Obstacles To Success In Exams.

1. **Sin.** A good conscience always leads the way to clear thinking. If there is serious sin on your soul, see your confessor tonight. The student who enters an examination with sin on his soul has two strikes on him, because God cannot lavish his favors on those who are not repentant.

   If your case seems a hard one to tell, mention your fears to the confessor as soon as you enter the confessional, and he will make the confession easy for you.

2. **A Personal Problem.** Peace of mind can be upset by many factors, for example family sickness or domestic trouble, lack of confidence in oneself, the boy-girl problem or bad habits. A short chat with one of the priests on the campus is perhaps all you need to steady you.

   It's a matter of experience that God works through others in the direction of souls. He wants us to seek counsel. Christ could have directed St. Paul but he sent him to Cornelius for guidance. In the Providence of God, the priest is the one assigned to take care of your soul-problems. You may seek help in the confessional or in the priest's room.

3. **Fear of Failure.** The student who studies conscientiously, assists at Mass and receives Holy Communion has every chance of success. Never give up.

   **The Prayer of St. Thomas For Study.**

   Ineffable Creator, Who is the greatness of Thy wisdom has appointed three hierarchies of angels and set them in wondrous order above the highest heaven, and with surpassing nicety has compacted of widely varied elements the material universe; Thou Who art with strictest right hailed true source and sovereign, principle of light and wisdom, deign to cast upon my darkened mind a ray of Thy splendor, and to clear me of the two-fold darkness in which I was born; that, namely, of sin and ignorance.

   Thou Who givest speech to the tongues of little ones, lend skill to my tongue and put upon my lips the grace of Thy benediction. Bless me with a keen mind, a capacious and retentive memory, skill and ease in learning, aptitude for explaining, a pleasing and adequate manner of expression. Inspire me in beginning, direct my progress, and perfect the finished task, Thou Who art true God and true man; Who livest and givest through all eternity. Amen (7 years)