

-----  
The Hunger Strike Against God.

At Pecs, Hungary, 1200 men were near death after five days and nights of self-imposed hunger and burial in a coal mine.

General Istorgalyos, who visited them, reported: "Some are unconscious....they couldn't eat if they had food....in their agony some utter sounds like tormented animals."

Too bad that arbitrary abstinence from the Food of Life does not similarly horrify people!

If the soul had cheeks to show the pallor, voice to sound its groans, arms to tremble in the utter weakness of spiritual starvation and isolation from God!

Holy Communion is food, necessary to the soul exactly as bread and meat are necessary to the body. As food Jesus Christ instituted the Holy Eucharist.

How natural food vitalizes the body, enables it to throw off germs of disease, gives energy to undertake and to accomplish arduous tasks.

How Holy Communion vitalizes the soul, fires it with the love of God, enables it to throw off temptation, the germ of sin. Spiritual tasks, the breaking of bad habits and the forming of good ones, are to the sincere, frequent communicant, easy to undertake and a pleasure to accomplish.

Suitable natural food, taken regularly, day after day, repairs the body, cures this or that ailment or ache. If a healthy man breaks his arm, suffers a cut or bruise, he very soon recovers.

The same is true of the soul that is daily replenished by Holy Communion. Venial sins and imperfections and their weakening effects are washed away with the inflow of grace that comes with Holy Communion.

The taking of natural food is, thank God, one of the delights of living.

And the few minutes of the morning fervently consecrated by Holy Communion with Christ furnish the soul its chief delight. No wonder that religious who frequently receive Our Lord are the world's most contented and joyful people.

Spiritual unconsciousness, or entire lack of interest in spiritual matters, distaste even for the Bread of Life, pessimism and despair--these are the fruits of spiritual starvation and self-imposed exile from God.

If this exile and starvation is suffered long, death, through habits of sin and, sometimes, through loss of faith, robs the soul of all desire and hope for improvement and revival.

The hunger strike against God is costly treason against a man's own spiritual welfare.

There is never, never, never a reason to justify it.

Thanks to two generous donations, one of \$100, another of \$20, Father Barron's fund jumps today to \$186; the pamphlet rack fund remains at \$19.

Deaths: Deceased, mother of Dan Boyle (Billon). Ill, uncle of Bill Dooley; Don Allen of Redin (in critical condition in hospital). Four special intentions.