

Religious Bulletin
October 26, 1926

Prayers.

Gerald McDermott, of the class of 1926, asks prayers for his mother, who is convalescent after a serious attack of illness. Edw. Carroll, of Morrissey Hall, writes that his mother and brother are ill. A relative of Robert Cooney died a few days ago. Five special intentions are recommended. John McMahon reports the death of three persons - two relatives and a friend.

Don't Stay Down.

An interesting thing is about to happen. Quite a number of students who began daily Communion with the Mission, missed for the first time as a result of the student trip. Having missed the first time, they will not find it so easy to get going again, and for some of them it will take months to get back. And a curious supplementary fact is that the general average will not decrease much: the places of the deserters will be taken by other students!

Just what happens in this turn-over we don't know. The grace of God cannot be measured mathematically, but long experience demonstrates that when one abandons it another receives it. God is served -- if not by you, then by one worthier than you. If you give up the faith, another receives it.

And there seem to be focal points of grace. The basement chapel is a sort of clearing house for all the halls. When a new hall chapel is opened, there is never any visible effect on the basement chapel. The Morrissey Hall chapel opened last Friday with 45 Communions! Most of the communicants were students who had been visiting the basement chapel daily. On Thursday the number of communicants in the basement chapel was 344; on Friday it was 342. The same amount of grace seemed to be dispensed in the basement chapel on Friday as on Thursday, but it went to some forty new individuals. That has happened invariably through all the years of the growth of this devotion at Notre Dame; it happens each year as the hall chapels one by one open for morning prayer and daily Communion.

You may draw these two practical conclusions: First, those who have deserted the Holy Table as a result of the week-end distraction need to bestir themselves to an immediate return or face the prospect of a long desertion, which will do their souls no good; Secondly, we need to pray much more earnestly for a general increase in devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and to daily Communion at Notre Dame. The fact that the amount of grace seems to remain stationary is an indication of lack of fervor on our part. When the total number of Communions for the year can be forecasted with accuracy on data supplied during the first four weeks of school (and this has happened annually for the past five years), we are the victims of a condition which we ourselves create; we know that grace comes in answer to prayer, and if we don't get more grace as the year advances, it is because we don't intensify as we should in prayer.

Coming Events.

1. Saturday, the anticipated vigil of the feast of All Saints, is not a day of fast and abstinence; it is when the vigil immediately precedes the feast.
2. Sunday is the new feast of Christ the King of Society.
3. Monday is the feast of All Saints, a Holyday of obligation.
4. Tuesday is the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, All Souls Day. The October Devotions close Tuesday night (next week, of course).
5. The month of November is dedicated to the Poor Souls.