

Religious Bulletin
January 15, 1931

The Church Unity Octave.

Next Sunday, feast of St. Peter's Chair at Rome, we begin the official week of prayer for the conversion of the world, in obedience to the command of Christ that we follow His example and pray "that they may be one as We are One."

Names of those for whom you wish the grace of faith should be placed in sealed envelopes and left at the pamphlet rack or in the basket in the rear of the basement chapel. These will be placed on the altar during the eight days. The prayer to be said during the Octave will be found on a blue slip at the rack.

The Novena For Exams.

This should start not later than next Monday. There are many wise students who have not waited for the Novena to ask God's help in examinations; they have been praying and receiving Holy Communion for the past week.

Bengal.

As announced, the collection next Sunday will be for Bengal. Donations yesterday included \$5 from a student and \$1 from "a fan," bringing the January total to \$33.50.

Know Your Place.

A request comes for consideration on the part of communicants in the church at the Sunday Masses. When they return to their pews and find them occupied they crowd to the rear of the church, where a satisfactory recollection for thanksgiving is difficult to secure. Mark your pew; return to it. Give others the consideration you would want.

An Excited Correspondent.

Yesterday's mail brought a badly-muddled letter of protest against the Bulletin's discussion of the Holy Father's Encyclical on Marriage. The letter gives us the impression that its writer is angry, bitter, and ignorant of some of the fundamentals of the matter he wishes to discuss, namely, birth control.

The Bulletin, not being guided by the present vogue of naturalism, will not discuss the details on which the writer needs information; the editor, as a priest and confessor, will be glad to discuss these matters with the writer or with any other student who feels the need for information on them. The "natural reasons" behind the statements of the Holy Father on birth control are found in the "Instruction on the Sixth Commandment" which is printed on the reverse side of your Eucharistic Calendar, and reprinted in the Report of the Prefect of Religion, 1930, page 36. (The Holy Father did not get them from the calendar, of course; both took them from Saint Augustine, who has given us our best discussion of the natural law of purity.)

The excited writer needs to be warned, of course, that if he is a Catholic he is cutting himself off from the Church by his attitude. To refuse obedience to the commands of the Church is schism; to reject her authority to make laws or to reject any specific teaching on faith or morals is heresy. And that is bad business, especially for one who knows as much about religion as a Notre Dame man should! In a temptation to reject her authority, the wise Catholic finds support in the attitude of sane and respectful non-Catholics who, while not accepting her Divine authority, can still see in her history that she has always been a loving Mother, not a tyrant; they see that her intention is to protect her children from their own foolishness. She has done it well these nineteen hundred years.

PRAYERS: A deceased relative of Adam Wolfrich; a sick brother of John Hill, '30. Chas. Ryan's sister is very ill; a sister of Fr. Robert is ill. Four special intentions.