

Religious Bulletin
September 24, 1929

A Shame and A Disgrace.

There was a Mass in the church yesterday morning for the repose of the soul of Father Albertson. It was announced at all the Masses Sunday, and again before the sermon Sunday night. It was the first opportunity for the upperclassmen -- who knew him and were served by him last year and the years before -- to honor his memory. And there was a specific plea for all to offer Holy Communion for the repose of his soul. The answer to this plea was a shame and a disgrace, as the following figures show:

Approximately 1400 students are supposed to be attending this Mission.
Approximately 1000 were present for all or part of the Mass.
Only 653 received Holy Communion at the Mass or immediately afterwards.

Among those present were many who had received singular favors from Father Albertson, be it said to their credit, but among those who failed to receive Holy Communion there were others, many others, who are more indebted to him than anyone else in the world, and their neglect is sheer ingratitude.

Perhaps it was thoughtless -- of course it was! But how can a college man be that thoughtless? Among those who neglected him are some of the ones who clamor loudest that they are MEN, and are not to be treated as children. They have shown how much sense of responsibility they have!

Examine your conscience on your debt to Father Albertson:

Did his smile ever cheer you up when you were blue?
Did he ever give you absolution when your soul was black and blue?
Did he ever give you extra time in the lab?
Did he ever get you to go to the Sacraments when you were lagging?
Did he ever, as a prefect, wink at your crimes and misdemeanors?
Did he ever give you his whole recreation to listen to your troubles?
Did he map out your life's work for you?
Did he give you a new start in your spiritual life?
Did his hard work and big-hearted zeal restore your faith in human nature?

There are many students here who must answer yes to several of those questions; most of last year's students will have to answer yes to at least one. And no one at Notre Dame can ever say that Father Albertson ever discouraged him or hurt his feelings. And because he was so universal in his charity he literally died a martyr to the students; he died of exhaustion after a hard year's work.

Don't console yourself that he doesn't need your prayers. Of course he doesn't, but that doesn't let you out. There is something very small in your character if you don't take every chance to honor his memory. If he could be there every morning to hear your confessions during the past eight Missions -- after saying his own Mass at 5:30 -- you can certainly make the rest of this Mission decently out of respect to his memory.

It was thoughtless of you, to be sure; and when you get thoughtless you have to have something to wake you up. If this Bulletin does it, then God be praised.

Prayers.

Raymond Naber's mother is undergoing an operation; a friend of another student will undergo an operation next Friday. Watts Eicher asks prayers for two friends who were killed in an airplane accident. Three persons who are ill; four special intentions.