

University of Notre Dame
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Do You Want Success In The Exams?
(Make the Novena.)

Some students will say they need a MIRACLE rather than a NOVENA to bring them out of their deficiencies. Well, Novenas have worked miracles, so no matter how dark the outlook, pray for God's blessing on these final exams.

God rewards persevering prayer. Nine consecutive days of special prayer is not too much to ask of a man who is seeking a big personal favor. Begin your Novena with this sound advice of a saint: "Pray like everything depended on God, and work like all depended on yourself."

The offering of your study must be part of your Novena. The nine days of prayer are not "gimme" days only. They must be days specially consecrated to the work of study. Start your day by offering in advance all the effort and suffering involved in the day's work. The perfect place to make those offerings is at Mass where you give them to Christ who will offer them to His Father for you and with you. Work that is sanctified at Mass pleases our Heavenly Father.

You are cheating yourself, if you don't make the Mass part of your Novena. The most influential person in heaven is Our Lord. At Mass He comes from heaven to pray for everyone, for you. He prays for your intentions at Mass. Why not kneel around the altar and unite your prayers with Christ's? Alone, you won't have much power before the throne of God. With Christ at Mass, you can move Heaven.

How Holy Communion helps. An obedient son is most likely to find his father ready to listen to requests for favors. The better you are spiritually, the more likely will your petitions be answered. Every Holy Communion makes you better, more obedient to the will of God, more quick to follow the inspirations of grace. Every Communion will help you persevere in prayer and in study. Every Communion is the reception of the living Christ; there is no more fitting time to pray to Him than on the occasion of His coming to the tabernacle of your heart.

Cramming (intelligently) not cribbing. To pray, and at the same time, to prepare a crib or to plan to cheat in the exams is to slap Christ in the face. Cribbing is a sin. It is deceitful. It spoils prayer, making it ineffective.

The sinner hasn't a chance. Christ cannot lavish His benefits upon his enemies. "He who is not with me is against me." The sinner (the man in mortal sin) plays a losing game. He studies and gains no merit. He makes great sacrifices and his efforts do not give his Heavenly Father one jot of glory. A good confession will make study a more pleasant task.

Student Comment.

"The only time in my college career that I have been successful in all my examinations was when I made the only novena I have made before examinations."

"I do not know whether it was frequent Communion or the practice of saying the beads daily that has helped me, but something has caused me to be more calm and resigned to accept whatever God wishes to send me."

"When I miss Holy Communion in the morning I find it ten times as hard to resist temptation. It gives me a sense of security with regard to death."

PRAYERS: (Ill) mother of Joe Byrne, '15 (Newark, N.J.) 2 Special Intentions.