

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
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Don't You Want To Help The Poor?

Only two students have handed in their names for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Perhaps you don't understand what the work is. The Society was organized a hundred years ago, in France, by Frederick Ozanam - among students. Its purpose was to give laymen an opportunity to practice charity according to the principles laid down by St. Vincent de Paul. In those hundred years it has helped the poor all over the world, on a vast scale, distributing hundreds of millions of dollars in relief to the needy, visiting the sick and imprisoned, instructing the ignorant, bringing sinners back to the Sacraments, giving the wayward a new chance in life. In a word, it has practiced, in a most effective manner, the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

It doesn't run to overhead, as do most of the charity organizations of the present day. (It has no society girls on its rolls, getting \$50 and \$75 a week for a bit of slumming.) While its direction is highly intelligent and keeps pace with the best in modern methods of social work, it is famous for relieving first and investigating afterwards. (On a recent case the township physician was a week responding to a call for a child who was in danger of choking to death with croup; a call to the St. Vincent de Paul Society brought a physician to the house in half an hour - although the particular case was outside the jurisdiction of that conference.)

There should be - and probably are - hundreds of students here who would like to help the poor in the effective way in which this society works. As a spiritual exercise it is sublime - rich in satisfaction for this life and in merit for heaven. As training for Catholic life in the world it is excellent. As extra-curricular diversion it has what few such activities have - an exalted effect on character.

If you are interested, hand in your name at once, and arrangements will be made for you to join one or other of the South Bend conferences. You can get in a good bit of work of this kind during the second semester if you begin now.

The Depression and The Exams.

In spite of the fact that some of our friends don't like statistics in religion, we feel constrained to call attention to a deadly parallel. We had a Novena for the Depression recently, you know, and just now we are concluding a Novena for Exams. We pick out three days of the two weeks covered by these exercises, and call your attention to the number of Holy Communions received on these respective days:

	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
Depression.....	1257	1247	1278
Examinations....	1437	1447	1478

Do you wonder now that the Bulletin usually concludes any plea for charity with an argument based on self-interest? It seems to be the only thing that works with most of you. (A fourth thanksgiving, by the way, has been reported for a favor obtained through the Novena for the Depression. Some parents seem to be blessed with thoughtful sons.)

PRAYERS: Deceased - the mother of John Sullivan, '27; relatives of Jas. Glynn and Ed Moran; Bro. Leonide, C.S.C. (France); Rev. Thos. McMahon, uncle of John, '26, and Art, '30; two friends of students. Ill - the father and mother of Mm. Knox (injured in an auto accident); E. Krusiec's mother; Geo. Cannon's brother; a Sister of Holy Cross. Four special intentions.

CALM DOWN. Students who worry excessively about exams or who get a case of nerves under the strain should ask a priest for a blessing before they start.