

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.

May 21, 1925.

Take the Statue Down from the Dome.

Some years ago a group of young men conceived the idea of entering the field of humorous journalism with a spiritual conception of the function of humor. Recalling the beautiful French legend of the simple juggler who entered the great cathedral of Notre Dame to do his tricks in honor of the Queen of Heaven, these young men represented to the authorities of America's Notre Dame that this beautiful service could be duplicated by the establishment at this University of a monthly magazine dedicated to clean college fun. This idea was looked upon as a happy inspiration, and as quite in conformity with the University's tradition of emphasizing strong Catholic ideals as the best counteragent to the pagan ideals so prevalent in education today, and the plan was approved.

The tricks of the juggler of Notre Dame were decent, were such as could be performed in church. The fun of the Juggler should be such as would not offend the eyes or ears of the Blessed Virgin. There are people at Notre Dame who are so sold on the idea of honoring the Mother of God that they have invested in it, not a few shillings, not thirty pieces of silver, but the 1st drop of their blood. And when they so love the Mother of God and their Mother, they grow hotly resentful when the review of an obscene play or a picture taken from the advertisements of a burlesque show is foisted off as fun in honor of the purest of Virgins. Their indignation recalls another scene in the cathedral of Notre Dame when during the Reign of Terror the Blessed Virgin was dethroned.

A Pedestal without a statue is useless to the point of tragedy. Father Gorin built Notre Dame as a pedestal to the golden statue on the dome. Take the statue down from the dome and this pile of buildings must be razed to the ground. If we leave the statue there it must be to venerate, not to affront, it.

The Juggler has furnished lots of clean fun, and for this it has had public praise. But two weeks ago the strongest supporter Notre Dame has among the Catholic papers, the Pittsburgh Observer, hung its head in shame for the pagan ideals that had invaded it. The Juggler has at one time or another received many private recriminations; but out of consideration for the feelings of those responsible for it, public condemnation has been sparing. The silence of the Bulletin has been mistake for approval. Let us hope that the air is now cleared.

The Novena to the Holy Ghost.

If we ever needed a Novena to the Holy Ghost we need it now; we need the gifts of fortitude of counsel, of knowledge, of wisdom, of understanding, of piety, of fear of the Lord. We make the Novena for the spread of the Faith; and at the same time we pray lest while we preach to others we ourselves become castaways. There are among us those who boast that they have left the Church; there are others who leave it less pompously. When you hand in names for the altar during these nine days, you need not mention the local Julians; God knows who they are.

Time and again you have been told not to be surprised that the devil is active at Notre Dame. There is everything to induce him to be active here. When God's work thrives he gets no rest.

There are those who read him for his style. God grant them arousing ignorance, lest they learn all about his style in eternity.

Bundle Day.

The Near-East Relief will gather old clothes today. To clothe the naked is a corporal work of mercy.

Prayers.

Prayers are requested for three special intentions.

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