

How About It?

"Is that right, Father, that while I am in the state of sin, my good acts and prayers are worthless?" That was a question after Sunday's sermon.

"Well, not entirely," was the answer, "but they are worthless as far as gaining merit -- an increase of sanctifying grace, and the more grace you have, then the closer you are to God, and consequently, greater help and favor from Him. Then, your degree of happiness in Heaven is dependent on the amount of grace at your death.

"It is easy to see that one who is in the state of sin, and thus an enemy of God, cannot receive His greatest gift, His friendship and love in sanctifying grace.

"Now, as to satisfactory value, your good acts or prayer while in the state of sin cannot atone or satisfy for temporal punishment for past sins. Those in the state of mortal sin cannot make their earthly suffering or crosses cut down Purgatory.

"But here's where your good acts and prayers in the state of sin do have some value. They can have an impetratory value. Don't be alarmed by that word which means petition -- a "gimme" prayer; an earnest request to Divine mercy for some favor."

"Will God come through if I'm in the state of sin?" was the next question.

"Well, He may grant the favor purely out of His kindness and generosity. As you are an enemy, your prayer certainly won't be as effective as when you are in the state of grace, and thus a son of God.

"One certain effect of good acts and prayers in mortal sin is this: They always are at least a prayer to God for graces necessary for repentance and for obtaining again the state of sanctifying grace -- and that is God's greatest gift."

How About Exams?

"If I want to be sure of help in the exams, then, I ought to be in the state of grace?" came the practical query.

"By all means," was the advice. "Plus study. You know, you can make your studies and the exams themselves a prayer by means of your Morning Offering. Say that faithfully and everything done during the day; all works, prayers and sufferings, hard work, irritating rules, early rising, disappointments, sickness, even Indiana weather -- all of these things will become a prayer."

Get Set!

1. The Novena for Exams begins Saturday.
2. The Church Unity Octave begins Saturday, too. Hand in the names of non-Catholic relatives and friends who you wish prayed for at Masses.
3. Do you know any fallen-away Catholics? Any lukewarm Catholics? Any in-and out-ers, moody, sensitive Catholics who try to find something or somebody to criticize, to alibi their leaving the Church? Pray for their conversion, too.

Don't be afraid of cheating yourself if you include the intentions of Church Unity in your Novena for Exams!

PRAYERS. Deceased: Friend of Mrs. Van Scoik (Comp. Office); Nephew of Brother Agathe, C.S.C.; Grandmother of Al Hosbein (B-P); Friend of Bob O'Hayer (Dil); Aunt of Joseph English, '37; Friend of "Tex" Adams (Bad); Anthony Canterino. 5 Sp. Int.