

Pick Up The Pieces.

Asked, "Do you find vacations weakening spiritually?" a sophomore answered in the Religious Survey of last March: "When I return from a vacation I am not settled until I can go to confession and Communion. It seems as if a load were taken from me. (Sometimes it is a load.)" A tabulation of all the answers to this question shows the following results:

Absolutely.....	23
Very weakening.....	43
Yes.....	320
No.....	213
The reverse.....	5
Somewhat weakening.....	68
At times they are.....	19
The short vacations are.....	8
Opportunities are fewer.....	14
I receive less often.....	26

Seven hundred and thirty-nine answered the question; two hundred and eighteen gave a negative answer. The ratio is not encouraging if one is looking for evidences of character. Strong character enables one to rise above circumstances.

Let's be sane about it. Yesterday's attendance at Holy Communion bears out the findings of the Survey. A conservative estimate of the number of students returned to school (based on Saturday's class absences) compared with the number actually receiving Holy Communion at the student Masses shows that Holy Communions yesterday were only 55% of what they should have been, taking as normal attendance what happens on an ordinary Sunday during the year. This means that at least there was enough spiritual lethargy to keep 45% of the returned students away from Holy Communion, -- students who would normally have received.

What does this mean practically? It means that we have to start all over again -- and without the aid of a Mission to stir you into action. We have this much to go on: those of you who practiced daily Communion during the fall months know its value; you need only to be prodded into action. How much of a prod do you need? That depends upon the extent of the virtues you built up in the autumn, and the extent of your departure from God during the holidays.

Use your head. You can reason to action, or you can be shocked into it. Divine Providence cannot be reduced to a formula, but you cannot have forgotten the good results that came of the death of Jack Gleason -- frightfully sudden, and in full view of the whole student body (the first time, so far as we can recall, that such a thing has happened at Notre Dame.) Don't make another death necessary. All through the fall months we were kept praying for some student who was critically ill, and, thank God, our prayers were answered. Don't make that sort of thing necessary in this New Year.

If your high aspirations to be a true Notre Dame man went crash during the holidays, pick up the pieces like a man. Notre Dame has no room for quitters. There are too many fighters begging for admittance for us to waste our time on quitters.

Tomorrow we begin a Novena for Health. We offer Holy Communion and prayers for the nine days, 1. for the sick relatives and friends of Faculty and students, and 2. for the special grace that we will be spared any serious illness at Notre Dame the rest of the year. Pray also for these intentions: the deceased father of Ed Farinholt; the deceased grandmother of Otis Winchester; a deceased relative of another student. the complete recovery of Jim Cavanaugh, of Badin, whose skull was fractured recently.