

Mission Skivers.

You are hurting yourself and the students making the first Mission. A Mission is a time of very special grace. Christ reserves for this occasion particular favors that He will not give at other times. What you missed was more than a sermon and Benediction. You lost the opportunity to receive new inspirations and strength for your own spiritual welfare.

You are your brother's keeper. Your skiving brought a loss to your hall and classmates. God gives graces to groups as well as to individuals. The larger the group and the more fervent its petitions, the more blessings God sends to all in the group. Your presence at the Mission services could have brought more protection against sickness, more grace for the conversion of sinners, more help in study.

Of course, if you are living in sin and deliberately missed the Mission, you are pretty dumb. It's no slight thing to turn aside the grace of God when He offers it to you. Play square with Christ.

Two Midshipmen.

Here is a bit of encouragement for those students who want to learn how to serve Mass. One day after his Mass, the Prefect of Religion was stopped by a midshipman stationed on the campus. The young man wanted help in serving Mass. This serviceman had little to begin with; he had never so much as stepped inside a sanctuary; he never had a single course in Latin. The only assistance he ever received was from a book which took the server's responses word by word and gave their pronunciation phonetically.

The roommate of this midshipman was an experienced server. He offered to take care of the instruction, under the direction of the priest. The first day the beginner served with his roommate, but acted as "dummy" on the altar. He went through all the movements, saying nothing. The following day the two served again. On this second effort, the novice said the prayers at the foot of the altar and responded "et cum spiritu tuo" at the proper times. On the third day he served the Mass alone, reciting the Latin perfectly with the aid of the server's Mass card. On his fourth day in the sanctuary he served alone, and recited all the Latin from memory. A perfect server in four successive days! Where there is a will, there is a way.

A few months later, this whole process was practically repeated by another midshipman. This second request for help in serving came a minute before the priest was to begin Mass. At this Mass the beginner played "dummy" with an experienced server. The following day the two went through the movements of the Mass alone at a side altar. This tyro had taken Latin in high school, but he had never set foot inside the Communion rail. On his second attempt at serving, he said all the Latin. On his third experience he served alone, saying all the prayers. And before he was commissioned he was reciting all the prayers by heart.

You are never too old to serve. In the Basement chapel of the church a business man serves Mass daily at one altar. His young son often comes with him and serves at another altar.

Brother Boniface, the sacristan of the church, will teach you to serve. Make an appointment with him. Servers are still needed for the 6:00 A.M. Masses in the Basement chapel of the church. The response is surprisingly slow to this need. What's the trouble?