
Questions from Questionnaires.

Ques. I'd like to know something about general confessions.

Scrupulous persons will kindly pass over this answer; they always want to be making general confessions, and a general confession generally does such a penitent more harm than good. And with this preliminary observation out of the way we may pass to some general considerations on the subject.

A general confession is necessary whenever a penitent knows for certain that one or more confessions of his past life have been bad. A confession is bad if the penitent wilfully conceals a mortal sin or lacks dispositions necessary to the fruitful reception of the Sacrament, such as purpose of amendment, or willingness to make restitution for damage done to another's property or reputation. If a penitent has on his conscience such a bad confession he must repeat that confession and any other confessions that have taken place meanwhile, telling how often he has been guilty of sacrilegious reception of Penance, Holy Communion, or any other sacrament.

A general confession is useful whenever a person is about to assume a new state or condition of life. Such conditions may be graduation from college, entrance into marriage or religious life, the embarking on a career, or a "conversion", by which is meant the turning of the heart to God in a new manner, to undertake a wiser, more thorough, and more understanding service of Him. Its motive should be mainly to thank God for all He has done for the penitent, particularly in keeping him out of sin and warding off the consequences of sin.

How is a general confession made? The best way to make it is to leave it to the priest. It need cause the penitent no worry or agitation of spirit. A bit of reflection on his past life will give him a general idea of his violations of the Commandments, and the questioning of an experienced confessor will set his fears at rest. May with its approach of graduation for some, of vacation for others, is a good time for a general confession.

Ques. Why pick on the sophs! Yes, I know we aren't perfect, but how about the others?

Ans. Maybe it is because the Bulletin editor likes them so much and keeps prodding them because he hates to see any of them go haywire during their sophomore year which is a crucial time. For example, consider the following remarks (not typical, thank Heavens) on a sophomore's questionnaire:

"After reading the answers given here you will probably think I am a complete fool, i.e., according to your idea of what constitutes a fool. I have my own ideas about my life and they seem to be working out very well at the present. One thing that most of the priests around here seem to forget is that we are alive not dead and that we shall be dealing with living people during our life which don't hold most of the fair play teachings handed to us around here. It's a case of the survival of the fittest and I plan to be one of the fittest and religion doesn't seem to work into that plan at all. At any cost be the man on top is my motto."

That is the motto, by the way, of Hitler and of racketeers also. Pray for this sophomore that he may realize that religion doesn't work into the plan of hell, either. Pray also that he may adopt this motto: "What doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world and suffer the loss of his soul?" Pray also that he return to the Sacraments since he states he has not received Communion so far this year.

PRAYERS. Father of Bob Hauser (Bro); Fr. Arthur Haid. Ill: Brother of Neil McCarthy, (Dil); Prof. David Campbell; Ray Hoffman (Bad), oper; Phil Bondi, '37. 3 Spec. Int. Father of Jack MacCauley (Sor); Grandmother of Frank Romano (Z).