

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.

March 24, 1925.

Feast of the Annunciation.

In Holy Communion tomorrow ask the Blessed Virgin to obtain for you the dispositions with which she welcomed "The Word made Flesh".

Survey Cases.

I.

"I think a vacation from religion for about two months would do me good...." It looks like liver complaint. Sulphur and molasses with lots of fresh air will put new life into you.)

II.

"I don't know what is meant by question 4." You have answered it very well. Lots of people can't give a good reason. Including it in the questionnaire makes a fellow ask himself the question ---perhaps for the first time in his life.

III.

"I can't see the sense of this survey, although I have done my best to answer all the questions. Is the motive curiosity or something deeper? You have answered the questions very well, and thereby have gained the benefit that always comes of a good examination of conscience. You have given the Prefect of Religion an opportunity to make the following suggestions for your spiritual improvement:

1. Overcome sensitiveness;
2. Increase daily mortifications with the permission of your confessor;
3. Use reason on your rebelliousness and make it pugnacity;
4. Make up your mind to become a live-wire saint; you have the makings, including temptations and weaknesses to draw out a fighting spirit. Read "Great Penitents" to find out how.

If you want to see the further benefits of the survey, call on the Registrar for a copy of the latest Survey Report, and compare yourself with the Notre Dame men of two years ago.

IV.

"I believe that the worst influence on my life is the practice of many fellows who lead a rotten life and yet are frequent communicants. I asked a Notre Dame priest about this one time and he said that all that was necessary to receive Communion was the state of grace and an intention to do better. Now if a man knows---as they do---that he will do the same things again on any opportunity, how can he be fit?"

The state of grace and a right intention are required. If a person has an intention to sin again or to go again into what he knows to be the proximate occasion of sin, he cannot receive valid absolution. Weakness is one thing, malice is quite another. If you feel sure that the cases you have in mind are of malice, you should speak to the individuals about it. Your own respect for the Blessed Sacrament demands this. You would certainly stop a Kluxer who would attempt material desecration of the Blessed Sacrament: how then can you let a Catholic get away with formal sacrilege? A priest will always presume weakness unless malice is evident. This prescription yields to evidence. You suggest hypocrisy, an attempt to "get a drag", as the motive of some of the friends of yours. That is a dangerous accusation and should not be made without full proof. A man would be the greatest fool in the world to attempt anything of the kind. They can daily communicants here right along, and let fellows stay who haven't been to the Sacraments in three, four, and five years---fellows registered as Catholics.

V.

"I have no illusions concerning Notre Dame men." - Then you should not have checked prudent. You have not made a prudent choice of companions; and your imprudence may cost you the proper fruits of a Catholic education. Look around again.

PRAYERS: Harry Ambrose asks prayers for the repose of the soul of his father, who died Sunday night.