A Priest’s Consolation.

It won’t hurt to repeat that when priests see the neglect of study and the Sacraments by some students, the words of an old retreat-master are recalled:

"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."

Congratulations, Greg!

One of the students who did give and still gives satisfaction, is Greg Rice, graduate of 1939, admitted to be the greatest distance-runner America has ever produced. Greg has recently been awarded the James E. Sullivan Memorial Trophy by a one-sided vote of 600 leaders in sports. This award is given annually to the amateur athlete who, by his performance, example and influence as an amateur and as a man, has done the most during the year to advance the cause of sportsmanship.

In selecting the winner of the trophy, the sports leaders were asked to take into consideration, among other things, "acts of sportsmanship, qualities of leadership, strength of character, and force of personality."

Those still at school who knew Greg, remember him not only for those qualities and his athletic ability. He was even better known for his masculine piety and great devotion to Christ in the Mass and in the Eucharist, being a daily Communicant throughout his four years. He not only participated in all adoration periods, but volunteered each time to canvass for names.

Why Not?

A lot of discouraged fellows are holding back from making the Novena for Exams because they don’t feel right about asking God’s help when they have turned their back on Him in prosperity.

But why not make the Novena the start of a different life? God uses all sorts of means to call us back to Him, and temporal needs are often the means of a great spiritual regeneration. It may be that God will not give you the temporal favor you ask for; it may be that failure would do you more good than success. But why not leave that in the hands of God? Ask God’s pardon for having offended Him, make a good confession—a general confession of past sins if you want to add a little extra humility—and then pray for the success you want for the sake of your parents.

If you start the Novena for Exams Sunday, it will end on the first day of examinations.

Bread and Water.

A Holy Cross seminarian teaches religion to the Catholic boys in a certain reform school. He asked them to say a prayer for his sick brother. A little later a non-Catholic boy who had heard of the request somehow edged up to the seminarian and said, “I don’t know how to say prayers, but I’ll fast on bread and water two days for your brother.”

He may not have known how to pray in a formal way, but he had a good heart and he certainly knew the way to God’s heart—sacrifice and denial. If you want to make effective your prayer for any non-Catholic, add sacrifice and denial. Get to the Sacrifical of the Mass. The more effort and denial it involves, the more effective your prayer will be during this Church Unity Octave. Hand in names.

[Names and titles of people involved in Church activities, not relevant to the main text.]