

Religious Bulletin.

April 14, 1924.

In Retrospect.

The number of Holy Communion from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday was 35,865, the daily average, 896. Since September 156,358, a daily average of 798. For the first semester it was 800 a day. The increase of 96 during Lent was more than offset by the distractions of February. Look out for May.

Prayers.

Francis Bolger will have an operation for mastoiditis at 9:00 this morning. Gerald Reidy's father died yesterday. Five other requests have come for prayers for deceased relatives and friends, and seven for persons sick or injured.

From the Survey.

I.

"I fear that I have no true sorrow for my sins. I try to convince myself that I am sorry by repeating it over and over again, but it has no effect. I think that the reason lies in the fact that I cannot visualize how my sins will hurt God. When I am told that every time I commit a mortal sin I drive the nails deeper into the Sacred Hands and Feet -- well, I cannot visualize such a thing. In what more natural way would such a violation of God's Commandments affect him?

You need to ask guidance outside of Confession. You need to follow a course of spiritual development that can only be suggested here. You have started too high in the scale. Visualize hell. Read the pamphlet, "The Dark Beyond." Supplement this with "Neglect of Divine Calls and Warnings," by Cardinal Newman. Then study the Passion and the sins of ingratitude. For this read Newman's "The Mental sufferings of Our Lord" and a pamphlet "The Holy Hour." (Both selections from Newman mentioned above are in his volume, "Discourses to Mixed Congregations." Read Papini's Life of Christ. Better still, call around for a long list of readings.

II.

"I was shocked when I came here to see the boys so irreverent towards the priests. I have always considered priests next to God in holiness, and I still do; but sometimes the fellows make me doubt this, although I realize that their irreverence is really only on the surface."

In an attempt to train stalwart Catholic leaders for Church and country, the priests at Notre Dame enter rather closely into the life of the students, thus surrendering much of the intimacy of their own spiritual lives. Students who have poor home training and those who are naturally bores are apt to misunderstand this attitude and forget the character of "another Christ" with which the priest is signed at ordination. The system has produced wonderful results and will not be abandoned even though some, like those who communicate unworthily, "eat and drink destruction to themselves."

III.

"Why not start a campaign to build stronger character at Notre Dame. Who wants to go to a heaven where the angels have no spinal columns. We have lots of good boys here -- but not so many of them are not good for anything."

Suggestions are in order. Some two hundred books on character building have gone through the rack this year, several priests spend most of their free time on character direction, many character talks have been given, and the Bulletin devotes more time to that than to razzing the Engineers. Suggest something new.