

# Religious Bulletin

January 24, 1929

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## Your Might Get Stung.

This business that insurance men call normal expectancy leads us to believe that the number of Holy Communion tomorrow morning will be about 150 more than today. Normal expectancy also tells us that there will be quite a few confessions tomorrow morning. Very well. If you were to put off your confession till tomorrow morning you might get stung -- not that the priests hearing will be any less willing to serve you tomorrow than today, but that they have only two ears, and only one of them can be used at a time in hearing confessions. Penance isn't a group Sacrament except in battle or similar emergency.

Confessions are heard in all the hall chapels at 7:30 each evening, and in the basement chapel from 6:15 till 7:00. From 8:00 p.m. on into the night penitents come to the Sorin chapel and ring the bell at the door to indicate their desire for confession. This is all by way of warning. Normal expectancy leads us to believe that it will go unheeded, and that some of you will try to go to confession during the rush of distribution of Holy Communion in the Sorin chapel, and will not get a chance.

## Wise Engineers.

The Engineering Club will have Mass and Holy Communion in the church tomorrow at 6:30.

## Played Out.

It is very interesting to look over the field of students who have not received the Sacraments since their return from the holidays, but who went daily, or practically so, during the fall months. They are played out -- or prayed out. No more pep!

Our Blessed Lord describes these cases in the parable of the sower. Besides the seed that fell on good ground, you will recall that some fell by the wayside, some among thorns, and some on the rock. We are not concerned here with the seed that fell by the wayside and was trampled under foot with no chance to take root; some time before Trinity Sunday we will speak of them. But notice how the parable fits two other groups:

"Some fell upon a rock." There is often enough dirt gathered in a crevice or depression in a rock to give nourishment to a plant for a time. A plant may get a start under such circumstances and be transplanted to good soil where it will flourish and bear fruit; but if it remains where it is it will give a fresh, green promise for a while, and then wither away. Some souls began a spiritual life this year; they were shallow, they did not cultivate the soil and dig deep with spiritual reading, they did not moisten it with the tears of self-denial. The feeble plant has died.

"Some fell among thorns." Away from the distractions of the world at Notre Dame, in comparative isolation, plunged into a Mission their first week in school, and surrounded by better example than they had ever known before in their lives, some students began daily Communion in September without knowing what it really meant, carried away by a novel emotion of piety. Christmas took them back to the world they knew, the world of gin babies and jazz, the world of splurge and dizziness; they rubbed their eyes and wondered where they had been. There was no real turning to God in their hearts, and the thorns that were there all the time choked the life of the plant. They played out.

Some of them will never come back to daily Communion, no matter how long they remain at Notre Dame. They haven't the background to appreciate it. It usually takes three or four generations of strong faith to produce deep spirituality, and they haven't even one generation to fall back upon: money is morning and night prayer in the home, and social life is Faith, Hope and Charity. Some others will do well if they seek spiritual advice.

PRAYERS: John Dorgan's father died yesterday; Fred Lensing and another student ask for their fathers, who are undergoing operations. Three special intentions.