Seniors. They are about to leave the protecting influences of the campus and try their luck with the world — and what a world right now! Many of them are discouraged, fearful. There is no reason for that if they make Christ their daily companion and food. The night before He died, He counseled us: "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, do I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid."

Their protection — not only for virtue, but for peace of soul, for life or death — lies in the grace of God. They can store up this grace now by daily Communion. It’s their last chance.

Juniors. They are near enough to the end of their course to have formed a definite objective, and they have been around Notre Dame long enough to know that daily Communion is the best means to the objective of a Notre Dame education. Either they have profited by their previous years here or they have not. If they have, they know the value of daily Communion, which is the supreme aid in developing the mind; if they have not, it is high time they learn.

Sophomores. If they made a good freshman year, they should now reason that there is no sense in throwing away all they gained through the Sacraments last year. If their freshman year was a failure spiritually, they should be content to throw away one year, and begin now to make amends. Sophomores are exposed to peculiar temptations, in that their goal is still far off, and the novelty of their freshman days has worn off. Daily Communion is essential to them.

Freshmen. Daily Communion corrects bad habits and protects good ones. No freshman can afford not to be a daily communicant. If he has been fortunate enough to pick Notre Dame for his school — or to have it picked for him — he should not tempt his luck by neglecting the biggest point in his education. For many freshmen it is the first chance to be the boys they have always wanted to be.

See the Crib?

A visit to the Crib, erected by Brother Boniface in The Lady Chapel, is worth your time. The lighted background of Bethlehem, new this year, adds to the Crib’s beauty.

And while you gaze at the Infant and ask why a miserable manger for the Creator of the universe, ponder the words of St. Cyril:

"Christ found mankind degenerated to the level of brutes. So He had Himself laid in a manger in place of the fodder, as a lesson for us to desist from animal-like habits and return to a life worthy of human beings, grasping no longer at earthly food, but at the Bread of Heaven, His own vivifying Body."

The Dumb Ones Have A Purpose.

Notre Dame, at a considerable sacrifice of her priests, uses every effort, gives you every facility, to encourage you to eat daily of this Bread of Heaven. Some students refuse this daily Bread and choose instead, like the prodigal son, the unsatisfying husks of the world. The priests then recall the advice of an old retreat-master, "Don’t get discouraged over the dumb ones. Remember, we get our satisfaction out of the bright students; we get our bread and butter from the mediocre ones, and we save our souls through the dumb ones."