

Religious Bulletin
December 15, 1930.

Texas, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

Into the romance of Daily Communion there are woven many and beautiful stories. It was prophesied by Our Lord, in the parable of the Wedding Feast, that the guests at His eternal banquet would be gathered in from the streets and lanes of the city,--the poor, the feeble, the blind, the lame,--and from the highways and hedges of the country. And those, He told us, were to be there in the place of His friends and invited guests who had made one excuse or another to stay away from His feast.

At the altar rail in the Scrin chapel one morning not long ago there were three students, one from Texas, one from Kansas, and one from Oklahoma. Residents of these proud commonwealths may not relish being compared with the denizens of the highways and hedges, but the figure is not far from true, in so far as these states are still frontiers of the Faith. The oldest diocese in Texas is five years younger than Notre Dame (and some fifty or sixty parishes in Texas were inaugurated by Holy Cross priests); Kansas received its first Bishop in 1377; and there are students here now who knew the first Bishop of Oklahoma.

Frontiers of the Faith they are, though hardy and fast-growing offspring of missionary zeal. They represent those sections of the country where native-born priests are still too few to supply the needs of the Catholic population, and where great Catholic enterprises, social and educational, are still in their infancy; where parochial schools and convents are still too few; where there are many churches without resident pastors.

Notre Dame has a great spiritual mission to perform in the development of these outposts of the Faith, and she can do it best by fostering daily Communion among the students who come to her from these sections. The work of education is a work of the grace of God, and it is through placing these men in contact with the Sacraments that Notre Dame educates them -- that is, brings out all the good they have in their souls. The Catholic boy who makes use of the opportunities Notre Dame affords, and goes back to these sections fortified with four years of daily Communion, will be an incalculable influence for good. He cannot help it.

It isn't that daily Communion is unknown in the frontier states. Not at all. One of our happiest recollections is of a Mass said at four o'clock one week-day morning in a little desert town of New Mexico, which was attended by nine people, seven of whom received Holy Communion -- and the only notice they had of the Mass was a wire sent from the train at six o'clock the evening before. In another church, in Arizona, we used to see some twenty communicants every morning out of a parish of some three hundred souls.

So, the Faith is there, and its roots are strong, but one of its needs for full flowering is an educated Catholic laity, trained in will as well as in intellect, fully appreciative of the graces of the Sacraments. It needs to realize that religion is for men as well as for women, that daily Communion is Divine Food for men. The men who come to us from these states have a special vocation. Most of them, when they leave here, will have such greater opportunities for influence than will the boys who are swallowed up in New York and Chicago and Boston and Cleveland and Detroit. If they realize this vocation and do their best to fulfill it, Notre Dame will some day have reason to be proud of them.

Adoration Tomorrow Only From Nine Till Ten.

The Mass of Exposition tomorrow, at 9:00, affords the only opportunity for adoration. FRANKS: F. J. Tooney's brother, operated for appendicitis. Four special intentions.