

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
October 17, 1940

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To Students -- Confidential

At the seven and ten o'clock Masses last Sunday, a priest in the pulpit announced the pages in the new missals. Most of you approved enthusiastically. Some disapproved saying, "Visitors will think that we can't read." Let's hope that the visitors assumed that presence in college indicates ability, at least, to read; but what did visitors think of those spiritual illiterates and yokels, who strolled into Mass three to ten minutes late; who knelt or sat hunched over, refusing even to read the Missal; who coughed excessively sans handkerchief; who sat down during the distribution of Holy Communion; and the one prize stupid who read the "Sunday Visitor." He narrowly escaped a cuffing from an employee, Joe the cook.

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The missal announcing will continue for a few more Sundays to show you the ease and benefit of missal use. Beginning next week at a time to be announced, instructions on the use of the daily missal will be given in some of the hall chapels.

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Several requests for recommendations and references from the University have been coming in from various industrial organizations and the army and navy. Most of these requests want a detailed not a general character recommendation. These requests are referred, for answering, to those who should know you well, rectors and prefects. You cannot expect a good detailed recommendation for a job or a commission in the army unless the priests and brothers know you. Some of you have deliberately avoided priests and brothers, on the advice of "wise" upperclassmen. You suffer accordingly when these requests come in. They don't know you and can give at most only a very general and non-committal letter.

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The graduate who was a daily communicant as a student rates highest in such letters of recommendation as to character. A priest or brother knows he can confidently recommend a daily communicant as a man who is governed by reason and thoughtfulness, and not by emotions and impulses, always seeking a thrill, up one day and down the next. He isn't the type who says, "I don't go daily to Communion because I don't get a thrill. It means more to me when I go less often."

Christ did not leave His Body and Blood to give us thrills, but to cure our ills. The student who faithfully and thoughtfully goes daily to Communion to avoid sin and to grow in Christ's strength and love, whether he gets a thrill or not, will work thoughtfully, obediently, and faithfully on details in business or in the army, whether he gets a thrill out of the work or not. The letter of recommendation can truthfully contain such phrases as, "Faithful and mature, has poise, steadiness, is not kiddish or emotionally-maladjusted." It takes character, effort and intelligence to be a daily communicant.

To Subscribers -- Confidential.

Some of you have written letters requiring personal replies. The Editor regrets that he has been unable, and may not be able to answer these. The Editor's first obligation is to the students here at Notre Dame in administering the Sacraments and consultations all mornings and evenings. Hence, the Bulletin isn't his only job. If you do not receive a reply, you'll have to be patient and resigned, or get the day lengthened to 40 hours. (Incidentally, some priests wrote in asking for Iowa football tickets. In the rush, your letter was sent to the Football Ticket Committee or has been lost. Sorry. Write to the N.D. Football Ticket Committee). Your letters are welcome, of course, especially when they contain contributions for use in the Bulletin, or on the mailing cost.

PRAYERS: Deceased, Father of John McGovern, '39; Aunt of Wm. Talbat, (B-P); Two friends of Jack Malloy (Bro.); Grandmother of Don Potter (Mor.). Ill, Fr. Craddick, (appendectomy); Father of Tom Morrison (Sor.); Grandmother of Chas. Dougherty, (O.C.);