

University of Notre Dame

Tonight: Lyons and Morrissey represent 5800 of us at the Novena.

Religious Bulletin

May 17, 1957

Society Notes

Tomorrow: It's Cavanaugh and B-P. Halls. Bells will ring at 7:30 to leave halls.

Tonight, the Freshmen go heavy on the cologne. A few will shave. Many more will polish their shoes, and their everyday grammar, and present a most exemplary appearance for the social event of the season. We hope they will not get sleepy. We hope they have a good time; and that their guests will be edified throughout the weekend. Remember: all Masses start promptly on Sunday morning. Seats off the middle aisle will be reserved for Freshmen and guests at the 8 o'clock Mass -- until the Mass starts. After that, late-comers will be asked to remain in the rear, so as not to disturb other worshippers already intent upon the ceremony under way. Hence, be on time.

Last Sunday, some of the Seniors failed in promptness, and so embarrassed their guests. They also embarrassed Our Lord Who wants everyone to be present for an entire Mass as required by our Sunday obligation.

Incidentally, some of the local "Lay Cardinals" had a bad time of it, too, at the 8 o'clock Mass. This is the group that "sees all, knows nothing, tells everybody" where Church legislation is concerned. And so, armed with a modicum of theology, they are accustomed to allow themselves adequate time to miss a 15-minute sermon before they arrive on the scene each Sunday morning. They draw a fine distinction between mortal and venial sin regarding attendance at Sunday Mass. With stop watch accuracy, they arrive just before the Offertory and conclude, albeit erroneously, that they have fulfilled their Sunday obligation. Or if, by some chance, their timing has been faulty and they arrive earlier than planned, the more sporty element leaves promptly at the Communion.

Last Sunday we dispensed with the sermon at the 8 o'clock Mass -- without warning these "Lay Cardinals." The inevitable result: they were thrown off schedule, and didn't arrive until the Consecration, and later. Bewildered! You could have bowled them over with a whispered "Amen!" To think that something like this could happen to them -- after months of casing the place! Even their own "Three-Principal-Parts" theory pointed an accusing finger of deficiency at them. They were a pitiable sight as they limped off into oblivion -- defeated and betrayed by the very bells they had so often ignored. We hope they returned for a later Mass -- an entire Mass.

This Sunday, we hope they -- and you -- arrive in time for the prayers at the foot of the altar. We hope that all remain for the prayers after Mass, too. This is the accepted norm of conduct for every Catholic worthy of the name. This is the extent of the Sunday obligation to hear an entire Mass. Certainly, it should be the minimum expected of every Notre Dame Man.

A word to the wise: it doesn't pay to be niggardly with the Lord. Among the unrefined elements, including the gangster fraternity, there's a word for this sort of practice -- chiseling -- accurate and descriptive, but not very complimentary, and certainly not rewarding.

Novena Services: Tonight at 6:45 in Sacred Heart Church -- Sorrowful Mother Novena.
Sunday at 3 p.m. Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, for Off-Campus men.

Saturday afternoon: Confessions in Sacred Heart Church, 4:30-5:30.

Novena For Exams: Now under way. It's a private Novena wherein you offer your daily Mass, Communion, and Rosary. Start tomorrow.

PRAYERS - Deceased: father of Chuck Henzy of Dillon; grandfather of Bill Werner of Cavanaugh. Ill: grandmother of John Panter of Badin. 2 special intentions.