

Religious Bulletin.  
March 24, 1923.

St. Patrick's Day and the Faith.

The daily average number of Communions during Lent was 828 up till and including St. Patrick's Day (which had 799); since then the average is 714.

Answers to Correspondents.

"Bored to a State of Mental Apathy"

"I have seen too much faith put in religion as a cure-all for every human ill."

Our Lord expressed it: "Think you that the Son of Man, when he comes, shall find faith upon the earth?"

Faith is a cure-all. Faith, not superstition. It approaches superstition when one neglects his studies and counts upon prayer and cheating to carry him through examinations. You won't find too much Faith-- we can't have too much of it. -- And in the meantime, look into yourself. Did you ever take a pinch of snuff?

"Holy Anger."

Don't worry about your holy anger. You were in good faith. Keep in mind that the Church lays down the rules for the Mass, and that it is not disrespectful to carry out the rubrics, which prescribes the ablution, or washing of the chalice, immediately after the priest's Communion. The feeling that you are assisting actively in such a great mystery is a good feeling for your thanksgiving.

Ouch!

"Human feeling cannot be quenched; and since we cannot have the companionship of St. Mary's girls we go to dances in South Bend."

Where did you get your philosophy?

You are very close to determinism-- you may be a determinist. It depends on how you understand your first statement. Determinism denies the freedom of the will. It is the philosophy underlying much of the popular fiction of today.

Human desires in the concrete can be quenched, and human passions can be regulated and made to serve useful purposes. Christian asceticism is full of accounts of the quenching and regulation of human desires. The sweet tempered St. Francis de Sales, for instance, was by nature a most irascible person. Sacrifices, self-denial, mortification, regulates the passions.

Your proposal to substitute a dance hall favorite for a St. Mary's girl when the companionship of the latter is not available, shows a pagan conception of the idea of companionship. Read "You and Yours" and seek particular advice on the subject.

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