

University of Notre Dame
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T H I N K !

Webster's definition of doldrums well defines your spiritual status--a state of listlessness or boredom. It sets in before Lent. Attendance at daily Mass has steadily dropped over last month. Holy Communions are a hundred a day fewer than during the month of January. Late Communions in Dillon averaged 200 a day from January 6--31. This month's average will be 140 or less. (Catholics from New England have discontinued night prayer as an old-fashioned pious "extra". Try to count them at night prayer.)

This record is another sensible sign of the dull, dead calm. You know what daily Communion means. You know what attendance at daily Mass means too. How many millions of Catholics are there in this country who would thank God for the rest of their days if they could have the handy facilities you enjoy. Dull season? Your indifferent attitude is positively doltish. "Consult the record," Al Smith used to say.

How many of your saintly Catholic mothers would understand your carelessness? How many of you have mothers who would hear Mass daily if they had the convenience you rave about when you're home. The old Protestant lady who said: "If I could believe what you Catholics believe about the Eucharist, I would crawl on my hands and knees to Church"--had a deeper incipient faith than you who can't crawl out of bed and walk the hundred paces or less to your hall chapel.

T H I N K -- Again!

Even if you can't make the pilgrimage to Rome and gain the great grace of Plenary Indulgence for all the punishment due to your sins, which is granted in this Holy Year, you can and should unite yourself in intention with the Holy Father.... "That each one, in prayer and penance, should devote himself to the reform of his life and the acquisition of the Christian virtues, so that this great Jubilee may prepare the way for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ."

Progress in real piety will not consist in giving up candy and eating peanuts. Not in putting yourself to small inconveniences, such as giving up shows, dancing, drinking. These penances have their place but they are not all-important.

Real piety will consist, above all, in growing in virtue through the frequentation of the sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist.

So Get Set.

Reorder your pre-Lenten thinking. If you have messed up this year so far, be determined that this Lent will be the best ever. And for the seniors it will be their last at Notre Dame. After graduation the world will be waiting to club them--and it won't be with a Glee Club either. Our times are serious. The Communistic incubus is growling louder day by day. It smells blood--Christian blood--and is moving in for the kill.

Five years ago the Holy Father pointed out the real cause of religious indifference. It is the current divorce between religion and everyday life. His message contained an exhortation on frequenting the sacraments as a means of overcoming the dangerous influences which threaten your life this day, this hour, this minute.

Crowd the confessionals. Crowd the chapels. Crowd the altar rails. Let Notre Dame experience this Lent a mass movement of its student body toward assistance at the Mass and the reception of Christ's Body and Blood, the pledge of immortality.

Prayers: (deceased) Rev. Bernard Swaby, S.J.; grandmother of Mary Ann Flanning.
Ill: (Broken back) uncle of Rev. Thomas Brennan, C.S.C. (Corby).