

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
February 26, 1934.

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Novena For Father O'Donnell.

Your Novena for Vocations ends today. Tomorrow you are asked to begin one for the recovery of Father O'Donnell, President of the University.

It is now eleven months since Father O'Donnell was stricken with a streptococcus infection of the throat. Fatalities from this cause were numerous last winter; Fr. O'Donnell himself was anointed twice during the early stages of his illness. By the grace of God he was spared to us, but in the process of convalescence new manifestations of the infection have appeared from time to time. The word we receive now from Florida is that he is slowly regaining his strength and wearing off the effects of the poison that has spread through his system.

Prayer can do a great deal more than vaccines and sunshine to restore his shattered health. From time to time you have been reminded of your duty to pray for him; now you are asked to set aside nine days of your Lenten prayers and Holy Communions, adorations and Benedictions, to be offered for his speedy recovery. It is more than a duty of charity to pray for your superiors; it is a matter of justice.

Coming Late to Mass.

The questionnaire of the Religious Survey of the Alumni (the report will soon be published) contained this question: "Are you habitually late for Mass on Sundays?" Your attention is directed to the following two remarks made in reply to the question:

"I was always late at Notre Dame, and I lived in Walsh Hall."

"Why don't they check up on you more at Notre Dame?"

He Slept That Day.

Speaking of the Alumni Survey recalls another reply. Answering the question on what points of Catholic doctrine require most frequent explanation, one alumnus said:

"The Immaculate Conception is always hard for even Catholics to interpret."

We will pass over the fact that the doctrine needs no "interpretation". What we want to bring to your attention is the fact that this alumnus, like so many students, has never listened when the simple explanation of the doctrine was given in class - from early catechism till college. We risk one more exposition, in the hope that it will reach some of those who can read, even if they cannot hear.

The "Immaculate Conception" is the term used to describe the preservation of the Blessed Virgin from the stain of original sin. That's all. For anyone who believes in original sin it should not be hard to understand. The dogmatic definition of the Church states that the Blessed Virgin alone, of all the children of Adam, was by a pre-application of the merits of Christ, preserved from original sin from the first moment of her existence.

The Index.

It is a mortal sin of disobedience and a peril to the faith to read books condemned by the Sacred Congregation of the Index, whether they are mentioned by name or included in the general decree which forbids certain class of books. DON'T ENDANGER YOUR FAITH.

PRAYERS: Deceased - Charles Ryan's father; Msgr. Bernard S. Kelly, of Leavenworth, Kans.; the father of Donald, ex.'30, and Francis Boyce, ex.'29; John J. McGraw (Dartmouth student). Ill - Ed Graham's mother (operation); Fred Sullivan's father; an aunt of Jim Bacon; a cousin of Walter Troy; and a friend. Three special intentions. Correction - W.F. Escher's grandfather deceased; incorrectly reported as ill.