

Most profitable
Lenten Penance.....
Getting up on time
for daily Mass.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
February 23, 1940

Tomorrow....
A paragraph which
will make you
like Penny-A-Day!

Put On Your Sackcloth; Take That
Hairshirt Out Of Your Trunk...

...In other words: start doing some good stiff penance. This is Lent, but from the looks of the usual big time everybody's having, you wouldn't notice it. Not that anyone advocates joylessness anytime but you can't get away from these words of Our Lord recorded in Luke XIII, 3:

... UNLESS YOU SHALL DO PENANCE, YOU
SHALL ALL LIKEWISE PERISH.

Perish! That's bad. Yet, that's the word He uses.

You keep forgetting the nature of sin and the inescapable penalty due to sin. That penalty must be paid off-- if not here, then hereafter, and to the very last far-thing.

* * * * *

But what kind of penance should you do? You need definite suggestions-- all the more since the bishop has dispensed you from the fast and abstinence. He himself suggests that you do your work thorough-ly.... and, for you, that means your studies. So the A-1 penance is to keep at those books despite the tug you feel toward the Rockne pool or your over-stuffed davenport or the show in town.

When you've given the proper time to study, then romp all you want around the handball courts; walk in the woods; join the gang in their bull-session. But that proper time first to studies. Best guarantee you'll stick to your guns is to make out a wisely-planned study schedule. Adherence to that is a penance. Ask the man who does it!

* * * * *

There are, of course, other penances which creep up in your campus life. No letter from Darling Daisy.... and you want to shoot up heaven and earth.... or you run to the nearest beer-joint for

PRAYERS: (DECEASED) Mother of Bob (Walsh) and Bill (St. Mary's) Fish; (6th anniversary) father of Dick Walsh (Howard). (ILL) Eddie Fulham, recovering from a mastoidectomy; Will Quant, friend of Mike Vonesh.

a draught of consolation. It might be a prudent penance, the rules considered, (and your weak human nature) to do without the beer during Lent at least; and it surely would be a pious penance not to run wild through the corridors with two guns in your hands.

* * * * *

Then, it starts raining just when you are counting on a Sunday walk toward the belles of Saint Mary's..... so you up and curse every pure, moist raindrop to cruel extinction in the fires of hell. (Is that nice?)

* * * * *

You've got a valuable lesson to learn, and that is to use the things that go against your grain as the stuff of your penance.... Who are you to be chucking away the Cross? Are you going to let the Lord have exclusive rights to the instrument of salvation?

Simon of Cyrene felt that way about it till one day the Roman soldiers shoved him under the Cross and made him carry half the load with Our Saviour... Though at first this Cross felt awkward, Simon soon found it meant peace because it meant he had found Christ Crucified.

