

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

Vol. XLII, No. 20

Monday, November 5, 1962

Notre Dame, Ind.

LATCH ONTO THE T-BIRD

The subject of frequent Communion may seem as outdated as the Model-T Ford. But the Model-T served its purpose, and if it hadn't been for the Model-T, there probably would never have been a T-Bird.

So in speaking of frequent Communion we're not going back to Model-T spirituality. Understood in terms of the liturgical movement with its attention directed toward the Mass as the source and center of Christian piety -- T-Bird spirituality, if you like, even though the comparison limps -- frequent and daily Communion merely means frequent and daily assistance at Mass since complete participation in the Mass supposes reception of Communion. And this notion is not new. The Council of Trent has this to say:

"The holy synod would desire that at every Mass the faithful who are present should communicate, not only spiritually, by way of internal affection, but sacramentally, by the actual reception of the Eucharist."

In the context of this decree and in the light of more recent liturgical developments, Pope St. Pius X's decree Sacra tridentina synodus on frequent Communion has as much force today as on December 20, 1905, the day it was issued. Here are some quotations from the decree:

"Frequent and daily Communion, as a thing most earnestly desired by Christ our Lord and by the Catholic Church, should be open to all the faithful, of whatever rank and condition of life."

"But since it is plain that by frequent and daily reception of the Holy Eucharist union with Christ is fostered...therefore parish priests, confessors and preachers...are frequently, and with great zeal, to exhort the faithful to this devout and salutary practice."

"Frequent and daily Communion is to be promoted ...in all Christian establishments, of whatever kind, for the training of youth."

Pope St. Pius X also had this to say:

"Holy Communion is the shortest cut to Heaven! There are other ways it is true: innocence, for one; but that is for little children! Penance: but we are afraid of it. Generous endurance of the trials of life, but when trials approach, we cry out and beg to be delivered. Once and for all, beloved children,

the surest, easiest and shortest way to Heaven is the Holy Eucharist. It is so easy to approach the Holy Table and there we taste the joys of Paradise!"

What dispositions are required for this frequent and daily reception of Holy Communion? Pope St. Pius X gives us this answer also:

"For frequent and even daily Communion no other disposition is required except that the person be in the state of grace and that he approach the Holy Table with a good intention"...which consists in this: "that he who approaches the Holy Table should do so, not out of routine or vain-glory, or human respect, but for the purpose of pleasing God, of being more closely united with Him by charity, and of seeking this Divine remedy for his weaknesses and defects."

What's behind these comments on frequent Communion? The observation that frequent and daily assistance at Mass with reception of Holy Communion is not as common today as frequent and daily Communion were in an earlier era at Notre Dame.

Catch up with the times! Many of you never rode in the Model-T and haven't latched onto the T-Bird. In fact, some of you, spiritually, are still in the horse-and-buggy age. And worse, there are some "like an old stone savage armed" stumbling along with "a stone grasped firmly by the top in each hand" -- the weights of their skepticism and concupiscence.

More About...

For those who would like to read more about the advantages of frequent Communion, there is a pamphlet of that title in the Dillon Hall rack. It contains comments by former Notre Dame students on the benefits they derived from frequent Communion.

Thanks and...

After a long drought the blessings of victory have been showered on us. Prayer of petition heard calls for a prayer of thanks. One of the best ways to continue in God's favor is to be grateful. Perhaps we've learned how to accept victory for the honor and glory of God and of Our Lady.

Petition

The drenching the weekenders took in Philadelphia could result in an outbreak of colds and flu. Ask God to spare you and all of us this trial, especially during these final days of mid-semester tests.

The Poor Souls

The Novena begins today. It's not too late to start, at the 5:10 Mass this afternoon. And continue to pray for the suffering souls in Purgatory throughout the month of November.

In Your Charity

Please pray for the following. Deceased: uncle of Stephen Stumpfle of Howard; brother of Father Paul Carrico, C.S.C.; Mother M. Constantine, C.S.C.; friend of Jim Reynolds of Morrissey. Ill: Robert J. Fischer, '14. Three special intentions.