

Religious Bulletin

November 3, 1928

Your Holy Communion for the President.

Tomorrow is the feast of St. Charles, patron saint of the President of the University. Father O'Donnell will say the 7:00 o'clock Mass for the students. Your Holy Communion tomorrow should be offered for his intentions. He will appreciate that more than anything else you can do for him.

The Novena Begins Monday.

The Novena for the Poor Souls begins Monday. It will consist of two parts:

1. Daily Mass for nine days;
2. Daily Benediction and prayers at 5:00 p.m.

Your own share in it will be what you make it. You should, to gain for your deceased relatives and friends the full benefit of all the Masses, Holy Communions and prayers, write out their names and leave them at the pamphlet rack or at the foot of the Sacred Heart statue in the church; then you should endeavor to hear Mass and receive Holy Communion daily, and attend the evening devotions (which, like the October Devotions, will be held at 12:30 on Saturday and 7:30 Sunday evening). Those who are legitimately detained from the evening devotions should say the prayers of the Novena privately; they are contained in a little brown pamphlet entitled, "Novena for the Poor Souls," which you will find at the rack.

Remember that a priest will say Mass for your intentions daily from next Monday until the Tuesday of the following week. This is a great favor, and you should show your appreciation by letting your own dependants share in it.

Attend Your Own Masses.

On Thursday, feast of All Saints', at least a dozen students came in after the parish Mass to find out where another Mass would be said that day. They had to be told that so far as we knew there were no more Masses that day. And for the dozen who were honest enough to come in to inquire, there must have been many more who failed to do so. A serious attempt is made here to provide Masses for the students at the hours that best suit their convenience. If they will find out (not from the Scholastic, but from the Bulletin and from the announcements in church, which are official) just when these Masses come, they will correct their faults of ignorance and pay God the worship which is His due.

Missing Mass.

While we are talking about missing Mass, we should say a word about the danger there is in the deliberate sin of neglecting this obligation of worship. For some reason or other, it gives a priest more concern for his penitent that almost any other sin confessed. This is why: When a priest answers a sick call promptly and finds the man dead when he gets there, unless the man was a devout Catholic who didn't need the Sacraments, it usually develops that he was in the habit of missing Mass on Sunday. That scares a priest. He sees drunkards, and rakes, and thieves, and murderers, and home-wreckers, getting the Last Sacraments -- if they have been faithful to Sunday Mass; he sees this privilege denied to men of fairly decent moral lives, if they have neglected their Sunday obligation wilfully.

Perhaps the explanation is that missing Mass contains more wilful disobedience to the Law of the Church and contempt for its authority than do these other sins, which are the products of human passion, which can become very strong at times; perhaps it is that missing Mass is usually the product of either Pride or Sloth, the two deadliest of the Deadly Sins. Whatever the cause, the fact is there. Think it over!