

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
November 9, 1933

Friday and Saturday for the Team.

The Rally Club has asked for two days for the team this week - the old-time Friday and Saturday. O.K. - if you will respond. The Masses Friday morning will be in the hall chapels; on Saturday, the church will be available for you again - with plenty of provision made for confessions and Holy Communion. But for tonight --

Go to Confession After Supper.

Although confessors will be in the hall chapels at 7:30 as usual this evening, two conflicts occur which may interfere with the confessions of freshmen. The Vatican movie, "The Shepherd of the Seven Hills," will be shown at a time that will interfere with confessions (at least the second show), and the freshman smoker a bit later will draw many. We suggest, therefore, that freshmen go to confession after supper, at one of the usual places. For convenience propose the following distribution of penitents:

Dillon Hall - The Dillon Hall Chapel
Freshman Hall - The Sorin Hall Chapel
Brownson and Carroll - The Brownson Memorial Chapel

Confessions are heard in these three chapels every night. You may go where and when you please, of course, but this distribution is suggested to avoid crowding in any one place. But go tonight if you need to go before Communion; don't trust to luck.

A Note on Mailing the Bulletin.

Bulletins sent by mail (except in bulk from this office) are subject to first class postage. The Postmaster reports that some of you are enclosing Bulletins with Scholastics. Such an enclosure brings the whole packet under first class rates. Your folks will have to pay postage due rates if you follow this practice.

The Marconi Case.

The Marconis' visit to America has opened up in certain quarters discussion of the Marconi case settled by the Sacred Tribunal of the Rota in Rome six years ago. The Bulletin has been asked to give the facts. Here they are in brief and untechnical form.

William Marconi, in 1905, married an Anglican lady, Beatrice O'Brien, in the Anglican Church. Because Beatrice was not sure of her love for Marconi and because he was an Italian Catholic by birth, the union was entered into with the express understanding between Marconi on the one side and Beatrice and her mother on the other side, that, should the marriage prove unhappy at any time, divorce proceedings might be instituted. This understanding was made an essential part of the agreement under which the two were united. Ample testimony to this condition and the crucial part it played in the pact was given in the proceedings before the Rota by Marconi, Beatrice, Donough O'Brien, brother of Beatrice, Lady Moira Bathurst, sister of Beatrice, and a certain Marchio Aloysius Solari.

Such an agreement made a true marriage impossible because a valid marriage has indissolubility, or the inseparability of the two parties, as one of its essential characteristics. According to the Canon Law of the Church (Canon 1086), if either or both parties to a marriage, by a positive act of the will, exclude matrimony itself or every right to the conjugal act or some essential property of matrimony, they contract invalidly.

The decision of the Rota in 1927 didn't render the Marconi marriage invalid. The marriage was invalid from the outset. All that the Rota did was to discover juridically the facts and pronounce officially upon the invalidity of the marriage.