

Religious Bulletin

April 28, 1928

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Mothers' Day Novena.

This starts Tuesday, but some of you wont start it unless you go to confession Sunday. Mothers' Day is May 13 this year, but the Novena is held the first nine days of May to give the seniors a break. They will dance.

And Another Thing!

That seems to be not the only concession necessary for the senior class. The Bulletin has presented an amazing bunch of mental cauliflowers from the Class of 1928 in recent issues. Advance reports on the ball indicate that they have lost none of their acumen in social pursuits in this he-man atmosphere, but spiritually the tone is bad, very bad. It must be that they are overfed. Concentrate a man's circulation in his stomach and his brain withers.

Questions.

49. Explain what constitutes a mortal sin.

Ans. An offense against the law of God in grave matter, done with full knowledge and full consent of the will. Confessors will solve your doubts in particular cases.

50. Why does the Church force penance, giving more rules for the weak to break?

Ans. Our Blessed Lord said: "Unless you do penance you shall all likewise perish."

51. Why do Notre Dame priests have faults? (A composite, condensed question.)

Ans. God made men, not angels, priests. Few priests, like few laymen, are without human failings of one sort or another. One of the noblest things done by the religious of Holy Cross is their sacrifice of private life for the benefit of their students. Be amazed that you can't find more fault with them when you live in intimate contact with them twenty-four hours a day; be amazed at the patience of exceptionally intelligent men, exceptionally well educated, twice your age, who bring their minds down to your immature level, and stand for the same dumb tricks year in and year out. There is not a religious order in the Church -- be it said with all deference to the great work of other communities -- that demands so complete a personal sacrifice for students as does the Congregation of Holy Cross. And there is enough result in the character of graduates to satisfy the Community that the sacrifice is worth while. There will always be crabs at school, and there will always be a few ungrateful pups who will pack a grudge for the rest of their lives, but there is reason to believe that Notre Dame will continue to have, as she has had in the past, the most loyal alumni of any school in the country. God blesses the work of the religious, and gives them the grace to enjoy it.

And don't be too hard in judging the men who are disrespectful to the priests. Respect for the clergy is largely a matter of home training. Some people lack it.

52. How can one overcome laxity with regard to study?

Ans. Distaste for study may be an excellent indication that one has no business in college. If it is only a passing mood its passage may be hastened by vigorous exercise followed by a cold shower.

53. Should a boy marry while in college?

Ans. Yes, if he can't find anything else to take his mind off his studies.

54. When does drinking become a sin?

Ans. When it becomes unreasonable, by virtue of the quantity or quality consumed, the danger to reason, to life, to health, or the spiritual or material welfare of one's self or his neighbor. Otherwise it is all right.