

What Will You Do For Jim Powers?

The Novena for Jim Powers started this morning. It is a test of Notre Dame spirit. You are asked to offer Holy Communion and say a decade of the beads (at least) for him today and during the next eight days -- no matter what the weather, no matter what the distractions of homecoming, dances, visitors from home, -- no matter what one of your men -- one of the grittiest Notre Dame men you ever saw -- is lying rigid in a cast, without a chance to move a muscle, and will lie that way, not for hours, not for days, but for months. That's if he lives. Can you make a novena for him? One-hundredth part of the nerve he is showing will carry you through the nine days with banners flying.

And that is not enough. The best prayer is the prayer of sacrifice, of discomfort, mental and physical. You try lying perfectly rigid for one hour, just to see what it means; then try to imagine an indefinite prolongation of that punishment. See if you can smile and say "Fine" the way Jim does. He hasn't whimpered yet. If you really give a little thought to it you will be willing to do a lot for his recovery, and for the patience he will have to have to bear his cross. The other boys in the hospital are all offering up their suffering for his relief. Here are some of the things you can do:

1. Quit crabbing, no matter what happens.
2. Keep your tongue absolutely free from unclean speech.
3. Cut out liquor, particularly for the next month.
4. Cut out dancing, particularly in vulgar places.
5. Deny yourself an occasional smoke, or desert, candy and the like.
6. Rise early every morning and go to Mass as well as Communion.

Whatever you decide to do, make it a particular point to pledge yourself to do all in your power to make Homecoming an event worthy of "The City of the Blessed Sacrament", as Our Lady's University is called in the current issue of the Sentinel of the Blessed Sacrament.

What Jim is Doing.

"Gosh, I wish I had some way of telling the fellows how much I appreciate their prayers," was his remark when he heard of the large numbers at Holy Communion and Benediction. Then it was suggested that he offer up each day's intolerable suffering for the conversion of one Notre Dame student -- a different one each day -- of some poor fellow who has not been to the Sacraments and will not go, of some drifter who is not doing for Jim what a Notre Dame man should do for a fellow-student. "I certainly will; I'll be tickled to death to do it," was his reply. -- That's what Jim is doing. It is his contribution to Notre Dame's Eucharistic Year. He has a big job ahead. Seven hundred students failed to offer Holy Communion for him last Friday morning. Let's hope it will not take 700 days of suffering to bring them all around.

What the Team is Doing.

The Football team made up a spiritual bouquet for Jim when they got back from Penn State. It listed 143 Communions, 45 Masses heard, 6 Rosaries, 16 Visits to the Blessed Sacrament, 26 Visits to the Grotto, and 20 special prayers. He received it just before noon Sunday, and his smile grew bigger than ever. And it did him no harm to hear that 1249 Communions were offered for him Sunday by the students.

THE METROPOLITAN CLUB will introduce a worthy innovation tomorrow morning, a general Communion in the church at 6:30, followed by a Communion breakfast.