

Feast of St. Joseph
tomorrow

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 18, 1931

Novena for Exams
begins Thursday

Wasting Money on Education.

The following editorial appeared recently in the Decatur Herald:

"The University of Illinois hastens to quiet rumors that the flunk-outs at the end of the first semester exceeded those of any other year. The registrar's figures show that the whole number dropped was 633, as compared with a total of 680 the last year. This is the smallest number to be flunked out in the last five years, representing 5.6 per cent of the whole number of students.

"Six hundred and thirty-eight is more students than has either Millikin, Knox, or Wesleyan. The university had to organize last September to take care of this number, only to lose them at the end of the first half-year. Before these young people discovered, or the faculty discovered for them, that they were not qualified to go on with college work, the taxpayers were out something. Flunkers are wasters.

"What the university does not disclose is why these students failed. Poor preparation in high schools doubtless is one reason; laziness and indifference is another, and probably the main one. Some tried hard, presumably, but clearly lacked the wit to go on.

"The University of Illinois, supported out of public funds, does not draw a selected group. Any Illinois boy or girl who has a high school education or its equivalent is permitted to enter without examination. The result is that every freshman class is gorged with misfits. They have to be weeded out. The plan is democratic, but it is unquestionably expensive."

Thus far the problem of the University of Illinois - and of the state universities in general. Our local problem has points of similarity and points of difference, for Catholic education has a wider purpose than secular education and uses somewhat different means to reach its end.

Students dropped at Notre Dame for low scholarship at the end of the first quarter and first semester constituted approximately 4.3 per cent of the total enrollment. The residence system and the discipline at Notre Dame are designed to encourage study, and there should be fewer failures here than in a state school. Frequent Holy Communion is also a great aid to study; you have hundreds of testimonials to this in the recent Survey.

But there is another, and much larger, source of waste at Notre Dame. Catholic education develops the whole man - soul as well as body, will as well as intellect. If instruction were the only object of education, the Catholic Church would be foolish to spend so many millions on the erection of schools and the preparation of teachers. If the strengthening of character were not the main purpose of Catholic schools, they would represent a gigantic waste of effort.

You have been told over and over that you cannot get an education at Notre Dame unless you live in the state of grace - that you can get something, but it will not be an education. You have been told also that if you are bent on going to hell it would be far better for you to do so from a state university than from Notre Dame, that your responsibility would be less as your spiritual ignorance would be greater. And yet there are men who come here from Catholic homes, spend four years here in total neglect of the spiritual opportunities the University offers them, and go out to parade before the world as Notre Dame men - wolves in the clothing of lambs. And then there are prodigal sons who would fain pose as lost sheep. While the Good Shepherd went out in search of the sheep that was lost, He also let the prodigal wander until he was reduced to the husks of swine.

PRAYERS: Robert Fulton underwent an operation for appendicitis yesterday. The grandmother of Ray Collins is very ill. A sister of Miss Laura Beaulieu, of the Director of Studies office, died Saturday. Leo Zebert's father is seriously ill. Five more students