

Would You Rather Be a Heel?

Take everything, grab all you can, holler for more, lie awake nights scheming how you can get more -- and give nothing in return. Demand, beg, plead, and when you get it, forget it. Cry "unfair, foul play," if you stub your toe or get a bloody nose; but give bloody noses and dig pits in the path-way of your friend. Be holy as Job and roll your eyes to the stars when you want something; run amuck after you get it.

There's your heel. There's your bum sport. And the rottenest sport in the calendar is the man who is a poor sport with God, as every sinner is!

What have we got that God hasn't given us? Sin -- that's all. Our eyes, our ears, our hands and feet, our whole body comes from Him; our capacities for enjoyment He has given us for good ends; our mind to know, and our heart to love, are His good gifts: our courage, our prudence, our moderation, our fairness, our faith, our hope, our love, these and all our virtues He has infused into our souls to make us noble beings.

We cannot earn a dollar without His help. We cannot say a word unless He gives us breath. We cannot lift a finger without His support. We cannot even sin, we cannot use our free will to rebel against Him, unless God in His patience sustains life and strength in us -- as He does to give us a chance to repent and come back to Him.

Is the sinner a heel? Think it over.

Have you ever thanked God that you weren't born a nigger out in Africa? Have you ever thanked Him for giving you inspiring parents when you might have been born into a family of criminals? Have you thanked Him for the sicknesses you haven't had and the accidents you haven't been in? In case you have ever committed mortal sin, have you thanked Him for giving you a chance to repent instead of plunging you into Hell? Do you make it a practice to thank Him for the favors you never think of?

You know what kind of thanks God wants -- deeds more than words, and not words at all unless you mean them. Keep the Commandments -- that's the least you can do. Follow the works of Christian perfection -- that's more in the way of thanksgiving. Mortifications, extra prayers, daily Mass and daily Communion, spiritual reading, meditation-- these are means of thanksgiving He places at the hand of Notre Dame students.

"Do you pray only when you want something?" That question on the last questionnaire brought the following answers:

Yes.....	90	Usually.....	67
Yes and no.....	7	Not always.....	33
Yes -- and in thanksgiving...	30	No.....	346
I pray more fervently than...	25	I always thank God.....	21
I am always in need.....	36	Always for some intention...	5

You can be a heel if you prefer. Ingratitude is a dirty vice, but there is much ingratitude in the world, and God is patient. He is pleased with so little. If you are not in the state of grace you are ungrateful to God, using His gifts against Him.

Sorin Chapel Tomorrow.

Confessions and Holy Communion, 7:20 to 8:10.

PRAYERS: Edward Riley, off-campus, appendicitis; Mansiel Miller, ill at home; a deceased relative of Jas. Schaffer and Thos. McGeough; Jack and Joe Robinson's mother, quite ill; two deceased persons; three very ill; one thanksgiving; four special intentions John Golden's mother was anointed Wednesday.