

Religious Bulletin.
March 15, 1923.

Religion in Bulletins.

The following editorial is submitted by a student of Journalism:

The typical Notre Dame student is a case hardened individualist. He does just as he blakk-blank pleases, and no amount of persuasion can turn him from the dynamic, dynamitic tenor of his ways. He hears lectures and sermons either in a state of semi-coma or with an attitude ~~approaching~~ open rebellion. He chafes at conventions, traditions and regulations. He reads editorial only to scoff at them.

The students who are in this attitude surely do not realize that the Prefect of Religion in merely meeting them on their own ground. Their time is well taken up with studies, work and diversions, and everthing and ~~any~~ everybody is clamoring for their attention. The science of advertising, which pays so well, has been applied to every conceivable purpose. More than this, students naturally and forgivably dote on the Juggler and Andy Gump and Barney Google, and in this way have developed an aversion to anything dull and sober, with the possible exceptions of text-books and university regulation.

Consequently, the prefect of Religion, far from following the practice of some Protestant churches in introducing movies and concerts into the churches as a means of inducing attendance, has nevertheless gone part of the way in the use of bulletins. He is meeting students on their own ground. He is carrying this information to them in their gathering places and is telling them what they need to know in the half-smiling, sometimes cryptic, language of innuendos and "wise-cracks".

In this there is much to be admired, and if students will only read the bulletins in the spirit in which they are written, and will only introduce into their reading a little private humility which no one need ever know anything about, they will be sure to profit by their reading.

The trouble may be simply and exactly that very often the whip-lash bulletins out to the quick and that consequently they provoke a very natural and lusty braying.

Editor's note. The date of this editorial (December 18, 1922) explains the pessimistic point of view. It has historic interest. Please allow one correction: The so-called "modern methods" in Religion were used by Our Lord who drove the buyers and sellers out of the temple, and preached wherever He found an audience; and they were imitated with much success by St. Paul, who preached in the Areopagus, and by St. Francis of Assisi, who preached in the streets and market-places of Italy..

Rev. John F. O'Hara, C.S.C.,
Prefect of Religion.