
How to Make a Bad Confession.

"Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It is a week since my last confession. I received absolution and performed the penance. Since then I have committed the following sins: I missed my morning prayers three times, I swore twice, and I had three bad thoughts. For all these sins I am heartily sorry and ask pardon of God, and penance and absolution of you, my ghostly Father."

That confession is bad if these things were not sins. If his profanity was unconscious the result of a habit he is trying seriously to break, there was no sin in that. If he tried to put the bad thoughts out of his mind as soon as he was aware of them, they were not sins. And while there is a positive obligation to pray at times, morning and night prayers are not binding under pain of sin. If this penitent tells no sins and the priest gives him absolution he has frustrated the Sacrament.

Again, the confession is bad if these are sins and he has no sincere sorrow and purpose of amendment for them. If they were fully deliberate mortal sins it is more likely that the penitent will form a good purpose of amendment than if they were merely venial sins of carelessness.

The remedy for both conditions is in the oft-repeated injunction to tell a sin from your past life every time you go to confession. Tell something you are sure is a sin, tell something you are sure you are sorry for. This safeguards the Sacrament for both yourself and the priest, and it lessens the necessity of questioning on the part of the priest.

How Silly!

Sunday after Sunday the same thing happens: at seven o'clock Mass here and at eight down town the confessionals are so crowded that not all the penitents can be heard. -- And it is perfectly true that if the lines were not so long many other students in the church, some of them away from the Sacraments for a long time, would pick up courage to line up at a confessional.

Go on Saturday! Go on Friday! Go any day but Sunday. It is certainly anything but thoughtful of daily communicants to make the Sunday Mass the occasion for a weekly confession of devotion. Get out of the way for some one more needy than yourself.

Desperate Cases Tomorrow.

Tomorrow is the feast of Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles. For a long time they were neglected in popular devotion, particularly St. Jude, who seems to have suffered for the ill repute that came to his namesake, Judas Iscariot. St. Bridget of Sweden did much to popularize devotion to St. Jude; and of late this devotion has been much on the increase. The nature of favors obtained through his intercession have won for St. Jude the title of Helper in Desperate Cases.

If you feel desperate, or if you have a want that seems desperate, offer your Holy Communion tomorrow in honor of St. Jude. For ourselves, we are going to lay on the altar tomorrow the names of more than four hundred students who are making a desperate effort to stay away from the Sacraments, and we are going to ask St. Jude to look over the list. (St. Jude was a cousin of Our Lord, you know.)

PRAYERS: A devoted workman died here yesterday; the mother of a former student died yesterday; Sister Cecilia is growing weaker; a priest asks prayers for a dying relative.