

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.

March 20, 1925.

Shanty Irish.

The calendar of Communions for Lent is as follows:

			1130	1065	1058	1102		
1218	1067	1093	1103	1121	1224	1004	Total,	24,840
1228	1016	1084	1054	1045	1028	1053		
1139	957	939	972	1135			Average,	1,080

One cannot help noticing that the low spot in Lent is St. Patrick's Day. It might be passed by if it were the first time it ever happened. It is the sixth time it has happened in six years, and beyond six years there are no statistics. All sorts of variations have been tried, and the result has always been the same: the Irish are outnumbered in the basement chapel that morning three to one by the Germans, Hungarians, Poles, Mexicans, Chinese, French, Belgians, Italians, Lithuanians, Syrians, Greeks, Bohemians, Slovaks, and what-not.

In Ireland the saloons are closed on St. Patrick's Day, and as a matter of national pride the Irish remain sober. It's too bad some of our Irish didn't remain at home until they learned some manners: and this holds for the shanty Irishman of the irreligious bulletin who called to his mates to get drunk on St. Patrick's Day.

Don't fail to notice that it took three days this year to desecrate the feast of the Land of Saints and Scholars.

From the Survey.

I.

"A fellow gets no good out of services if he is compelled to attend them when he doesn't want to."

If he doesn't he is an ass. If he doesn't want to submit to the mild form of compulsion that exists at Notre Dame, what is he doing here? The Church compels him under pain of hell-fire to attend Mass on Sundays, and he is certainly a fool to exclude himself from the spiritual benefits of the Mass simply because he is compelled to go. The State compels him to pay taxes; should he refuse police protection simply because he is compelled to pay taxes? Don't say he does it willingly: he makes it a point to get out of every cent of taxation that he can. Shake yourself: you are here because you like the product of Notre Dame education. Why not make the most of it?

II.

"I know that I'm doing wrong by staying away from the sacraments, and many things I do are wrong and prevent me from doing my duty to God; still I lack either the spirit or the desire to help myself. I will endeavour to place myself on a firm foundation by frequent Communion." You wouldn't like to have anyone say that you haven't guts, yet you have to admit it to yourself. The best way to cure that condition is to go as far in the other extreme as you have in this. Better than confession for you would be a good talk outside of confession. You are cordially invited to call.

III.

"I have had a tough time of it with impure temptations. At first I rid myself almost completely of them, but after two or three months they returned. Holy Communion has at least kept me fighting and hoping, and my mind is free from unclean thoughts most of the time now, while before the thoughts were almost continual."

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Prefect of Religion.