

3.

Religious Bulletin
January 7, 1926.

The Day-Dodger Campaign.

On Thursday, December 17, two hundred and fifty off-campus students came to the campus to receive Holy Communion -- in Sorin Hall or the basement chapel. On the following day a like number, but more than half of them different representatives than on the previous day, received in the same chapels. Some five hundred different off-campus students received Holy Communion during the last week of school.

This was an excellent showing. Add to it the fact that there were approximately 150 off-campus students at Holy Communion every day during the Novena for Christmas. Nothing like it ever happened before in the history of day-dodging at Notre Dame.

But there is another side to the picture. Two hundred and fifty off-campus students were not at Holy Communion during those nine days; many of them made no effort to receive the Sacraments before going home; quite a few of them have not received the Sacraments since they came here last fall; quite a few others have not been seen at the Communion Rail since the Mission.

Why should this be? What on earth can a Catholic see in Notre Dame outside of religion? Athletics? It is sound morals and undying spiritual strength that makes our teams -- makes them beat teams that they haven't any business to beat when you measure them man for man physically; and most of our athletes are very frequent communicants. Scholastic standing? All that Notre Dame has to offer over and above other schools in that is the religious sacrifice that goes into the teaching to give it punch.

Is it the gang? God knows we have good men at Notre Dame, wonderful pals, but what makes them good? Only the grace of God; it is daily Communion with God that puts a man's communion with his fellow-man on the highest possible level.

Is it South Bend? You can answer that for yourself, keeping in mind that you can get synthetic gin in any college town.

During the vacation period the Prefect of Religion has been editing the Religious Survey of last year. Time and again he has found in the questionnaires of off-campus students the impression that they are not a part of Notre Dame, that they are not getting all that is coming to them.

If they are not, in most cases it is their own fault. Off-campus students are very ably represented in every student activity on the campus, and a daily increasing number find it possible to come to the campus every morning for Holy Communion. It can be done -- not without sacrifice, of course, but the greater the effort the greater the reward.

An old addressograph was brought into service this fall to call the attention of off-campus students to their spiritual opportunities at Notre Dame. It did noble work before it broke down. A new one is needed, and two hundred and fifty-four students have put up ten cents apiece for a new one. When the rest check in it can be installed.

Notre Dame belongs to every student here -- if he wants it to. If he is passing up any of his opportunities for development, he will be crippled to just that extent in later life, he will be just that much less a Notre Dame man.

The Sorin Hall chapel is open all day to make Notre Dame men of day-dodgers.

J.F.O'H.