

Hell, Free Will and a Boze.

"Dear Father: I have a boze on the string who says that he doesn't believe in hell. says man's will is not free, and goes to the Sacraments regularly. What shall I do about it. -- B.X."

First of all, tell him to stay away from the Sacraments until he becomes a Catholic and if he will not do it, in form the priest distributing Holy Communion so that he can pass him by. Our Lord said, "Cast not pearls before swine," and Holy Communion is not for apostate Catholics until they become reconciled to the Church.

If you want to give him a practical demonstration of free will, hit him hard, knock him down, jump on him and pummel the life out of him. Then when you have him properly manhandled, apologize and say, "Sorry, old top, but I couldn't help it; you see, my will is not free." If he sues you, get Clarence Darrow to defend you, and when he asks for his fee give him the same message you gave your ~~first~~ victim.

So far as the existence of hell is concerned, you can tell him that Christ was very definite about it, and Christ's view of hell and of the determination of people to go there were so vivid on the night before the crucifixion, that He sweat blood. And if he has a mind and wants to use it, you can tell him that if hell were not real and eternal, the sinner could shake his fist at God and defy Him with his last breath, and say: "I don't care what You do, You can punish me all You like, You can burn and torture and break, but You can not punish me eternally. Some day I will be just as happy with You as those who have worked all their lives for heaven."

Tell him finally, if he still holds out, that he plainly does not belong at Notre Dame. You have been told a few times lately that the purpose of Notre Dame is to teach a man how to die. Your boze evidently does not want to know.

It's Going to be a Hard Winter.

A statement from the bank yesterday reminds us of this cold fact. Expenditures to date for the pamphlet rack amount to \$2112.24, while receipts are \$1465.64. The deficit is \$646.60. Bankruptcy is a normal condition for the Prefect of Religion, but it never got this bad before. This does not mean that there is not some stock on hand, but it will go as the rest has gone.

This year started with a balance of \$170.29, and contributions from outside sources have totaled some two hundred dollars. A month before the close of the last school year there was a deficit of \$200.00. This was cleared up and the balance established for the beginning of this school year.

We have paid so much attention to Father Brooks that we have neglected home needs. Don't forget the rack before you leave Christmas. It is doing a lot of good, and you want to get in on it.

Who Will Frame the Pictures?

Two colossal photographs arrived yesterday from Rome, the Last Judgment and the decorations of Michael Angelo in the Sistine Chapel. They are for the benefit of students who have read "Neglect of Divine Calls and Warnings." It will cost some thirty dollars to frame them for exhibition: one is four by six feet and the other two and a half by six. Contributions are solicited.

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Andrew Boyle's mother and for a special intention.