

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
February 13, 1931.

Flowers For Forty Hours.

The week before the Passion and Death of Our Lord, Lazarus tendered Him a banquet at Bethany. As on a previous occasion at the supper in the house of Simon the Leper, Mary Magdalene came and washed the feet of Jesus with her tears, and anointed His head with precious ointment. Judas protested, saying: "This might have been sold for three hundred pence and given to the poor." (Since a penny was a day's wage, the corresponding value at the present time would have been between \$750 and \$1000.) St. John tells us that Judas said this, not out of love for the poor, but because he was a thief and carried the purse.

Our Lord's answer gives us Divine authority for the lavish decoration of churches and altars and all things pertaining to the Blessed Sacrament. He said: "Let her alone, that she may keep it against the day of My burial. For the poor you have always with you; but Me you have not always."

The poor you have always with you, and the Church has been fully cognizant of her duty towards them, from the time when the Apostles ordained the first deacons to wait on the widows and orphans, saying: "It is not reason that we should leave the word of God and serve tables." In times of dire distress the Church has melted down her gold and silver chalices and ornaments for the benefit of the poor. But neither has she forgotten her duty of contributing to the external honor of God. She will say Mass in a thatched hut in the jungle if need be, but at the same time she will build cathedrals and basilicas to the ornamentation of which she will bring all perfection which the arts, inspired by faith, can command.

At the pamphlet rack in the corridor of Sorin Hall you will find two contribution boxes, one marked "For the Poor," and the other, "Flowers for Forty Hours." The students have always supplied the altar decorations for this particular devotion, as a mark of their affectionate regard for the Blessed Sacrament. Let this year be no exception.

(It should be noted in passing that the Knights of Columbus last week sent flowers for use in the basement chapel, and that on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes an anonymous client of Our Lady left flowers for the decoration of the Blessed Virgin's altar in Sorin Hall. - It is also suggested that if any student wishes to take up a hall collection for flowers for next week, he may do so if his rector approves.)

Return All Cards.

All adoration cards, whether signed or not, should be returned this morning. The matter of sorting them out to discover gaps in the line of adorers is a time-consuming operation, and we want to be able to announce on Saturday's Bulletin (which is printed Friday noon) the periods for which additional adorers are needed on the first three days of next week. Kindly cooperate.

How To Adore.

The official adorers (those who have signed for a particular period) are expected to vest in cassock and surplice and kneel in the sanctuary during that period. The vestments will be found in the sacristy (west of the church), and there are prayer books on the kneeling benches in the sanctuary. Your own devotion will suggest the proper division of your time between meditation and vocal prayer.

PRAYERS: Deceased - Frank Webster's father (Wednesday night); John J. Kelley's grandfather; Sister Symphorosa, M.A., '29; three relatives; five friends. Ill: George Woodward's father; Don Bulger's grandfather; Dick Shiela's sister; four relatives; two friends. Five