

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
April 20, 1932

Questions From The Questionnaire.

47. Please give more discussion on scruples.

Ans. Public discussion is usually inadvisable; it may throw some timid people into scruples. Talk them over with a priest, preferably outside of confession, and follow his orders absolutely. Humility and obedience are essential to victory over them; enough humility to accept your director's judgment instead of your own, enough obedience to carry out orders to the letter.

48. Can a man be a good politician and a good man at the same time?

Ans. It's getting harder every day. One must have a strong character to resist crookedness in politics - but it is a great fight for one who is strong.

49. Does a person gain any spiritual benefit from a religious exercise which he is forced to attend and which he would not attend otherwise?

Ans. He may, if he isn't a mule. Many a man's heart has been touched by some word in a sermon which he was shanghied into attending; further, grace radiates from the altar and reaches those who place no obstacle to it. If it's Notre Dame you're talking about, grow up. You accept its terms when you come here; you are told the first day that it is not a sanitorium for lily-livered Catholics. Nothing more is required here than is expected of a good Catholic family. Unfortunately, by some strange perversity a degree from Notre Dame has an appeal to a certain class of ragged-edge Catholics who don't know the score. They give their school a black eye, but they give their professors a glorious crown in heaven.

50. What is the real value of daily Communion?

Ans. In the Holy Eucharist God Himself gives Himself as our daily food. If you meditate on that thought with one ounce of sense you will get a faint glimmer of its value. If you can't see it, daily Communion is not for you. Our Lord warned us: "Give not that which is holy to dogs, neither cast ye pearls before swine."

51. I cannot see how eating meat deliberately on Friday merits eternal damnation from a just and merciful God; also missing Mass on Sunday or committing a private sin of impurity.

Ans. That is because you haven't the remotest notion of Who God is or what it means to be a creature. It is colossal egotism to attempt to dictate to God the terms on which you are to possess Him for all eternity. If you want to get a sense of your own nothingness read the first 100 pages of Faber's, "Creator and Creature." It will put you in your place.

52. Why not a late Sunday Mass?

Ans. Why not breakfast in bed? Why not class only at 11:00 every day? Why not a night club on the campus? Why not nectar and ambrosia for freshmen, beds of down for sophomores, soft-voiced prefects for juniors, and perambulators for seniors? Why not? It's a soft age - soft with softening of the brain and hardening of the arteries.

53. Why aren't Notre Dame priests more cheerful?

Ans. They are - when they get 3000 worries off their minds - in June.

54. What is a practical antidote for pride?

Ans. Humiliations. Keep silent under them.

PRAYERS: A deceased friend. A recent convert is near death. Prof. Kelly and Edw. Krusiec ask prayers for their mothers who are ill. Bob Filson's sister is ill. Five special intentions.

MASS: Friday, 6:25, Sorin, for Mrs. Sheeketski (Monogram Club).

BENGAL: "A soph", \$2.00; another sophomore, 200 pennies (there's a suggestion).