

Religious Bulletin
November 11, 1929.

In Time of Peace Prepare for War.

Before the excitement starts -- and it will start very suddenly now -- lay out your campaign for the next week-end. Use your reason while you still have it; scratch your memory before it gets befogged; write down your resolutions and attach a fine for non-observance. If you use these precautions you may forestall a mortal sin. As material for week-end resolutions, consider the following points:

1. If you slept through Mass after the Wisconsin game, tell your prefect about it; if you put it on his conscience he will be sure to call you this time.
2. If your hotel bill is still unpaid from the last trip, better stop with a friend this time. House detectives have good memories for one thing; your stay in purgatory is determined by the size of your bill for another.
3. If you register as from Madison, don't wear Notre Dame colors or sing Notre Dame songs.
4. If you feel that your parents are not justified in trusting you, better stay home; both your character and their reputation will be saved.
5. Bear in mind that many a non-Catholic has been turned away from the Catholic Church by the inconsistency and weakness of its feebler representatives.
6. Just, keep in the back of your head that if a man lets a girl get drunk while he is her escort, his conscience, unless it be sub-normal, will never let him forget it.
7. The Ten Commandments are never a side issue with a gentleman.

Invincible Ignorance.

Invincible ignorance excuses from sin. It's the kind of ignorance that cannot be overcome. It exists when the mind does not advert to a fact or a law, as, for instance, when one thoughtlessly eats meat on Friday, and when one's mind is incapable of comprehending a law or of bringing a fact under the scope of a law. We seem to have plenty of both kinds at Notre Dame.

Take this matter of missing Mass on Sundays, for instance. The law is plain enough, goodness knows, but when you see man after man violate it and receive Holy Communion the same day you can reach only one conclusion -- invincible ignorance. Here are a few examples:

- A receives Holy Communion and leaves the church by the back door before the celebrant returns to the altar. He has missed the Communion of the Mass, which is the prayer said immediately after the chalice is covered. He is bound to return for another Mass, under pain of mortal sin. Does he do it? He does not.
- B comes in at the Epistle and leaves after the Communion of the Mass. He has missed a third or more of the less notable parts of the Mass, and is required under pain of mortal sin to hear another Mass..... invincible ignorance ... they don't have a last Gospel in Boston.
- C goes out for the sermon (if there is no prefect at the door) and comes back shortly before the Consecration (he expected a longer sermon); he has missed a notable part of the Mass and is bound under pain of mortal sin to hear another Mass, but fear of a sermon keeps him away.
- D, to save his pretty knees for the beach next summer, hunches over and falls asleep. He is awakened by the clearing of throats after the Consecration. Write his epitaph yourself; we can't trust ourselves to do it.

Prayers.

New complications in Eugene Cavanaugh's case require more prayers. A young priest of the Philadelphia archdiocese is very ill. Three relatives of students, ill.