

Don Burkhardt (Morr) underwent University of Notre Dame
his second operation. Prayers Religious Bulletin
requested. October 15, 1951

Rosary and Benediction at
5 Mondays through Fridays.

Be Specific Please.

A freshman inquirer, who probably didn't give his rapt attention during grade-school Catechism classes, asks how detailed he must be in confessing his sins. Without going into all the requirements for a good confession, in general: all mortal sins he is conscious of must be mentioned, in kind and number. This does not hold true for venial sins. Mortal sin is the necessary matter.

Whenever a confessor asks questions it is usually indicative that the confession is incomplete; so don't argue with him. For example, lying may be a mortal or venial sin; it depends on the seriousness of the matter involved. If a penitent confesses he lied, how is the confessor to know whether it is mortal or venial sin unless he is more specific. . . If another penitent confesses bad thoughts and is not more specific than that, how is the confessor to know whether these thoughts were entertained, enjoyed with full consent or partial consent, unless the penitent is more specific.

The same thing holds true for evil desires. Their sinfulness is determined not only by the degree of consent of the will but by the specific nature of the sinful action desired. Certainly it is a graver mortal sin to desire to sin with a married woman (adulterous desire) than it is to sin with an unmarried woman (fornicarious desire). If the desire is merely a temptation there is no sin at all. Let the penitent be specific.

Take Another Look At Your Hat.

A tall, rangy, friendly Texan (Notre Dame rooter, by the way) reported to the Bulletin that he lost his fifty-dollar Western hat in the cafeteria last Saturday. The finder may contact one of the student chaplains. . . In regard to finding lost articles remember that a finder cannot claim ownership as long as he is in bad faith. Involved in this matter of the hatless Texan is grave matter. Possessors in bad faith are bound to restitution.

Alertness.

Those who are mentally old enough to understand why the sanctuary bells are ringing at the time of consecration should remain quiet and pay attention to what's going on. It is bad manners to get up and go to confession during this time. . . Watch yourself.

Friendliness.

Christ gave us His special commandment to love one another. By this sign all men would know that we are His disciples. Our duty as Christians is to live in charity with one another and within the world. Charity begins at home; we must begin with those who share our daily life.

One fine manifestation of this charity is friendliness. It is not a cold, calculating benevolence toward classmates, professors, maids, janitors, visitors, priests. Nor is it necessary to be loud, noisy. A smile, a nod of the head, a simple "hello", a wave of the hand is often times sufficient. We have heard of such persons as "friendly enemies!"

St. Thomas goes so far as to say that friendliness is a part of justice, because every human being has a natural right to expect a friendly approach from every other human being. It has been the experience at Notre Dame that the genuinely, most friendly students are those who are frequently seen at the altar rail. There is something about a man who is on friendly terms with God. Unless he is neurotic he will find it a delight to be friendly with his neighbors. St. John says: "If any man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar."

Prayers: (deceased) father of Russ Toohey (Far); sister of Mother Mary Veronique, CSC.