

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.

Sept. 26, 1924.

The Students' Mission.

At Notre Dame we clean house twice a year - just as they do at home. In the fall we do it swiftly: it's all over in a week. In the spring it takes forty days: we have to shovel out all the dirt tracked in during the winter, and scrub and scour to be fit for Easter.

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We start our fall housecleaning next Sunday evening at 7:30 in Sacred Heart Church. We start on the upperclassmen. We need a week's practice before taking on the freshmen. No one is excused from this spiritual examination any more than from the physical examination - and with much more reason, for if "the body is more than the raiment", is not the soul much more than the body?

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Students living off-campus will find it hard to come to the campus every morning for Mass and Communion at 6:30 and again for the sermon and Benediction at 7:30 every evening. Sure, it's hard; but if a five-dollar bill were offered to every student for reporting on the campus at 6:30 every morning there would be few absent; and there would be those who would walk out at 5:30 for less money than that.

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Of course it will be hard, but a wise capitalist would never risk much capital on a weakling who couldn't do it. And it's certainly not half so hard as the ordeal some students had to face last year when they suffered moral collapse as a direct result of their failure to make the mission.

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The Religious Survey shows clearly that it is difficult for a student to admit that he has a weak character. This is a universal trait of human nature. We may brag about certain weaknesses, glorifying vice as manly, but we don't brag about weakness of character. Yet we have a weak character if we fail in a test.

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God has graces for you, great graces, which He wants to give you during the mission. The more sacrifice it costs you, the more your character will profit. Daily Communion during the Mission is the chief channel of these favors. Off-Campus students may receive Holy Communion after the morning instruction, if they come too late for Mass: a priest will remain in the church until 8:15 every morning, and in the Sorin Hall Chapel from 8:15 till noon.

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Be a good Samaritan: bring a friend along.

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