

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

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Notre Dame, Ind.

● EVERYONE should be caught up on his back work by now and able to resume those Lenten practices and resolutions. The Masses in Sacred Heart Church every day are at 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, and 5:10. Confessions at all the Masses.

● A WORD OF ADVICE TO THE ALTAR-BOUND. If you plan to stake all your happiness on a non-Catholic girl, be sure she receives an adequate explanation of our Faith before your marriage. You owe this both to yourself and to her. As far as your chances of finding happiness in a mixed marriage go, note that the experts maintain that only about fifteen out of every hundred work out! So, maybe you'd better discuss the pros and cons of a mixed marriage before you make arrangements for instructions.

● MAY DEVOTIONS will be held at the Grotto each evening during Mary's month. We will begin these nightly devotions a week from tonight at 6:30. The formal opening of May devotions will be held at 8:00 P.M. next Sunday evening, weather permitting. This traditional devotion begins with a candle-light procession from the residence halls to the Grotto, where there will be a short sermon and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Make a note of it, therefore, to eat on campus next Sunday evening and be ready to join in the procession at a few minutes before 8:00 P.M.

● PRAYERS. Deceased: Mother of Aaron and Dr. Frank Halloran; aunt of Bro. Boniface, C.S.C.; grandmother of Jorge Uribe of Farley; Dr. Dean Seabrook; mother of R.J. Campbell of Pangborn; grandfather of Mario Mauro of Alumni; brother of Mrs. John A.

Coleman; father of William Fote, Jr., '52; father of Thomas E., '53, and Donald S. Doherty, '57; father of C. Jerome Smith, '55. Ill: Chet Wynne; Joe Kesting, ex-'46; mother of Joe Callahan of Alumni.

● IT'S WORTHWHILE RECALLING G.K. CHESTERTON'S remarks about confession at a time like this. He said: "When a Catholic comes from confession, he truly steps out again into the dawn of his own beginning and looks with new eyes across the world....He believes that in that dim corner, and in the brief ritual, God has really remade him in His own image. He is now a new experiment of the Creator. He is as much a new experiment as he was when he was only five years old. He stands in the white light at the beginning of the life of a man. The accumulations of time no longer terrify him. He may be gray and gouty; but he is only five minutes old."

● TONIGHT, BETWEEN 6:00 and 8:30, THERE WILL BE FOUR CONFESSORS ON DUTY IN SACRED HEART CHURCH. IF YOU WERE UNABLE TO GET TO CONFESSION IN YOUR PARISH LAST SATURDAY EVENING, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY.

● THE RETURN OF WARM WEATHER often brings on spring fever and carelessness in studies. We can count on the weatherman occasionally to arrange things so you'll get some work done. But, for the most part, it will be up to you to see that you use these last remaining weeks of the schoolyear profitably.

● WARM WEATHER ALSO brings again the oft-repeated plea.....

KEEP OFF
THE GRASS
(PLEASE)





IF YOU ARE GRADUATING in June, or planning to marry this summer, you would do well to give some thought to a general confession. Most of you have made a general confession at one time or another, perhaps. But, if you haven't and are wondering just what a general confession is, then, give a look here.

THE PURPOSE OF A GENERAL CONFESSION is to bury a not-so-pleasant past and to plan a better future. Participants in the project are God, your confessor, and YOU.

YOUR ROLE is to get a line on your past sins and problems. This may take a while. Don't expect any lasting benefit from a general confession made after just a five minute preparation, or one made during Mass. Your examination should extend over several days. And, during these days, carry the remembrance of your past about with you peacefully and without mental effort, letting your past sins and problems return as they will. Two or three big matters may come to the fore; bring these to your confessor. The **things** that rush to the fore might be past sins that continue to disturb you, or worries about how you'll face a situation in the future--anything that is bothering your peace of mind can be brought into such a confession. But, only the important details are necessary. Leave aside the insignificant. And when you're reflecting on the past, pick a place conducive to reflection--the church, a certain chapel, or beside the lake.

YOUR GENERAL CONFESSION is not likely to be successful if you make no acts of sorrow, no firm determination to avoid the cause of your sins, no workable resolutions about the use of prayer and the Sacraments. So, it would be wise to spend a couple of days, talking over your past and future with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Take a few minutes out of two or three days and spend

them in the Lady Chapel, before the Blessed Sacrament. Make some practical promises there about your life.

THEN PICK A TIME when neither you nor your confessor will have to rush. If you have a regular confessor, it might be well to make an appointment with him. And, as for the procedure in the confessional, there's nothing difficult about that. If you'd prefer to have the confessor question you, he will do it. Just ask him. Usually, however, most prefer to tell their prepared "story" first, and in their own way. Then the priest will ask questions, if necessary, so as to clarify matters. In trying to determine the number of times you have committed a particular sin, it is sufficient to say, "once a week", "twice a month", etc. Concentrate on your principal sins and their causes, on your doubts and your problems. Depend on your confessor to help you with any omissions. And when you're all finished, he will give you absolution for all your sins. You'll get up off your knees forgiven and determined to serve God faithfully in the future.

YOU DONT HAVE A REGULAR CONFESSOR? Put in at Dillon, then, or Howard, or Cavanaugh, or Keenan. There's a priest there every night.

AND, YOU SAY YOU'RE NOT GRADUATING, and your father won't let you get married? So....You still may need to make a general confession. Maybe the blase attitude of last fall and your feeling that you need not make a good Lent has given way to a more sensible attitude. Maybe in the course of this vacation you've come to understand at least one thing about yourself.....how helpless you are without God's grace.

Gene Boorman, c.c.
Student Chaplain