

Novena for Christmas
(for your parents)

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
December 12, 1932.

Adoration all day
Benediction, 5:15

You Picked The Right Road - But Step a Bit Faster.

Two weeks ago today the Bulletin warned you that your faith was at the crossroads; a downward trend was unmistakable in the figures, which showed a loss of 5225 Communions for the year, after a gain of 84 had been registered in October.

You picked up remarkably that week - the loss was only 62 for the week, as compared with the same week a year ago. Last week you didn't do so well - the loss was 815. However - taking the two weeks as a unit, the loss of 877 represented a loss of only 62 a day, while the November loss showed an average three times as high, or 186 a day.

The drop in enrollment this year accounts for much of the loss, it is true. With a student body 395 smaller than last year, a loss of 62 a day doesn't look bad. But we must also take into account the favorable factors this year: Dillon and Alumni Halls have their own chapels now, whereas a year ago their students had to use the church, more than a block away, for their morning devotions; and the depression, which should turn people's thoughts to religion, is far worse this year than last.

It is a matter of faith - for strong faith breeds charity and perseverance - the charity that makes you want to live close to God, and the perseverance that overcomes such obstacles as usually interfere with the continuous practice of daily Communion. Isn't it lack of faith that sends a fellow to breakfast without stopping at the Dillon Hall chapel when he gets up late? Can a fellow who has a real appreciation of the worth of one Holy Communion pass up its graces for a cup of coffee?

You have picked the right road, but step a little faster. Faith is returning - but it looks bad when there are 1533 Holy Communions on Sunday, and only 1196 the next day -- and that Monday the morning following the announcement of the death of one of your fellow-students. True, his Requiem Mass on Tuesday brought a slightly larger attendance than on Sunday - 1540 - but a lively faith wouldn't have waited until Tuesday.

The Lesson Of Sudden Death.

A Bulletin fan sends us a Boston paper with an account of the accident in which two athletes from Villanova College were killed on their way back from the Thanksgiving holiday. It appears from the newspaper account that the car in which they were riding with two companions rolled and slid more than 200 feet after the collision, badly crushing the victims.

Our correspondent writes: "My purpose in sending this account, which is probably more explicit than the reports in the western papers, is that you may use it as a warning in your daily Bulletins, as I know that there are a great many students using autos to and from the college during the vacation.... I am taking the liberty of making this suggestion as it occurs to me that it may be a very good example in impressing the boys with the necessity of being prepared at all times, as no one knows when or where a similar tragedy may happen."

We thank our correspondent, and we beg you to reflect on his suggestion. Notre Dame has had many a tragedy of the kind in the past. Such lessons are lost on those who do not make it a point to live in the state of grace. May God give us sense, and make unnecessary similar lessons in the future! (For the next one of us to die, 1707 Holy Communions were offered last Thursday.)

PRAYERS: Deceased - Wm. Schenk's father; the mother of Wm. Dielmann, Jr., '25; Mrs. Connery, Chicago. Operations: John Carnes (yesterday); Fr. Cannon (today); Fr. Haggerty (tomorrow or Wednesday). Three special intentions.