

Ask a Priest.

A few years ago the following paragraph appeared on the Bulletin:

"It's funny how some people will take a priest's word for anything in astronomy, calculus, advertising, money and banking, zoology, -- anything, in fact, except Religion, his only real specialty."

This funny fact got under the skin of a senior who had been drifting away from the Church for two years. He came around and laid open his problem. Two solutions were offered, the only solutions possible under the Law of God. One of them was comparatively easy, the other demanded a lifelong sacrifice. He was advised to commend the matter to God in a Novena. At the end of the nine days he reached his decision. He chose the course that demanded most sacrifice, and did it out of love of God; and be it said in passing, few students of this University have ever offered God a bigger sacrifice.

He communicated with the interested parties, and settled down to a peace of heart he had not known in years. For three months, not a line came in answer to his letter. At last it came -- a release from any obligation. God had accepted his offering, and had moved the hearts of those to whom it was made to release him.

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During those two years he had stayed away from his religious duties because of false notions that festered in his mind and not only made him unhappy, but almost cut him off from God. And if he were the only young man so afflicted, this Bulletin would not be written. Few people are without spiritual difficulties of one kind or another. No physician heals himself in serious cases. An infection that is kept from the doctor grows until it vitiates the whole system; exposed, it yields to medical skill.

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The priest is your spiritual doctor. He can help you outside of confession as well as in the Sacrament of Penance. "My difficulty can't be talked over with a priest in broad daylight," wrote a student on last year's questionnaire. Perhaps it remains a difficulty because it has not been discussed in broad daylight. Any priest will be glad to help you; and no self-revelation you make in the process of seeking advice can be used against you. You are accustomed to think of disciplinarians as policemen. That is a mistake. Their sacred functions come first, and discipline is out of the question if you come seeking help. Get spiritual advice if you need it, and get it from any source that inspires your confidence.

A Knockout.

Coventry Patmore has given us the following gem on temptation:

"The way to conquer the flesh is to repeat incessantly to it that its present felicity will be incredibly and immediately increased if it submit to spiritual authority."

Try it out and let us know the result on your questionnaire in the next Survey.

Prayers.

Three special intentions, three sick relatives or friends and one deceased person are recommended to your prayers. You are also asked to thank God for two answers to the prayers of the Church Unity Octave--two instructions begun. -- Tom Osborne was called home this morning by the death of his father, and Karl Kubitschek by the grave illness of his mother.