

March 4, 1927.

"Remember, Man, That Thou Art Dust."

There is more tragedy than comedy in this matter of clinging religiously to the Sacramentals of the Church and spurning the Sacraments of Christ.

When the Church on Ash Wednesday sprinkles your brow with blessed ashes made from the palms that symbolize the fickleness of human applause, she places in the mouth of the priest words that recall that death is the common end of man -- death that came into the world through sin.

Death lies ahead. That is her message for Lent. Sin demands penance because God's Holiness is outraged by sin; but man is too selfish to act through love of God, so she reminds him of the selfish motive for penance: "Unless you do penance you shall all likewise perish."

You may flatter yourself that when you accept the ashes from the hands of Holy Mother Church without knowing what they mean you are performing a meritorious act of "blind faith;" but there is no excuse for a college man who does not know their meaning. And to accept them simply in the fear that something is going to happen to you if you don't and to stay away from the Sacraments for months at the same time, is nothing less than superstition.

When you see students receive the ashes and then get up and leave the church when Mass starts -- the Mass in which the Blood of Christ flows again as on Calvary to cleanse our souls -- you are constrained to believe that there is much superstition in the supposed religion of some people.

If Notre Dame can teach you to live always in the state of grace she will be satisfied, even though you can't get logarithms or calculus or zoölogy through your head. But it is the Sacraments, not the Sacramentals, that confer sanctifying grace when it is lost.

You need not conclude from this that all infrequent communicants are living in the state of mortal sin; but you will discover on pages 70 and 71 of the Sixth Religious Survey (which is now in your hands) that some 45% of them do not try to be always ready to die.

Daily Communion for Lent.

Nothing was said in the announcement last Sunday, in the Religious Bulletin this week, or in the printed schedule of Lenten services, about the advisability of daily Communion for Lent. No invitations to this practice were mailed to off-campus students in previous years. It was left for you to guess that it is advisable. But since so many failed to draw the inference, the following counsel is given:

Go to Mass daily during Lent. Receive Holy Communion every time you go to Mass. It will draw you closer to Our Blessed Lord. It will bring out hidden virtues. It will make you cheerful and happy every day. It will make you more of a Notre Dame man. It may save your soul.

Found.

A fountain pen, without its cap; a painter pencil. Call at The Ostrich Roost.

The First Friday.

Adoration all day; Benediction at 7:30; Way of the Cross after Benediction. Please bear in mind that the First Friday devotions, including the Benediction and Way of the Cross, are optional exercises. -- Please pray for Harold Hutchison's mother, who is undergoing an operation today, and for a deceased relative of Tom Madden.