

## Religious Bulletin

November 4, 1930

### Don't Pray Only For Yourself.

To think only of yourself is to be always unhappy. There are pleasanter things to think about than yourself; there are needier persons to be prayed for than yourself. On the eve of examinations, when your thoughts and prayers are concentrated on your needs, thirty intentions come demanding your prayers. Be generous with them; be big-hearted with the Poor Souls this month. To concentrate on the worries of others is to forget your own.

Among the special intentions there are some very urgent cases. One is for a fallen-away Catholic who has not long to live; his difficulty is that he is married outside the Church, and his wife has not cared to accede to his desire to have the marriage revalidated. Another is for a student whose mother has not many more days to live. Another is to avert a serious family tragedy, to prevent the breaking-up of a home. You can think of almost any situation that demands prayers, and at some time or other you will find it listed on the Bulletin as a "special intention."

The boy who makes it a point to pray for all the intentions recommended to his charity is likely to develop a very sunny disposition. He loves God, hence he prays to Him and adopts the mental attitude of leaving everything in His hands; he loves his neighbor as himself for the love of God, hence he recommends his neighbor to his Best Friend. In these two loves he fulfills "the whole Law and the Prophets," and his heart is at peace; and the genuine Notre Dame smile comes out of a heart that is at peace with God and the world.

And the smile that comes right out of a peaceful heart has a genuine apologetic value. If others see you always happy they will be interested enough to study out the reason why. They may miss the big point, they may see only one small phase of it; but any glimmer of the truth that the Great Law of Charity is the secret of a peaceful heart is a blessed beacon to the little soul that wanders in the pathless, waterless desert of selfishness. A great many restless spirits have been brought to rest in the Catholic Church because they gave the Catholic religion credit for the charity they found in thorough-going Catholics.

You need not even concern yourself with the fact that you get all the by-products of the prayers you say for others. Leave things in the hands of God if you would be happy. Our President, Father O'Donnell (for whom your prayers are besought on this, his feast day) has expressed this Catholic thought in his quatrain, "Joy":

I ask for only the leavings:  
When the high saints have had their sup,  
If there be dregs or lees, Lord,  
Give me the cup.

Come bitter, come sweet, come richer, come poorer, come life, come death -- if your heart is right the sun shines brightest on a rainy day. Take care of the Poor Souls this week and your exams will take care of themselves.

### An Option For Off-Campus Students.

Any off-campus student who wishes to receive his Bulletin on the campus (and thus insure more prompt delivery) should have his name taken from the mailing list and the indicate whether he wants to pick up the Bulletin at the off-campus office or the Sorin chapel.

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PRAYERS: Ed England was called home to California yesterday by the grave illness of his mother. A relative of Don McCue is very ill; a priest-relative of another student is not expected to live. A friend of a student underwent a serious operation yesterday. Two relatives of the Prefect of Religion are very ill, one of them not expected to live.  
Four special intentions