

Please return all
adoration cards

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
December 3, 1931

First Friday
Adoration all day

Noisy Holiness.

A correspondent voices a complaint about the disorder in the church attending the distribution of Holy Communion on Sunday mornings. The complaint is an old one; it has been considered time and again. On one occasion, a few years back, the disorder grew to such proportions that it had to be toned down. But there is something to be said on the other side.

When Our Lord wanted quiet for meditation "He retired into a desert place." We cannot imagine much quiet in His usual public life; the natural vivaciousness, the alert minds, the quick tongues of His Jewish hearers, forbid the thought. Time and again the Apostles asked Our Lord to rebuke the crowd; they even asked Him to send away the little children that pressed about Him -- and thereby provoked one of the most beautiful lessons He taught us. Zaccheus, "small of stature," had to climb a sycamore tree to get sight of Him in the midst of the crowd along the roadway -- and thereby gained the invitation that converted him.

Our correspondent would ~~be in~~ for a bad half-hour were he to attend Mass on a feast day in Italy, and we would advise him to stay away from church entirely if he should happen to be in Naples on the feast of St. Januarius, when the congregation prays for the miracle of the liquefaction of blood. (It is said that the great St. Ambrose, Archbishop of Milan, was elected to that office when, as Prefect of the city, he went to the cathedral to put down a riot.)

Far be it from us to encourage disrespect in church - we hate it - but not all noise is disrespectful. There is a certain music in the roar in the church on Sunday morning when several hundred students rise as one man to approach to receive their God. Nothing, to our mind, bespeaks better the individuality of student devotion than this disorder: the child forgets his neighbor in his desire to be with God. (Some children are slower than others, of course, in growing up.)

Do you remember the story Rock used to tell, the one about the priest and the Presbyterian minister who owned race horses? When the minister, going at a 2:40 clip, drove by the ditch where the two Irishmen were working, Jerry said to Tom: "What kind of a way is that for a man of the cloth to be carrying on? Sure, a man's life isn't safe on the street any more." But when the priest drove by, it was: "Would you look at that now! The dear man of God can't get to his church fast enough."

There are two ways of looking at the thing. We could turn Mohammedan and have you all take off your shoes when you enter the church - but we don't think we will. There will be a quiet church tomorrow - for adoration all day - for tomorrow is the First Friday. And beginning next Wednesday, there will be a quiet church for nine days - for more adoration. The lovers of quiet may satisfy their devotion at these times.

Give This Kid A Hand.

From a little shaver nine years old to his aunt, a nun: "Did you know that I was saving up all my money to go to Notre Dame? It costs a thousand dollars to go there. I am selling magazines now." Won't you say a prayer that this youngster may have his wish? When he was born his aunt was a Summer School student here. She sent his father an application blank for Notre Dame, and he replied that the boy would go elsewhere. The boy has his own ideas. Give him a hand.

PRAYERS: Edw. Coomes asks prayers for his mother, who is quite ill. George Como's mother died last week. Edw. Mines, Chicago philanthropist, died Tuesday. Two students ask prayers for friends undergoing operations, and another student for a deceased friend. Cornelius Murphy, of the Fordham football team, died Wednesday; we bespeak for him a remembrance in your Holy Communion tomorrow. Vincent Turley's mother died last night. Joe Hebert, '27, wires that his father is very low.