

Religious Bulletin.

Sept. 24, 1923

Our Lady of Mercy

This is the title of today's feast of the Blessed Virgin.

The Missions.

A Novena for the success of the Missions (campus and off-campus) will begin Saturday, September 29 and end Sunday, October 7. The Missions begin Sunday evening, October 7. If there is full attendance on the first night of the Mission there will be no worry about the other nights. You will have to travel far to hear better missionaries than Father Donahue and Father Finnigan.

Why the Novena?

It was once revealed to a famous preacher that the wonderful conversions he made were due not to the eloquence of his discourse, but to the prayers of a simple lay-brother, his companion, who said the beads on the steps of the pulpit.

Figure It Out for Yourself.

We all know of hard cases that have resisted grace after grace, sermon after sermon, and yet have come around unaccountable in surrender to God. We are all holding back on God; we don't give Him all He wants of us. Fervent prayer before the Mission will thaw out the frozen spots in our hearts.

Anent Hicks.

"The bigger the town the bigger the hick," commented a Minnesota farmer after reading Saturday's bulletin. Quite obviously! "Hickness" is spiritual under-development, lack of understanding of human nature and of God, and provincialism is nowhere more blatant than in the complacent cliff-dweller. A backwoods farmer or an alley-beggar, if he knows the ways of God, is a savant compared with a hick from Oxford or Cambridge who lacks spiritual depth.

The Disadvantage of Environment.

Most of us are too much swayed by environment; that is the disadvantage of the hick town. If you have the courage to rise above environment-- to frequent the Sacraments in spite of the beatific gossip, and to tell your evil companions where they can go-- you are not a hick even though you come from a hick town. No man ever had a more hickish environment than young Abraham Lincoln -- but Abraham Lincoln was not a hick.

Overcoming Environment.

Daily Communion develops the courage of Christ in your breast, and the daily reading of a little book like "The Following of Christ" gives you spiritual weight. You don't have to be a hick.

Rev. John F. O'Hara, C.S.C.