

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
November 13, 1933.

What Keeps You Away?

"If I were a Catholic, nothing could keep me from receiving Holy Communion every morning." We hear this statement every once in a while from some non-Catholic student who is beginning to turn over in his mind some of the truths of the Catholic religion as they filter through his daily conversation with Catholic friends. The boy who makes the remark is generally one who is learning for the first time the following facts:

1. That Holy Communion is the actual reception of the Body and Blood, the Soul and Divinity, of Our Lord Jesus Christ;
2. That this unbelievable favor is granted by God, not once in a lifetime only, not once in a year, but every day;
3. That the only conditions for worthy daily reception are the state of grace and a right intention;
4. That confessions are heard at any hour of the day and Holy Communion is distributed all morning at Notre Dame.

If you are not a daily communicant, put yourself in the place of one of these well-intentioned non-Catholics, who sees the immense favor you are turning down, and ask yourself the question he asks about those of your type: "Why don't all these Catholic boys go to Communion every day?" This boy wants to know how any Catholic can stay away. Tell him why you do. Is your reason one of the following?

1. Too dumb. Lack of intelligence to grasp the tremendous significance of this mystery keeps many Catholics away.
2. Too lazy. "Their god is their belly, their end is destruction." How well this applies to those who make breakfast but can't get to Holy Communion.
3. Too material. If we were handing out \$10 gold pieces in the chapel every morning how many of you would miss?
4. Too sensual. Those who plan sin in the future may not receive. The turning to God that contrition implies must be for all time, not merely for a week.
5. Too obstinate. Some fellows would move heaven and earth to go if you told them to stay away.
6. Too timid. There are people who have no end of courage when it comes to sinning, but who quail before the prospect of confessing their sins.
7. Too provincial. There are slow intellects that cannot adapt themselves to new surroundings. They do only what the farmers did back home.
8. Too self-satisfied. Their occasional acts of piety are episodes of condescension. They would not encourage God to expect too much of them.
9. Too slipshod. There are people who never finish anything. Try to get one of them to make a novena!
10. Too supercilious. These men spend all their time looking for defects in the poor sinners who go daily in order to become better.
11. Too lukewarm. Their faith is anemic, and they refuse to eat their liver because it is bitter. Faith grows by mortification.
12. Too hardened. There are such people who still keep their foot in the door of the Catholic Church. Sin is a regular part of their lives. They do nothing to correct it. They presume that they will repent on their death-bed. May God have mercy on them!

Father O'Donnell's Birthday.

Father O'Donnell has sent several messages of thanks for your prayers and Holy Communions. But let us take his thanks for granted, and keep on praying for him. Wednesday is his birthday. Let every student in school remember him that day in Holy Communion. PRAYERS: John Lovicki's mother, deceased. Ill - Ed Hamner's grandmother; Robert Maher's father (operation); a former teacher of Jas. Gleason. Three special intentions