
What A Pal!

The rarest touch of human nature revealed by the check at the Masses last Sunday was the popularity of some students evidenced by the number of cards handed in for them by their friends.

Their pals put them on the spot!

When the rector receives two or three cards for the same fellow, each in different handwriting, he finds it hard to stifle the suspicion either that the man was missing or that he was in the habit of missing, and that his friends were doing their best to protect him.

Don't Miss The Point.

With all the duplicates and triplicates handed in, and the extra cards used for men who were not present at all, only 1650 cards were handed in at the Masses Sunday. The second semester registration is approximately 2700. With allowances made for Villagers, non-Catholics, and seminarians, there are still some 500 unaccounted for.

You were asked to cooperate fully in the matter of the check. Many of you failed to do so, in the mistaken notion that you were helping your friends. Let's look into that.

If you help a fellow to go to hell, can you honestly say that you are doing a friendly act? He won't thank you for it if he goes to hell.

The quickest way for a Catholic to lose the faith is to miss Mass on Sunday. Over and over the priest gets the story: he arrives too late with the last Sacraments, even though he has hurried at the first call. His own knowledge of the case or questions he asks show one of two things - either that the person was a devout Catholic who didn't need the Sacraments, or he was a lax Catholic, instructed in his religion, who was missing Mass on Sunday.

That alternative is not a nice thing to contemplate.

You must know that there are students here who miss Mass on Sunday - week after week. Whenever a student is dismissed for a disciplinary offense, students com in to the office of the Prefect of Religion to complain that the school is very severe on these matters, but very lax on the Sunday Mass. They ask: "Why don't they fire some of these birds who miss Mass every Sunday?"

The school doesn't want to "fire these birds" if there is some other way of saving them. She wants to protect them against themselves. If they get to Mass on Sunday through this insane period of their lives, when their souls are in a comatose condition, she may, at one time or another, give them a sermon that will arouse them to sense; or the very graces of the Mass itself may reach out and touch their hearts; or the sight of their fellow-students crowding the Communion rail may make them so ashamed of themselves that they will make a good confession and turn over a new leaf.

If you want to help them go to hell, continue to block the check to the best of your ability. On the other hand, if you have enough charity in your heart to help the school win them back to God, cooperate fully by handing in your own card, and only your own card, properly filled out, and at the proper time. Get a pencil in the sacristy after Mass if you need one. Hereafter no cards will be accepted outside the church.