
Go to Mass.

Is it proper to receive Holy Communion outside of Mass?

Certainly it's better to receive Holy Communion devoutly (with the proper preparation and thanksgiving) outside of Mass than it is to go straight from bed to breakfast.

But to make Holy Communion outside of Mass a regular principle of action, an habitual procedure, shows you don't know the value of the Mass, nor the relation of Holy Communion to the Mass.

The Mass is the unbloody sacrifice of the cross. "Unbloody" doesn't mean that the Mass is merely a dim imitation, only a reminder of the sacrifice of the cross. The Mass is, substantially, the sacrifice of Calvary, performed again and again in an unbloody manner. There is no actual shedding of blood in the Mass, for Christ having died once can die no more. But there is a real, mystical immolation. The words, This is My Body, and, This is My Blood, pronounced separately, are likened by theologians to a sword, effecting mystically the separation of Christ's Body and Blood.

The same priest, Jesus Christ, offers the Mass, as He offered the sacrifice on Calvary. The priest you see at the altar is secondary, -- he has his commission, his power, he officiates in the name of Jesus Christ. Moreover, as soon as the words of the Consecration are pronounced, Jesus Christ Himself comes onto the altar, offers Himself to His Father. The visible priest offers with Christ, by Christ, in Christ.

The victim is the same as the victim of Calvary. Hidden under the species of bread and wine, the Saviour is present as He was on the Cross, with the same sentiments and dispositions, -- adoring the Father for you; and as man, acknowledging His own and your total dependence on the Father; for you thanking the Father and asking pardon for sin; begging an outburst of graces upon you and all mankind.

Holy Communion and the Sacrifice of the Mass are not independent. Holy Communion is the normal completion of the Sacrifice; by It we enter into the sentiments of the Divine Victim, our souls and bodies become co-victims with Christ in glorifying God.

You ask, then, Why should I go to Mass every morning?

The answer is: because you find from experience that of yourself you are powerless to dominate all the temptations of life, because there is still a penalty even for your past forgiven sins that you must wipe away, because you need help in your physical and mental life, because your mother and father and other relatives and friends count on you for prayers, because you can profit most in these necessities by identifying yourself personally with the infinite merits of the Mass; and especially, because

If by a frantic flood of Divine love, Good Friday and Calvary were reenacted every morning on the Notre Dame campus, even under your own rood, and if you would at all costs go and unite your feeble prayers to those of Jesus being crucified for your sake, then for the same reason Go to Mass.

The Pledge.

The form of pledge against the use of intoxicants will be found on the mail tables in the halls. There are also boxes in the halls for the returns of the pledge coupon to the Prefect of Religion. The returns are made only for statistical purposes. -- There is already a good return of cards this year. Statistics will be published later.

PRAYERS: A deceased uncle of Ken Montie; deceased friends of two other students. Four special intentions.