

Campus Supplement
to the
Religious Bulletin
November 2, 1932

Smug.

You may have noticed (perhaps you haven't) that the Religious Bulletin this year has been rather impersonal in its dealings with campus events - particularly with your delinquencies. There are two reasons for this: 1. The circulation of the Bulletin throughout the United States and in fifteen foreign countries makes it a bit embarrassing to publish your delinquencies; and 2. For the benefit of the more Catholic element in the student body it has been decided to deal more with the positive side of the spiritual life. A good deal of the space given in the past to the laggards has been wasted, so far as individual results were concerned.

It is time, however, to drop a load of bricks on your heads for your smug neglect of the football team. We have had four games this year, in case you have forgotten. Holy Communions on those four Saturdays were as follows:

1808 1483 1276 1277

On the first Saturday there was a fairly large attendance, though not so large as we have had on similar occasions in past years. It was the last day of the second Mission, and we may believe, in view of what happened on the succeeding Saturdays, that the Mission had something to do with it. With regard to the other three Saturdays, it is sufficient to say that the general daily average for the year thus far is 1456.

And that shows how much you care about the team!

National championship? Sure. You take that for granted. Win all the games by big scores so you can go home and strut your stuff? Of course. -- Is that what you came to Notre Dame for? You act as though it were when the team loses.

A defeat is a wonderful thing. It threshes out the buzzards. The boys found that out at the athletic club in Pittsburgh after the game. They didn't have to fight off synthetic alumni full of synthetic gin as they did a year ago. No. The place was quiet. And when they came back to Notre Dame they thought they were back in the athletic club again.

Notre Dame doesn't give a rap about national championships. We play our schedule, and we try to teach our boys to give the best that is in them whether they are playing football or fighting a war or outwitting graft in politics or leading the humble life of an obscure Catholic layman. What the world recognizes in Notre Dame is FIGHT - the buzzards look for the championships - and follow the champs to try to make chumps of them.

But Notre Dame knows that there is something lacking in her boys when they don't get in and fight TOGETHER. You have been told often enough to know that they want and appreciate prayers, these boys who get out there on Saturday afternoon and risk life and limb to give you a Roman holiday.

Don't ask the team what was the matter. Examine your own conscience. You'll find the answer there, and it will be no compliment to your smug complacency. "Are we allowed to pray for temporal favors?" asks Cardinal Gasparri in his new catechism; and he answers the question: "We are allowed to pray for temporal good things if they are in accordance with God's will - according, that is, as they make for the glory of God, or help our eternal salvation or that of others, or at least do not hinder it."

Notre Dame football has done more than any one thing to spread devotion to frequent Communion among the school boys of America.