

Religious Bulletin

January 23, 1931

There Are People Starving At Your Elbow.

The other day some over-fed freshmen, on their way from the dining hall, amused themselves by throwing oranges at one another. Those of them who looked out the window a while later felt chagrined when they saw ill-clad, pinched children picking up the fragments of those oranges.

Within the limits of Sacred Heart parish, which extends from Napoleon St. north to the state line, and from the river eastward to the lines of a Mishawaka parish, there are hundreds of people in dire need. The little settlement of "Foxtown," or "Dogville," east of Freshman Hall, contains many families which are entirely dependent upon charity this winter. They wear your cast-off clothing, they eat the fragments from your table, and they depend upon others for their coal and rent and medicines.

The community, the University, and the parish are doing what they can for the relief of these poor unfortunates, but the general depression of this year has brought about an acute situation that demands more than the usual measures of relief. (The University gave upwards of \$50,000 last year in charity, in various forms, and the daily bread line now takes care of some fifty families.) Your help has not been solicited for this local charity hitherto (except in the matter of old clothes), but it is needed now. The collection next Sunday will be your opportunity to contribute.

Make tomorrow a day of sacrifice for these poor people. The money you would otherwise spend on yourself tomorrow - whether for shows, candy, tobacco, sodas, or other things, -- put into the Sunday collection.

An average of ten cents from each student will make \$300; an average of a quarter will amount to \$750. It is an infinitesimal act of sacrifice you are asked to make; in the aggregate it will relieve a great deal of distress, and it may save a soul as well as a body. Make the sacrifice cheerfully - and make it as generous a sacrifice as possible to make up for those who cannot give.

A Suggestion To Clubs And Other Organizations.

In addition to the personal offerings of individuals from this day of sacrifice, it is quite proper that something be done by organizations on the campus which have funds at their disposal. The extravagance which has characterized some of the class dances in the past, for instance, is more out of place than ever this year, when people are starving; contributions of money set aside for such purposes would help greatly. The forty-odd campus clubs can also do their part if they have anything in the treasury from their Christmas dances or other sources of revenue. (The Knights of Columbus have already contributed \$100.)

A Triduum Before Examinations.

A triduum is one-third of a novena, a three-days prayer. Those who have failed to make the novena before their examinations should at least attempt a triduum.

Don't worry about the inconsistency of appealing to God now in your need when you have neglected him for months. That is straining out a gnat when you are swallowing a camel. Your much greater inconsistency is in your remaining at Notre Dame and rejecting the purpose of her existence -- the training of Christian character through the Sacraments of the Catholic Church. If the impulse comes to return to God now, follow it -- and then remain faithful to God. The fear of a flunk is an external grace.

PRAYERS: A relative of Earl O'Brien was killed in an accident last week. A relative of the Prefect of Religion died a few days ago. Continue your prayers for the students who are ill. Four special intentions.