

University of Notre Dame
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It Seems Easy To Miss The Point.

There is only one point to Catholic education.

It is based on the fact that a man has a soul to save, and that saving it is the chief business of life.

Everything else in Catholic education is secondary to this; everything else could be done just as well (or nearly as well) by secular schools.

Catholics have spent millions and millions of dollars on Catholic schools because they believe in their mission of saving the souls of young people.

And yet the sons of some of these self-sacrificing Catholics will come to Notre Dame and make no apparent effort to save their souls.

It seems easy to miss the point.

(Nearly as well? Yes. There are many things in Catholic education which cannot be done so well in secular schools, because these things are predicated on the existence of an immortal soul. The higher tones of appreciation in literature and art are matters for the soul; and they can be reached only by those who recognize the fact of the existence of the soul. Philosophy is a matter of the soul; those who ignore the soul can only play around on the surface of philosophy.)

Those who neglect the Sacraments have missed the point of Catholic education. Higher education should produce a higher type of Catholic, certainly not a lower type. The higher type is capable of greater sacrifice to attain the greater good he should recognize. The Sacraments, rightly used, develop the soul to appreciate the greater good, and to seek after it.

Those who go to the Sacraments only once a month are missing twenty-nine chances to develop their souls. They are starving their intellects and enervating their wills.

Those who go only weekly are missing six chances to be higher-type Catholics. As a student put it years ago, they are only one-seventh Catholic.

Those who are not daily communicants are missing the point of a Notre Dame education. It is the biggest thing, the best thing that is offered you here. It is stupid to miss the best.

What would you think of a man who would spend all his money on furniture and neglect to secure for himself a house? That is the status of the man who is at great pains to acquire adornments of education without an education on which to rest them.

"What shall it profit a man to gain the whole world if he suffer the loss of his soul?" Don't miss the point of a Notre Dame education.

Have You Missed The Point?

If you have (and many have -- from the looks of the statistics on the reception of the Sacraments during the Novena to the Immaculate Conception), start now to make amends. The Novena for Christmas is coming. Don't miss a day. The great feast of the Immaculate Conception is almost here -- it comes Friday. Receive Holy Communion on that day, and be prepared not only to receive during the nine days of the Christmas Novena, but to make the daily adoration as well. Have a fine spiritual bouquet ready for your parents' Christmas tree. They will appreciate that more than anything else you can give them.

PRAYERS: Deceased -- Oliver Tong, Ex-'98; Jack Sweeney's grandmother; a cousin of Al Monacelli; Clarence Pickard's grandmother. Ill -- the grandmother of John Broderick, Ex-'33; a friend suffering from cancer.