NOVENA
IN
PREPARATION FOR EXAMINATIONS

Mass and Holy Communion in honor of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYERS

Ineffable Creator, Who in the greatness of Thy wisdom hast appointed three hierarchies of angels and set them in wondrous order above the highest heaven, and with surpassing nicety hast 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 twofold darkness in which I was born; that is, 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 are true God and true Man; Who livest and reignest through all eternity. Amen.

O Holy Spirit, Soul of my soul, I adore Thee. Enlighten, guide, strengthen and console me. Tell me what I ought to do and inspire me to do it. I promise to be submissive in everything that Thou permittest to happen to me: only show me what is Thy Will.

(Then say three Hail Marys; finish with the invocation, "Seat of Wisdom, Pray for Me.")
SOME OF YOU have literally lived in your books all through the semester. However, it's taken Brother Conan's most persuasive "Music to Buy By" to get others to purchase a book. Not many, mind you, but some. And even then tastes might have settled for such favorites as Brain Surgery Self Taught, Embalming Can be Fun, or So You Want To Build a Swamp. But, now it's time to put aside every book except those upon which you are soon to be examined. If you've been spending too much time doing unassigned reading, then, about now you must feel that the exams are poised overhead like an ax ready to cut you down and out of university life.

SOME OF YOU, I fear, are congenital worriers. And one of the unfortunate things about examinations is that occasionally a student will "go to pieces." He gets so tense and unnerved that he actually forgets what he knew backwards and forwards only ten minutes before the examination. No doubt, the best remedy for this condition is to "be a Boy Scout", be prepared. Frequently, though, this exam anxiety is nothing more than a childish defense put up against the blame for failing to prepare. Let's have no alibis for failure to prepare. Convince yourself that exam time is here and still get there ahead of the class bell. Don't complicate matters by being disorganized and breathless. Secondly, while waiting for the exam to be handed out, deliberately relax. Don't try any sixty second review of class-notes. Don't start arguing with another about some fine point in your notes. You merely confuse yourself and get yourself more unsettled. Spend the time just before the examination reading the sports-page. And, have a plan of attack. You'll have some idea of the kind of exam to expect. Find the best, most sensible way to go about taking it. Then, be prepared to carry it out (the plan, I mean) as soon as you get the signal to begin. With a definite plan in mind you can keep calm, cool, and collected, and do yourself justice.

AND, DON'T FORGET that here you have the added assistance of the Novena in Preparation for Examinations. Make the Novena, beginning Friday, January 16th. Attend Mass daily, receive Holy Communion, and recite the Novena prayers.

Of course, if you're really in bad shape, you might want to resort to a Novena to St. Jude. These novena pamphlets are available in the pamphlet room in Dillon.

AND HERE ARE a few other things you might do. Allow yourself plenty of time to do what you need to do before the exam and still have time for other necessary tasks.

PLEASE pray for the following: Deceased: Father of Tracy Douglass of Howard; uncle of Len Smith of St. Ed's; grandmother of John Kenny of Dillon; Dr. John A. Murray; wife of George W. Philbrook, '12; mother of Coach Witucki; uncle of Jim Kane of Morrissey; mother of Edwin Murray of Zahn. Ill: Bob Luther of Alumni.