

Ill, mother of student;  
father of John Sullivan;  
sister of M. Gaul;  
relative of Fr. J. Burke.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
April 26, 1935

Holy Hour, 7 to 8, Main  
Church, ending Triduum  
that closes Holy Year.

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Why Go To Mass?

"How much appreciation do you show of your opportunity for daily Mass?"

In answer to that question, in the current Religious Survey, one student remarks: "I enjoy attending Mass. I know that no earthly pleasure can take the place of the Mass."

Another says: "It is the greatest gift of God. One should form the habit of going out of his way to attend, so that later in life the occasion will present itself oftener."

Are these students extravagant in their appreciation of the Mass? Read the following facts; then decide for yourself.

The Mass does not merely represent Calvary, it is the unbloody repetition of Calvary.

So far as essentials are concerned, Calvary comes to the campus every morning in every Mass. You do not in the Mass see Christ's blood streaming, nor actually hear His voice lifted up to Heaven, nor see His weary head turn in mercy to the thief on the cross.

But the Mass is the same sacrifice as that of the cross. Christ is both priest and victim in the Mass just as He was on Calvary. The priest whom you see at the altar is Christ's minister; he acts only in the name and power of Christ.

If you feel, then, that you would do great honor to God and gain immeasurable graces for your own soul by staying with Christ through the agonies of His Calvary, for the same reasons go to daily Mass.

The Mass is the highest form of Catholic worship because it most perfectly recognizes God's dominion over His creatures. The Church, both in theory and in practice, acknowledges that the Mass is the central act in her liturgy. Such important functions as ordinations, consecrations, professions, and marriages--all take place at the Mass.

According to St. Thomas, all the sacraments, like the Eucharist itself, are participations in the Holy Sacrifice, or are means whereby the soul is prepared for the Holy Sacrifice.

Holy Communion, whenever possible, should certainly be received at Mass. That is the will of the Church. It is surely the way that most good can be drawn from Holy Communion. There is certainly no more worthy preparation and thanksgiving for Holy Communion than attentive attendance at Mass.

Holy Mass is a liturgical drama, full of beauty and feeling and exalted thought. There is a long and fascinating history behind each prayer, each movement of the Mass. Study the Mass. Get yourself a missal containing an exact translation in English of the prayers, and use your missal every day at Mass.

Thus you will keep in touch with the spirit and mood of the Mass as it changes from day to day. Thus the altar will become for you "a sacred corner of Palestine where our Lord is waited for, is born, lives, preaches, suffers and dies for us, rises again, and from whence He sends forth His Holy Spirit with the special graces which that day's Holy Communion is to infuse into our souls."

Once you know the Mass and form the habit of following it intelligently, you, like the student quoted above, will rejoice in the Mass "as the greatest gift of God"; you, too, will find that "no earthly pleasure can take the place of the Mass."

PRAYERS: Deceased, Tom Doyle's mother; Harold Kempe; Eileen Connelly's father. 6 ints.