

Immaculate Conception
Novena for Purity
begins Sunday

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
November 22, 1932.

If you are going home..
receive the Sacraments
before you start

The Abomination of Missing Mass.

It is reported that at the 10:30 Mass last Sunday (the parish Mass, which students have no business attending) a mixed crowd of students, parishioners, and strangers left before the end of Mass. At precisely what point of the Mass they left we do not know, but knowing the penchant of late-comers for leaving early we may conclude that at least some of these missed Mass - that is, they failed in a notable way to fulfill their precept of hearing Mass on Sunday.

The ignorance of Catholics regarding what constitutes their obligation in this matter is almost unbelievable. Here are a few common cases:

1. The "First bell" Catholics. A man comes to Mass at the Preface. In a moment he hears the bell for the Sanctus. When you tell him that he has an obligation under mortal sin to attend another Mass, he replies, "No. I heard the first bell." Possibly his error arises from the practice in some churches of ringing the bell when the chalice is uncovered - immediately after the Offertory; wherever it arises, the fact that a man is told about it puts him in bad faith.
2. The "I left at the Communion" Catholics. When Masses are said on a crowded schedule, an assistant priest usually begins the distribution of Holy Communion shortly after the Elevation. This is the signal for the departure of these No. 2 Catholics. Tell them about it and they say, "I was there for the Communion." They were not. The Communion is the anthem that is said after the chalice is covered - the first time the priest returns to the missal after it is moved to the Epistle side of the altar.
3. The "Three principal parts" Catholics. They come in at any time up to the Gospel or Credo, and leave at the Second Ablution. They say "I heard the three principal parts." Aside from the fact that they haven't even done that (see No. 2 above) they have not fulfilled their obligation, for they have missed a third of the less notable parts of the Mass - up to the Gospel, say, and the prayers following the Communion.
4. The "I was on a train" Catholics. The fact that a necessary journey that cannot be deferred or interrupted will excuse from the obligation of hearing Mass is used by some people who have one foot in the door of the Catholic Church as an excuse for making all their trips on Sunday morning and regarding them all as necessary. Let them make their excuses to God; He alone knows just how ignorant they are, and therefore how responsible for their gross neglect of their obligation to worship Him.

If you don't want to hear Mass, hear it properly from beginning to end - coming on time and staying until the celebrant has left the sanctuary - you have no business at Notre Dame. This school has a definite purpose: to train Catholics to be something more than jellyfish. If you can't accomodate yourself to this program, move on. We have no room for you here. You are a disgrace to the name of Our Lady, whose son you profess to be.

Thanksgiving Day.

Mass, 7:30, in the church (confessions). Breakfast at 8:00.

Holy Communion, 8:00 - 12:00, Dillon Hall chapel.

PRAYERS: James Manion, in the hospital now a month, has developed sinus trouble in addition to intestinal ulcers. Thos. Gallivan's father is very ill. Bill Hearn's grandmother died yesterday. Two relatives of Harold Rhodes (operations). Mrs. Thos. Carter, widow of the former senator from Montana, died yesterday. Bob Burke's grandfather is reported dying. Five special intentions.