

April 1, 1924.

Correspondence.

"Reverend Father O'Hara:

I was just about to fill out the questionnaire of the Religious Survey and I find myself at a loss trying to answer many of the questions.

I have not been to confession for nearly three years and I feel that there is no hope for me. I feel like the worst sinner on God's earth, and yet I have committed only those sins that the average man commits. I have neglected my Easter duty twice and I feel as though this is unpardonable and the thought of not receiving absolution is the one reason why I do not go to confession. I would like to become a frequent Communicant, its wonderful -- but I can't get enough courage to go to confession and take the chance of not receiving absolution. Can you advise something that will help me gather enough courage to go to confession?

Please answer in your Religious Bulletin.

T."

~~Do you not remember that Our Lord said that there is more joy in heaven upon one sinner doing penance than for ninety-nine just? The greatest joy that comes into a priest's life is the giving of absolution to a prodigal son. It is the ambition of every priest to go through life without ever once refusing absolution: he must refuse absolution if he feels that the penitent is not sorry for his sins and determined to do better, and he will refuse it only after he has exhausted all the means at his command to induce the sinner to repent. There isn't a priest in the world who would refuse you absolution with the disposition you show. Don't go to bed tonight without going to confession.~~

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