

Religious Bulletin.
April 21, 1923.

How to Help the K.K.K.

Ignorance isn't the only thing that keeps bigotry alive. The thoughtless conduct of Catholic alienates many people. The following letters are from broad-minded non-Catholics. If you shock them, Think what effect you must have on others!

I

"Do all Catholics believe that God is present on the altar of Catholic churches? If I could believe in it I would be a Catholic; but I see so many Catholics acting contrary to this belief that I wonder.

"I attended the 10:15 Mass at Notre Dame last Sunday and found the church full of students. I heard later that they were there in disobedience to the orders of the Bishop of Fort Wayne, to whom they profess obedience. I saw one gentleman tell two of them to stop talking, and another gentleman requested a student to stop reading a paper

" At the end of Mass, and before Benediction, most of the students left -- noisily. I remained the extra five minutes or so and was wonderfully impressed by the solemnity of the ceremony. The devotion of those who remained partly recompensed me for the shock I received when the others left."

-- An Earnest Protestant.

II

"I am a non-Catholic and have always tried to be fair-minded, but a Protestant friend of mine, who sees less deep-seated goodness in Catholics than I do, is very cynical about the 'cribbing' done by the students here. His explanation of it is that a Catholic student feels that he can crib and then go to confession and have his sin forgiven. I do not believe that, but I am not sure what explanation should be given. Please answer this on the Bulletin. My friend and I both read it every day."

A Catholic who commits a sin in the expectation of confessing it is guilty of a sin against the Holy Ghost -- presumption on God's mercy. This sin leads directly to another -- despair of God's grace. If a Catholic confesses his sin without a firm purpose of amendment, he commits a sacrilege, and the absolution given by the priest who presupposes a purpose of amendment is not ratified in heaven. Any Catholic student who tries to satisfy his conscience on cribbing is deluding himself.

III

(The following letter is reprinted from the Bulletin of March 17. Answers from the students were asked for them. A prayer book will be given for the best answer.)

A Puzzled Protestant.

"My parents are Protestants. I am supposed to be, but since coming to Notre Dame I have been strongly drawn to the Catholic religion. I like the teaching of the Catholic Church. I like the men of Notre Dame. There is one thing, however, that puzzles me. It is this: If the Catholic Church is the one Church of Christ why do so many Catholic boys have so little respect for the name of Jesus Christ? In the year I spent at a State university I did not hear nearly as much abuse of

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the names of God and Jesus Christ as I have heard since coming to Notre Dame. I know that this would scandalize many good Protestants who are not friendly towards the Catholic Church. Please explain.