

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.  
Jan. 15, 1925.

Church Unity and Examinations.

The novena for Church Unity---called also the Church Unity Octave---is now almost world-wide. The bishops of America have approved it. The Pope himself will say Mass next Sunday for this intention. Even many non-Catholic denominations now participate in it. Each year sees the good results from such whole-hearted and universal union in prayer. Begin on Friday to end on the 25th. Thus the Novena for examinations, which begins next Monday, will merge with the Church Unity Octave and be an added stimulus to your prayers.

"And Other Sheep I Have"

Two intentions are especially recommended for the Church Unity Octave. The one is the grace of faith---or at least a better understanding---for those who are earnestly seeking the truth. That charity, which St. Paul says "embraceth all" should prompt us to remember "them that sit in darkness." Christ lovingly speaks of them as "other sheep" He, the True Shepherd, cannot be satisfied until all are brought ainto the fold. The second intention is an increase of vocations that fervent laborers may be made ready to go into the field "white unto the harvest."

"Bearers of Good Tidings"

Too often we pray and let it rest at that. Holy Scripture tells us, "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those bearing good tidings". Though this refers specifically to the preachers of the gospel, each one can apply it to himself. In your letters, especially to non-Catholics, or in your conversation mention and explain the Church Unity Octave, that you are joining in prayer for the peace of union in Christ. You may know some particular difficulty that a relative or friend has in understanding the Church and her teachings. Enclose a pamphlet which sheds light upon it. Doing these things is not parading your piety nor being a bigot but simply endeavoring to have others participate in your happiness. What we love we long to share with others if we are truly generous. If your friend takes offence---why that is something else again---and a good reason for reflection.

At the Altar Rail.

When you receive Holy Communion outside of Mass try to remember these points: Be at the altar rail when the priest turns to give the absolution (blessing); after you receive Holy Communion, if there are no others waiting to occupy your place, wait until the priest has closed the tabernacle and given the blessing before returning to your place.

Bring Him Along.

Has your chum or roommate grown lazy in the service of God? Some one is asleep at the watch-tower. Vacation memories, the break in building up a habit, the wait-till-tomorrows, or something is keeping the average down. Why wait for the novena to start again? Each day some grace awaits you. If you neglect it, it may not be offered you again.

Prayers.

James Maher of Walsh Hall requests prayers for the repose of the soul of his father who died during the holidays. Tom Goss requests prayers for the repose of the soul of his mother who died during the holidays.

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