

Thanksgiving Tomorrow.

A Communion of Thanksgiving is requested tomorrow as a token of gratitude for the best Missions we ever had at Notre Dame. This is a year of thanksgiving, and the most noteworthy present title to our gratitude is the astonishing success of the Missions.

Statistics of Holy Communions this year show some gratifying improvements. The number of Holy Communions yesterday was 1873, an increase of 256 over the corresponding day last year, which was the high point of 1925-26. Last Sunday the number was 1388, an increase of 343 over the same Sunday last year. The total for the 19 days of school thus far is 19,854; the First Friday of October last year was the twenty-fifth day from registration, and the total for the 25 days was 19,811.

What are the causes? God knows. He gives the grace that brings fruit in the soul. Actual registration is not much larger than last year; the number of students on the campus is nearly 400 more. The attendance at the Mission for upperclassmen was numerically larger last year, as it included the entire sophomore class, yet the number of Communions was noticeably smaller.

It is a good start for a good year, and we want to let nothing mar it. If we fulfill our duty of thanking God for the abundance of grace He has given, we will be kept in the thought of what it means to Notre Dame and to us individually. Let us have a worthy attendance at Holy Communion tomorrow at all the Masses.

The Guardian Angels for the Team.

Today is the feast of the Guardian Angels. The Novena for the football team which ended this morning was addressed to them; the men will wear the Guardian Angel medal for protection this afternoon. Pray with them and for them.

A Proposition.

No priest ever wearies of his divinely appointed work of reconciling sinners to God; Christ came "to call not the just, but sinners to repentance." "There is more joy in heaven over one sinner doing penance than for ninety-nine just;" and the priest finds more joy in giving the kiss of peace to a prodigal son than he does in seeing the ordination of a young man he has raised in the way of God. Nevertheless--

Spiritual development has reached a point at Notre Dame where more time needs to be spent on the positive side -- the upbuilding of strong Christian character. Years of devotion to the Blessed Sacrament have given us hundreds of young men who are capable of great things in the spiritual life if they can be properly directed in their search for more abundant life. We need a campaign, for instance, for more preparation and thanksgiving in the reception of Holy Communion -- the attendance at Mass every time you receive; we need much more sacrifice, much more spiritual reading, an abundance of meditation. We need a systematic attempt to develop virtue.

The Prefect of Religion is responsible before God for the 600 or so who did not receive the Sacraments during the Mission. If he is to go after them all personally, pursue them to their lairs, it will take all year and will leave no time for anything positive in the spiritual life. If, on the other hand, you pray for them and bring them around for confession, for the surgical operation and the balm that will heal his soul, you will get all the positive religion you can absorb. There's your proposition.

Prayers.

Vincent Carney continues in about the same bad condition; Leo Scanlon has been quite sick at home since Monday.