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We Will Have To Pray Harder!

Lips so parched with fever that he can hardly smile any more, bed-sores as big as your hand and filled with water, dull pains through the body and sharp pains in the head, and a spirit as patient and cheerful as ever -- that is the present condition of Jimmie Powers, as plucky a Notre Dame man as ever was. If it be God's will that he die, we want to pray that his death will be happy; but if he can live, we want him to get well and be one of us again. Such men are scarce; and while Notre Dame is fortunate to have had him for the few months he has been with us, she wants her good men to live for the good they can do. Mortify yourself; deny yourself food and drink, jazz and movies, comfort and pleasure. Do for him what you want others to do for you when you need the help of your friends. The prayer of sacrifice is the prayer that counts.

The Slackers.

Thirteen hundred Communions a day seems wonderful, but when one thousand more students could receive for Jimmie Powers and do not, there is something radically wrong. It may help some of these men to handle their difficulties:

1. Fear of confession. If you can tell any priest here something he has never heard before, he will be glad to say a Mass for you. And if fear is the only thing that is holding you back, you should let prevail the fear of appearing before God after the refusing Jimmie Powers his mute plea for help.
2. Purpose of amendment. Many a student is kept away from confession by the fear that he will sin again. If he intends to sin again, he cannot be absolved; but if his will is determined not to sin again, while his judgment tells him that he may sin, his purpose of amendment is valid if he determines to give up any occasion of sin that he may foresee.
3. Inconvenience. Any student who can not find a convenient time for Holy Communion can make an appointment with the Prefect of Religion to receive at any time of day or night. During the past year Holy Communion has been distributed in the Sorin chapel at almost every hour from 12:10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
4. Habits of sin. Habits of sin are best overcome by the use of the Sacraments. On the purpose of amendment necessary, see No. 2 above.
5. Sloth. The spiritual numbness that can resist the plea of Jimmie Powers is the most dangerous kind. It will land its slave in hell if there is not a quick recovery from it.
6. Evil Intentions. It is true, of course, that any student who intends to make the Homecoming and Northwestern games an occasion of sin would commit a sacrilege if he were to receive Holy Communion or go to confession without revoking that intention and confessing it. But any student with such an intention should bear in mind that we have had two sudden deaths this year, and that a third student is hovering between life and death. Life is uncertain; and when death comes you want it to find you in the state of grace and in your right senses.
7. Lack of faith. If it takes a catastrophe like the present one to uncover lack of faith, thank God for it and get down on your knees to pray for its full restoration. The philosophy of Mencken and Darrow is very fine while you live, but it's hell when you come to die. It could never produce the spirit that Jesus is showing in his affliction; it has never produced any positive good.

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Three more intentions have been handed in for your prayers; and don't forget the soldiers today. Many a good Notre Dame man was lost in the war.