
His Last Holy Communion.

"O my God, how wonderfully Thou dost deal with us! How sweetly and graciously dost Thou order all things in favor of Thy elect."

Jack Gleason's little "Purple Prayer Book", found in his pocket Sunday night, was doubled back and folded over at these words. And they were certainly true in his case! God's loving care was not wanting in his last hour. During the Mission four Masses were said for the next one of us to die, and three thousand, one hundred and forty-nine Holy Communion were offered up for the same intention. He did not know it, but he was marked for death; he did not realize it, but in the few weeks that have passed since the Mission he made a beautiful preparation for death.

Jack was a big, loose-jointed, good-natured, good Catholic boy. He was faithful to his duties, and every Sunday morning you would find him in his favorite pew in the east transept of the church. He received Holy Communion regularly, as his devotion directed, during his freshman year, but not frequently. Then came the avalanche of graces during the Mission (when God knew what we didn't know) and he was seen frequently at the Altar Rail, nearly always at the same place, the third one from the Sacred Heart statue.

Then came the last day of his life. He heard Mass devoutly, and into his heart he received his Maker. At Benediction in the church that evening he gazed for the last time on the Sacred Host, which Our Lord promised us as a pledge of life eternal. An hour later his Maker received him into His Heart. Father Devers gave him absolution when he was struck down; he was taken immediately to the hospital, where another priest anointed him and read the Recommendation of a Departing Soul.

He did not know that Sunday's Holy Communion would be his last; but he was faithful to an inspiration of grace and received -- perhaps in gratitude for the Army victory. We do not know which Holy Communion will be our last; perhaps it has already been received. Let us learn from him to be always ready; let us say with a full heart the prayer of St. Thomas that follows, in the little Purple Prayer Book, the considerations from the Following of Christ given above:

to

"O Almighty and everlasting God, behold, I draw near the Sacrament of Thine Only-Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ; I draw near, as a sick man, to the Physician of life; as one defiled, to the Fountain of mercy; as one blind, to the Light of eternal splendor; as one poor and needy, to the Lord of heaven and earth. Wherefore, I implore the fulness of Thine infinite bounty that Thou wouldst vouchsafe to heal all my sickness, to wash away my defilement, to give light to my blindness, to enrich my poverty, and to clothe my nakedness, so that I may receive the Bread of Angels, the King of kings, the Lord of lords, with such contrition and devotion, such purity and faith, such good purpose and intention, as may avail to the welfare and salvation of my soul."

Wednesday morning at 6:15 there will be a High Mass of Requiem in the church for the repose of his soul. And for the consolation of his family, check below the offerings you will make for him:

Holy Communions

Masses said

Masses heard

Rosaries

Way of the Cross

PRAYERS: Fr. Kelly's father is very low; remember Paul Duncan, who was badly bruised in the accident Sunday night.