

Religious Bulletin

January 22, 1929

Why Not Stay Put Now?

Holiness abounds. A new record was set in the Sorin Hall chapel yesterday, a total of 367 Holy Communions; the previous high mark was 355, on March 16 last year. On Sunday the number was close to a record for Sundays. Morrissey Hall set a new record last Friday, with 143; Corby on the same day, with 63. The averages for these two halls are considerably higher than last year; Freshman Hall lags about 15 behind last year's average; Sophomore Hall is also trailing a bit, although during the fall months it maintained a good average; Walsh and Howard Halls are doing better than last year; Badin's chart looks bumpy, erratic. Lyons Hall is quartering a fair-sized Dawn Patrol, and the boys are at last rubbing the Christmas out of their eyes.

Gymnics will have their fun out of the holiness that comes when examinations approach. They are accustomed to laugh at the inconsistencies of human nature, and a common inconsistency is recalled in the couplet,

"The devil got sick, the devil a Saint would be;
The devil got well, the devil a Saint was he."

This particular inconsistency has a very bright side, however, and we can rejoice in it; we may also use our heads and remove the inconsistency from this time forward. The revival shows much faith in prayer, and it gives at least 1800 mothers the assurance that their sons are in the state of grace (not that all the others are not -- but assurance is a great help.)

Now, it stands to reason that if you believe in the efficacy of prayer for temporal favors, with greater reason you will believe in it for spiritual needs. Who hasn't them? The list of character faults in the Religious Survey is as long and varied as a tariff schedule (though more poetic). The list of virtues desired is not so bulky, but it shows a need of spiritual ambition to get on the positive side of a religious program. Is it going to be necessary to have God send you moral crises as regularly as the University provides academic crises? Or can you learn to use your head?

There isn't a fellow in school who doesn't feel better when he is in the state of grace. That's one point. And the only fellows who don't feel better when they are receiving Holy Communion are a few scrupulous souls who allow themselves to be tortured by the idea that they may commit mortal sin between confession and Holy Communion -- and the latter are that way only because they have failed to place themselves under spiritual guidance that would get rid of scruples. If, then, the Sacraments bring happiness to the soul, how in the name of common sense can you neglect them?

Hold fast to the good work you have begun. Stay put. You need an active decision on that now, a resolution that will carry over when the fear of academic failure has become a vague memory -- which is about five minutes after you leave the examinations room. Here is a good resolution: Make a Novena of thanksgiving after your examinations, and ask God's grace to give you a better understanding of your obligations to yourself and your parents, so that the next semester will be something to be proud of.

Prayers.

Father Francais, retired Superior General of the Congregation of Holy Cross, is still in need of prayers; he was anointed Saturday. Gerald Griffin, of the Summer School last summer, now a student at St. Meinrad's Seminary, has lost both father and mother since the beginning of the year. -- There is a grave neglect in the handing in of names for the Church Unity Octave. Not more than fifty-five lists have been submitted for prayer, and there are five times that many students here who have non-Catholic fathers or mothers. -- Two thanksgivings; three special intentions.