

Universal N.D.
Communion Sunday
(for Rockne)

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
April 17, 1931

Go to confession
before Sunday

Must Notre Dame's Work Cease in Bengal?

Bishop Crowley, of Dacca, Bengal, a distinguished alumnus of the University, is forced to make this statement in the March Bengalese:

"The past twelve-month, with its unemployment, its drought and general depression, has been for many of you a time of trial and suffering; to me it has brought the saddest experiences in twenty-three years.

"A few months ago I was obliged to cut down our catechist corps by a half. The catechist is the missionary's right-hand man. He precedes the missionary into the villages, prepares the ground for his coming, and conserves the gains when the missionary has gone. The typical missionary station covers an area of thirty square miles, hence it is easy to see how, without the aid of the catechist, the greater part of the missionary's work must come to a full stop.

"The second disastrous blow fell last week when, upon the receipt of a letter from Fr. Mathis announcing that he was compelled to reduce the Missica Budget from \$57,000 to \$40,000, I had to give orders for the abandonment of the 1931 expansion program. The chapels, schools, convents which - at the repeated requests of pagan neighbors anxious to become Catholics - we had promised to erect, have now to be given up. The faith of our simple people in the integrity of our word will be shaken, the unbeliever will scoff.

"What do these blows at the heart of our Cause signify? They spell retreat, they mean a hauling down of the flag of Christ. That flag was first planted in our Mission seventy years ago. Through storm and stress, the visions and prayers of our forefathers, the sacrifices of generations of missionaries have kept it flying. The fruit of seven decades of faith, hope and charity has blossomed in our own day in a growing mass movement towards the Faith; and now, when the field is ripe to the harvest, we the laborers must turn our backs, leaving them to rot, because we have not the means to garner them to Christ.

"Can we make the excuse that we have undertaken too much? Will any group of American missionaries, representatives of the Faith of twenty million Catholics at home, dare to cry: 'We have too large a task in converting this little corner of India,' when our Master said to but eleven untutored followers: 'Go, convert the whole world'?

"I beg of you to come to our aid. It is no longer possible for us to reach out to new work, but without help from America our efforts to hold together the communities already baptized will be endangered. We cannot appeal to Europe for help. European missionaries are doing that already. We can only appeal to our own in the homeland. You, our co-workers and benefactors, who have already helped us so long, will not abandon us now. We need your prayers more than ever before, we need your alms."

Here is a Notre Dame job. What are you going to do about it? All the missionaries in the Dacca diocese are from Notre Dame. In view of hard times, we started out in September to double our budget quota of \$1000 for the year. During the first semester we raised \$934; we have collected only \$540 since then (the drive for the local poor slowed our efforts). The collection next Sunday is for Bengal. It is the day for the Universal Notre Dame Communion for Rockne; carry the Rockne spirit of sacrifice into your offerings for Bengal that day. Let's not quit with the job half-done!

PRAYERS: Joe Robinson, and John, '28, asks prayers for their father, who is very low. Jos. Pilon's father is very ill. A student's pastor is ill. Wm. F. Murphy, of Corby Hall, has received word that his brother has undergone an operation. Three deceased friends of students, one a godfather. Dick [unclear] for three members of his family who are unwell. Four special intentions.