

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.

May 19, 1925.

Hand in the Names.

The names handed in for the Pentecost Novena will be placed on the altar during the nine days. This Novena is especially for the spread of the faith. Pray not only for non-Catholics, but especially for Catholics who are falling away. There is a great wave of apostasy at the present time, when real Catholics are becoming more fervent than ever; and we want to ask God to save those who are falling away--particularly at Notre Dame.

Survey Problems.

I.

"With Holy Communion last year I got rid of an evil habit. This year the habit is coming back again, I think; I have fallen three times this year, and I have evil thoughts all the time. What shall I do to get rid of them? Please answer on the Bulletin. Thanks."

There are so many possibilities in the way of causes that you should really come over for an interview. You say that you are lazy and soft, and are not consistent in daily mortifications. These are possible causes. A vacant mind invites the devil in. You talk and play three times as much as you study. That too is bad. On reading you seem to be all right. How are you on humility? Do you take a trimsin in good style? How are you on charity? Do you find yourself judging others kindly, helping them in lots of little ways? Do you find yourself overconfident? Over confidence, pride and uncharitableness are frequently punished by impure temptations.

Again, the temptations may be largely physical in their origin, due to a lack of a proper amount of proper physical exercise. Tone up your system if it is run down.

Finally, God never tries you beyond your power; and when he permits these temptations to afflict you, it may be because he has something special in store for you in the way of a vocation for which you will need a strong character. The will grows strong under opposition, and a man with fight will fight on till a half-hour after death. If this is the case, find consolation in the little pamphlet of St. Alphonsis, "Visits to the Blessed Sacrament and the Blessed Virgin," which is most comforting in every kind of affliction.

II.

"Many, yes, very many boys and girls do not think that hugging and kissing are wrong, so long as they do not give way to evil passions that may be aroused. Please advise."

What we call passion, or impure pleasure, is implanted in human beings by God for one sole purpose, the continuation of the human race. It is a lawful means to a lawful end, when that end is possible; but if it is desired or taken or permitted as an end in itself then God's plan is frustrated. If it were not permitted under pain of mortal sin, people would seek it for itself alone, and God would not be served.

III.

"The two Notre Dame men in my home parish are anything but model Catholics." Here's the pity; they took up good space while they were here.

IV.

"This survey does a fellow good before you ever receive it. After answering these questions and looking them over I feel as if I had prepared for a general confession."

V.

"You can't thrash matters out with a priest in broad daylight." A chorus arises to protest against your bad judgment.

Prayers: John Congdon's mother died Saturday evening Art Bidwell's brother Sunday evening; a student asks prayers for a friend who died last week.

John F. D'Hara
Prefect of Religion.