delegation immediately discussed the details of the proposed talk such as the subject, the program, the notables to be invited and so forth. The development of the plans went along smoothly until Al, suddenly recalling a point he had overlooked, exclaimed: "Just a moment, Gentlemen, on what day of the week does that date fall"?

"Saturday", they said, "Saturday night".

"Sorry, Gentlemen", responded Al. "It's all off. We never go out on Saturday night. We always go to eight o'clock Mass on Sunday".

Catholics have an obligation to plan their Saturday night of entertainment with Sunday in mind. There are limits to legitimate recreation. One may not dance, play cards, or travel about town up to the point of fatigue. When social activity incapacitates a person to the extent that it endangers his rising on time for Sunday Mass, it ceases to be recreation. It is definitely an occasion of sin.

Even better is the authenticated story of Al Smith's deathbed procedure. When he began to grow weaker and to lapse into an occasional coma, he suspected he was a very sick man. Accordingly, he called for a particular priest -- a very close friend -- and demanded to know the truth.

"Father", he said determinedly, "let's have the truth. Am I dying" ?

"Yes, Governor", replied the priest. "You are dying".

"That's what I want to know", said Al Smith bravely. "Start me off on the Act of Contrition". And for the last eight hours of his life, Al Smith repeated over and over the Act of Contrition.

You'll be going off on vacation soon. You'll be partying, perhaps, and keeping late hours. See to it that your Mass obligations are given the same importance that the great Al Smith gave to them. Include your religion in your vacation routine, and you'll never regret it. You may be given eight hours at the last to recite the Act of Contrition. And that time may even come during the Christmas vacation, as it did for other Notre Dame men, last year.

We don't mean to be morbid -- just prepared for any eventuality. That's playing it smart. Hit the box before you leave campus. And if you come in the evening, you won't have to stand in line for hours behind some of your "semi-annual" pals. Don't put it off until Saturday morning -- the saints may trample you to death in the great exodus taking place then. Give Saturday's opportunity to the Off-Campus men.

PRAYERS - Deceased: mother of Jim Mack of Alumni; uncle of Fred Eckart, '55; father of Robert Finney, '53; mother of Al, '40, and Bill, '53, Motzel; uncle of Father Marx, CCC, uncle of Joe Lerrico of Morrissey. Ill: father of Sam Joseph of Morrissey; father of Jim Leonard (O-C). 3 special intentions.