

Religious Bulletin
March 17, 1927

Will The Irish Go to Mass?

Last year, for the first time since statistics have been kept at Notre Dame, St. Patrick Day did not show a disgraceful drop in the Holy Communion graph. But between the Irish men in bed and the ones out over the hills that bright morning, there was no crowding in the church at the one Mass. Will they be cured today?

There's More Than Chapter Six.

Some students have not yet seen the Religious Survey. And most of those who have seen it have restricted their reading to one chapter, and that the least useful one in the book. If you want to do the right thing by the Survey, begin with the Introduction, and read the book through. You won't make so many silly statements about it if you read it.

Another Survey Coming.

The questionnaire of this year's Survey should go to the printer today, and should be in your hands by Monday. There are many excellent new questions. Please act on it promptly. The Prefect of Religion can find plenty to do without spending his time drumming up the laggards.

Questions Asked by Freshmen. II.

(The page references following are to "Neglect of Divine Calls and Warnings.")

Page 23. "He is lost because he never really turned his heart to God." Should not students at Notre Dame be taught the seriousness of such a fault?

They should. What would you suggest in the way of teaching them? At present every student is urged to read this sermon of Newman's, which has awakened many a dormant conscience in the past; an occasional Bulletin treats of the necessity of using the love of God more than the fear of Hell as a motive of action; the Survey has a few pointed questions along this line. Old Man Inertia has to be whipped for this purpose, however, and that is a hard task in most cases.

Page 24. Couldn't the soul of this man have been saved through perfect contrition?

Absolutely. But how could he get perfect contrition when he was unable to command the imperfect contrition necessary for the Sacraments of Penance and Extreme Unction? As the Bulletin stated a week or so ago, it is not easy for a man who has turned his back on God all through life, rejecting grace after grace, hardening his heart through sin after sin -- and sins of malice -- deadly sins -- it is hard for this man to come back in the last five minutes of his life and make an act of perfect love of God. Why he hardly knows who God is; and he has smirked so much in self-satisfaction in his lifetime that he cannot command even the fear of Hell as a motive for supernatural sorrow. Such a man never wakes up on earth; he wakes up in Hell.

Page 24, six lines from bottom. Are we to account for sins we have forgotten?

Yes, if we have forgotten them through our own carelessness or self-satisfaction. A scrupulous person is not to examine his conscience on forgotten sins, and a man who has spent a humble life to close contact with God need not; but a man with whom religion has been a frill, or a rubber-stamp affair, needs to examine himself roundly on forgotten sins -- with the advice of his confessor.

PRAYERS: Albert Daschbach, '25, lost his mother a few days ago.