

Religious Bulletin
October 29, 1930

And Still They Object To Daily Communion.

36. "I don't feel that I should receive because I know that I will sin again during vacation."

Ans. If you know that, you must have had a special revelation from God, because most of us don't know that we will be alive when vacation comes. Here are a few distinctions for you to keep in mind:

1. If you intend to commit mortal sin during vacation (or any other time in the future) you must not receive Holy Communion either daily or at all until you revoke that intention and go to confession, for the intention to commit sin is a sin of the same class as the sin intended;
2. If you fear that you will commit sin in the future, that is, if your knowledge of your weakness under past temptations leads you to believe that your will will not hold out, you should receive Holy Communion daily and make use of other means of grace to strengthen the will against future dangers. That fear is a judgment of the intellect; the determination not to commit sin is an act of the will, and it is the will that is primarily concerned in the purpose of amendment.
3. If you are practicing daily Communion and at the same time you are planning to commit mortal sin (on the occasion of the Army Game or the Christmas vacation or any other time) you are committing the sin of presumption, which usually leads to despair sooner or later -- and if you meet sudden death in that state without the Act of Contrition it will be just too bad. All the prayers of your classmates and the tears of your parents and friends will do you no good.

It would seem from these considerations that the person who fears that he will commit mortal sin in the future is in especial need of the graces of daily Communion. If these distinctions are not clear to you, it would be wise for you to ask a priest for advice on them without delay, for they are all-important for your salvation.

37. "Why should I go daily? I am good without it."

Ans. There are seven Capital Sins. If you have escaped Lust, Avarice, Gluttony, Anger, and Envy, study up on Pride and Sloth, the most dangerous of the seven. You recall the story of the man who took his one talent and wrapped it in a napkin instead of working with it to produce another talent: he was cast into hell. Holy Communion is Food as well as Medicine for the soul. At death we are judged on the good we have omitted as well as the evil we have done. If we neglect to pray and offer Holy Communion for the Poor Souls, for the sick, for our parents, for the good causes recommended to our prayers, we will be judged by the Divine Judge Who said: "Depart from Me..... for I was hungry and you gave Me not to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me not to drink, I was naked and you covered Me not...."

38. "I find it too much of a strain to be good all the time."

Ans. How heaven will bore you! If that "strain" is a result of scruples, see a priest and apply the cure, even if it means psychological surgery. If it is laxity of conscience, better make a general confession. If your purpose of amendment at past confessions was intended to cover only a day or a week, you have been making bad confessions. "Never to offend Thee for the future" means never; it means that you resolve to "be good all the time." Don't say it with fingers crossed.

PRAYERS: A friend very sick. Five special intentions.