

Why Young Men Don't Crowd The Communion Rail on Sundays.

1. THEY ARE BLIND. They don't see that they need Our Blessed Lord and the guidance, inspiration and strength that comes from every Holy Communion. "I don't commit mortal sins," they say, "So why should I receive often." They are blind to the fact that their job is to be as perfect in virtue as their Heavenly Father is perfect. They are blind to the truth that Holy Communion is the best means of making the soul ready for temptation and for the practice of all the virtues.
2. THEY LACK THE COURAGE TO CHOOSE THE MIDNIGHT FAST. They're afraid to say: "Let's go directly home; it's after midnight"; "No, nothing, thanks, I'll just sit and converse while you eat."; "I prefer eating before midnight."; "I want to receive Holy Communion in the morning, Mary, so let's plan our evening accordingly." It's choice between feeding the body or the soul. The strong man wants to give his soul to Christ. For him, midnight is a very important hour, and neither good food nor friends can move him to break his fast.
3. THEY ARE IN MORTAL SIN. Not all, of course, must claim this excuse. For those who are guilty, it is a very sound excuse, and one that is theologically correct, because he who has committed mortal sin after his last confession is obliged to confess before approaching the Communion rail. A delay in confessing manifests a terrible state of mind. It means, in cases where confession is easy, that one is not at all anxious to hurry back to the friendship of God. Practically it means that the guilty party has put before his soul some material thing: "Confession can wait. Saturday night for me is the only time I have for recreation, and so I'm spending my time with my date, a show and entertainment afterwards." Our Lord left a little phrase for the meditation of these procrastinators: "Death comes like a thief in the night". Saturday night with the devil! What fun!
4. THEY FEAR CONFESSION. Poor fellows, their fears are in vain. Christ is merciful and forgiving, the confessor is only too anxious to care for the sheep now ready to return to the fold, the admission of others who feared that it was not the ordeal expected - all should lead the sinner back to the Good Shepherd, to happiness. Sin is a burden, a load. The longer the wait, the worse the fear. If these sufferers would only look about, they could find a confessor tonight, and peace.
5. THEY HAVE A CRAZY IDEA ABOUT SATURDAY CONFESSION. Confession need not precede every Holy Communion - unless a mortal sin has been committed. College men must use their heads, the knowledge they gather in their religion classes. It is Catholic teaching that the conditions necessary for a fruitful reception of Holy Communion are three: the state of grace, the desire to receive Our Lord, and the midnight fast. The Saturday confession is a splendid practice, but where it is made a condition for the reception of Communion it is theology that must be condemned immediately.
6. "MY PRACTICE IS TO GO ONCE A MONTH" Not bad, especially when you consider that there are many who receive the Sacrament once a year. You fall under Class 1. You are blind to the fact that you need Christ frequently. The Lord's Day means more than just assisting at Mass. It means that it is the day Our Lord wishes to feed the soul through Holy Communion. You may not starve by your infrequent reception of the sacraments, but you will become very weak.

WHY DOESN'T OUR LORD SEE YOU AT THE RAIL EVERY SUNDAY?

PRAYERS: (deceased) Sister M. Maura, C.S.C., uncle of Vince Murphy (Cav), father of John Quinn, ex '44, father of M. J. O'Brien Jr, friend of N. D. (Ill) sister of Tom Hardman (Wal). One Special Intention.