

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
May 11, 1933

Pay Day.

Word came to the rectory that old Tim was in a bad way, likely to shuffle off any day now. The venerable pastor had a young assistant, recently ordained, who was chock-full of theology, and to season the young levite a bit, he told him to take the call. An hour later the young priest returned, looking a bit crestfallen.

"What luck did you have?" asked the pastor. "Did you fix him up?"
"He's a hard customer," replied the curate. "He won't listen to reason."
"What reasons did you give him? What seemed to be the difficulty?"
"He said he didn't believe in the existence of God, and when I gave him five distinct proofs that would convince any reasonable man, he simply rolled over and told me to spare my breath - he said he knew there isn't a God and that settled it."
"Give me that stole," said the old pastor. "We'll see how unreasonable he is."

He settled the matter in a hurry. "Well, Tim," he said, "you've had a pretty good time in your life."
"Well, Father, it wasn't such a bad time."
"And, Tim, in your knocking about the world you've observed that nobody ever gets anything that he doesn't have to pay for sooner or later, haven't you?"
"Yes, Father, that's right."
"It certainly is right. And now, Tim, you're going to pay for the good time you've had. When was your last confession?"

It was all as easy as that. Tim was old enough to know that nobody ever gets away with anything - and he knew, too, that while he could fool a young priest into thinking that there is such a thing as an atheist, he couldn't fool an old-timer.

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Some of you are still young enough and green enough to think that you are getting away with something. You are not - not with a thing. There is a pay day coming - and you will be lucky if it comes soon. That much-abused word, "experience," describes an asset if the pay-off comes early in life; it is a terrible liability if the pay-off is deferred until the next world.

You may escape hell - but what about purgatory? (To escape hell, all you have to do is to die in the state of grace - and lots of people have time for an act of perfect contrition after they are struck.) What about purgatory? In the early ages of the Church, seven years of hard penance was often imposed for one mortal sin. The Church eased those penances when people showed zeal for gaining indulgences - but how good are your dispositions when you perform the work to which an indulgence is attached? And what are you going this Holy Year, when most of the indulgences for the living are cut off?

Yes, an early pay day is preferable. A young man may find it hard to lie in bed for a year or two, trying to coax into life a stomach that has been paralyzed by bad liquor, but if the experience cures him of drunkenness and of the sins that follow in the trail of drink, it is a blessing. A failure in one class may seem hard to take, but if it makes a student out of a loafer, it is a worthwhile experience. A breach of promise suit at twenty is better than a similar experience at fifty.

If you have strayed from the Christian way of life, you can advance your pay day by making a general confession and getting suggestions on how to amount to something. Don't make your future life a rosary of regrets.

PRAYERS: The mother of Dan Sullivan, '30, died yesterday. Louis Alaman's mother is ill. An aunt of Anthony Marra is critically ill. An aunt of Bernard Cousineau died yesterday. Six special intentions.

GAPS IN ADORATION: Friday, 3:00; Saturday, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30.