

University of Notre Dame

Religious Bulletin

May 20, 1932

Adorers Needed.

Adorers are needed for the following periods tomorrow (Saturday): 12:00; 2:30 (2); 3:30; 4:00. For the early part of next week there are two vacancies noted on Monday, four on Tuesday, and thirteen on Wednesday. Cards for these gaps are at the Pamphlet Rack in Sorin Hall.

The Holy Father's Appeal.

"This kind is not cast out but by prayer and fasting."—St. Matthew, 17:20.

In his latest plea for a return to religion, Pope Pius XI has seemingly had in mind the injunction of Our Lord to His Apostles when they came to Him secretly to ask why they had not been able to cast out the devil who had taken possession of the lunatic boy. In answer He told them: "Because of your unbelief. For, amen I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard-seed, you shall say to this mountain: Remove from hence hither, and it shall remove: and nothing shall be impossible to you. But this kind is not cast out but by prayer and fasting."

Until we receive the text of the latest Encyclical of the Holy Father (issued Wednesday) we cannot make extended comment, but from the meagre newspaper reports we gather that it calls upon the Catholic Church to resort to prayer and fasting during the Octave of the feast of the Sacred Heart, to implore the mercy of God in this hour of the world's distress.

And fasting! "Entertainments and amusements, however lawful," we are asked to forego in the name of penance; and charity is invoked for the aid of the needy by a request for those "in easier circumstances" to give to the poor the proceeds of such retrenchment. But fasting rather than charity is made the dominant note. Comfort, the watchword of materialism, is the goal of man today; it nullifies the Cross of Christ, it saps the vigor of our prayers, it lulls our sense of duty, it stunts our consciousness of sin. It is to fasting that the Holy Father recalls us—if we would save civilization.

There is an ominous significance in the news from Tokio on the day of publication of the Encyclical. The Japanese militarists have gained their objective. And from Moscow comes the equally disturbing news that the reservists of 1909, 1910, and 1911, and all the young men born in 1912 have been called to the colors. If the barbarian hordes ever start moving, with Japanese craft at their head, unimaginable horrors will be loosed on the world. History tells us that when other calamities fail to bring people back to God, barbarian invasions may do God's work.

Accept this plea of the Holy Father as both personal and social. Make plans for your own retrenchments, and be prepared to cancel such social engagements during that week as are out of harmony with the spirit of the Encyclical. Has daily Communion at Notre Dame given you a better Catholic sense? You have a chance to prove that it has.

How Many Seniors Would Welcome a Retreat?

The *Religious Bulletin* recently called the attention of the seniors to the salutary practice of making a general confession before graduation. This suggestion has been well received, and among the many queries that have come as a result of it was one inquiring whether a day would be set aside for that purpose. This suggests a further possibility: if any group of seniors would care to make a retreat of one or two days at any time during the week following their examinations, facilities for this will be provided by the University. Seniors interested will kindly communicate their wishes to the Prefect of Religion, suggesting the day or days best suited to their convenience for this purpose.

Prayers.

A brother of Lucian Clark died yesterday evening. A sister of Frank Sullivan, ex-'31, is very ill. A deceased friend. Three special intentions. The High Mass Sunday at 9:00 will be offered for the repose of the soul of Professor Coty's daughter.

Next Sunday is Trinity Sunday.