

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
December 14, 1931.

There Is Too A Santa Claus.

During the first four days of the Novena for Christmas, the number of Holy Communions averaged 175 a day more than for the same Novena a year ago. There has been a gradual lessening of the gap between this year and last - the gap which put this year's students in such an unfavorable light - but if the Christmas spirit continues at the rate shown during the past week the gap will be closed and a slight balance will be set up in your favor. On Saturday the number of Holy Communions for the fall was just 854 below the total for the same period a year ago; by next Friday there should be a trifle more than the 134,929 registered last fall.

The same spirit has been shown in the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The benches are still crowded with adorers. The Benediction on Thursday evening which will close this brief feat of devotion should tax the capacity of the church; the Holy God you will sing that night should ring in your ears throughout the Christmas season.

Alms for the poor have not been forgotten. Friends of Fr. Oliver Krseninski have contributed \$11 since the last report, Fr. Barron has received \$3.50, and \$44 have been sent in to be apportioned, Bengal and the local poor to receive a share. Much of this has come from outside readers of the Bulletin, but some of it is local. One sophomore has won mention - in his letter subscribing five dollars he asks that the recipient pray that the giver be relieved of his probation at the next examinations. This generous giver deserves the prayers of more than the recipient of his charity - put him down for a special intention yourself. And we must not forget the \$1.67 Fr. Doremus shook out of the chisellers in the Sorin chapel yesterday; it's for the poor.

That is the Christmas spirit; these signs make us believe in Santa Claus. If we keep on this way for a hundred years or so we may make Catholics of some of you yet. It's one thing to have the gift of faith and quite another to know what it's all about. -- But don't fall down now on the last stretch. Some of these considerations may look like praise -- and that's always dangerous at Notre Dame. Notre Dame men like a beating, but they swell up like a poisoned pup under praise. (That's what has kept us from saying a word about the wonderful record made by Badin Hall this fall - almost a 50% attendance at Holy Communion in the hall chapel before breakfast - and you always expect juniors to be dumb.)

Wash Your Face Before You Go.

If you have been cleaning chimneys Emily Post says you should wash your face before kissing your mother. And what's a dirty face compared with a dirty soul? Emily fails us on that point, but the Bulletin comes to your aid with the suggestion that you wash your dirty soul before you go home -- if your soul is dirty. You may not have been able to thaw out sufficiently to make a Novena for your mother, but the least you can do is put on the wedding garment of grace before you leave this campus of God's Mother. Don't be a hypocrite. Judas brought the kiss into disrepute; don't carry on his work.

PRAYERS: Fr. Gassensmith's mother is to undergo a serious operation. Requiem High Mass tomorrow at 6:25 for the repose of the soul of Vincent Turley's mother (Connecticut Valley Club). Tony Wallace was called home Friday by the death of his mother. Helvin Rohrbach, '23, lost his father-in-law recently. The father of L.J. McNicholas is very ill. A student asks prayers for a friend who is in danger of losing his sight; another student for his pastor who has suffered a nervous breakdown. Van Wallace, ex-'24, asks prayers for his aunt, a nun, who is ill with pneumonia; and don't forget to say a prayer for Van himself, who has been laid up with a broken neck for the past seven and a half years - without complaint, we should add, for Van, although practically helpless all these years, has been the most cheerful Notre Dame man you ever say. Jack Werner's mother is still very ill. Five special intentions.