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The Lay Cardinals.

You will find them in every parish. They correspond to what Rockne used to call in football his "Board of Strategy."

Like the Roman Cardinals, they are not of Divine origin. Unlike the Cardinals, they are self-appointed.

The Cardinals meet the Holy Father face to face and give him advice when they are asked for it. The lay cardinals give their advice to the parish priest on their own initiative, and usually behind his back.

The lay cardinals attend the Children's Mass (which is quite fitting, in a way) and when the parish priest orders them out they say that his spirit is not Christ-like.

They object to the way the pastor spends the money they don't contribute; they call him mercenary when he lays before them the parish needs that would not exist if they did their share.

They eat meat at a Friday banquet so as not to embarrass the Masons to the right and the left of them, but when the Pope dispenses the whole Church on a holyday of obligation they say that religion is going to the dogs.

They speak a good word for their pastor only when he has ceased to be their pastor and his name and fame are brought into the conversation to the disparagement of their present shepherd.

Out of the wealth of their ignorance and inexperience they broadcast their views on Gregorian chant, homiletics, hermeneutics, the Pauline privilege, and ecclesiastical art.

When they receive Holy Communion it is with the Young Ladies' Sodality instead of the Holy Name Society, when they come for confession it is five minutes after closing time, when they take a notion for the Last Sacraments it is at two o'clock in the morning.

But they are a godsend at a wake: they keep your mind off the corpse.

"Am I My Brother's Keeper?"

Cain forgot his catechism when he asked that question? You are your brother's keeper, in that you are bound to give him good example and to avoid leading him into sin. The catechism lists nine ways in which you can share in your neighbor's sins:

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| 1. By counsel or suggestion;     | 6. By silence when you should dissuade or rebuke; |
| 2. By command;                   | 7. By connivance in sinful plans;                 |
| 3. By consent or approval;       | 8. By partaking in the sin itself;                |
| 4. By provocation or incitement; | 9. By defending the ill done.                     |
| 5. By praise or flattery;        |   |

There is an examination of conscience that is often forgotten. Have you ever led another person into sin? Have you started him on the downward path, or paid his way on the slippery road to hell? Straighten yourself out in confession if you need to, and pray always for those you have scandalized whether knowingly or unknowingly.

PRAYERS: Dan Young underwent an operation for appendicitis yesterday. Deceased - relatives of Ernest Haberkern and Phil Kirley; a friend; Mrs. Margaret Burrell, a benefactor of Holy Cross Seminary. Ill - Bill Rokenstein's mother; relatives of Hilary Wertz (aunt and father), Claude Tourck; a friend. Four special intentions.