

Religious Bulletin
October 15, 1923

Frozen Assets.

Frozen assets are the outstanding accounts of a business man that form a part of his wealth but cannot be converted quickly into cash. They are worth about so much on the dollar in a crisis, the so much varying between zero and thirty cents; outside of critical times they represent one hundred cents on the dollar when a man is computing his wealth for purposes of matrimony; they represent zero when he is computing it for alimony. If given time, they will pay out -- maybe. A heavy load of frozen assets generally call for a receivership.

Notre Dame is dragging a heavy spiritual load of frozen assets this year. You were told at the end of the Mission that six hundred students had failed to receive the Sacraments during that season of thawing out; and there has been little liquidation since that time. This means that there are, scattered about the campus and the village, plenty of what you might call potential Catholics -- baptized but unregenerate.

Now it is a rule of physics that an iceberg can be converted into steam if enough heat is applied. But it is a rule of the same exact science of the engineers that steam may be turned into ice by an iceberg. The rule works both ways. There is some possibility of thawing out the icebergs -- it has been done in the past; but there is at the same time a danger in carrying so many of them at one time, danger of congealing the fervor generated in responsive souls by the Mission.

At about this time last year you were warned not to await God's call to action, which is terrible. Many waited -- and God's call came, swift and sure. In four weeks four boys were called before the Judgment Seat of God, all of them ready and willing, none of them with much warning. A sophomore, a junior, a freshman, a senior. Icebergs thawed, many of them. God called again in January. Many more icebergs thawed.

We pray God that we will not have to go through this frightful ordeal again, that we will listen to conscience and reason and counsel and not remain hardened until Death strikes again. The anniversaries of these deaths are near.

Pray for the delinquents; cajole them; persecute them; entreat them; drive them to the confessional. Take them to the Polish Church if their little faith and their great human respect makes them timid; take them anywhere, but bring them to the feet of God's anointed priest who alone can say "Ego te absolvo" and have the sentence ratified in heaven. They are afraid to go to confession -- that's the sum and substance of the difficulty with nine-tenths of them. Pray for the grace for them to overcome their cowardice, and help them to lead again the lives they want to lead.

Prayers - The Mass Tomorrow.

Jos. Barnett and Jos. Cullen ask prayers for relatives who died yesterday; a person who is ill begs your prayers; two special intentions are recommended. And don't forget to pray for Joe Boland and Freddie Collins. Freddie had expected to return today, but the X-ray wouldn't let him. Vincent Carney is much improved, but he can still use a lot of your prayers. -- The 6:20 Mass in the church tomorrow (for Brownson, Carroll, Morrissey and Lyons Halls) will be a Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Mrs. Wozniak, by request of the Law Club.

Treat the Team Better Tomorrow.

It's a shame to lay down on the team as you did last week; go to church for them tomorrow.