Mass, 6:25 Thurs., Main
Church for Mr. John Cushing;
request of Monogram Club.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
October 23, 1935

Thursday is tenth anniver-
sary of Ed Glade's death;
High Mass will be sung for
him. Offer him your prayers

To Help You at Mass--III.
(c. Creed, Offerings.)

After the gospel, the credo is recited at the center of the altar on all Sundays and on many feasts which occur during the week. The credo expresses wholehearted belief in one God, the father and creator; in Jesus Christ, God-man, redeemer of all man-kind; in the Holy Ghost, Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son. Finally, the credo expresses belief in the one, holy Catholic Church, in Baptism, in the forgiveness of sin, in the resurrection of the dead, and in an eternal life.

With the completion of the creed the first part of the Mass, the Mass of the Cate-chumens, comes to an end. The catechumens or "instructees" used to leave the church at this point.

The second part of the Mass begins as the priest turns to the people and says, "The Lord be with you!" Note that immediately he turns back to face the altar and says: "Let us pray." But he doesn't begin to pray at all. He merely recites the offer-tory--or the relic of a hymn that the choir used to sing while the actual offertory was taking place. This "Let us pray" is all that is left now of a long litany of prayers that were said for all for whom the Mass was offered.

Immediately after "the great litany" the faithful used to file up to the altar car-rying clothes, food, and other offerings for needy Christians. From the bread and wine they brought, the priest set aside sufficient for the Mass and for the Communion of the day. The rest he distributed.

Taking in his hands the paten or gold plate which bears the bread that he will soon consecrate, the priest prays: "Accept, O Holy Father, Almighty, eternal God, this stainless Offering which, I Thy unworthy servant, offer to Thee, my true and loving God, on behalf of my innumerable sins, offenses, and negligences, for all who are standing around, and also for all believing Christians, living and dead, that for me and for them it may work out unto salvation and eternal life."

The early Christians preferred a little water mixed with their wine. The priest to-day walks to the right end of the altar, pours wine into the chalice, then blesses water and pours a bit of it into the chalice already containing wine. As he does so he says: "O God, Who didst wonderfully fashion the dignity of human nature, and still more wonderfully re-fashion it, grant that by the mystery of this water and wine we may be made partakers in His divinity Who in our humanity did not disdain to share." The union of water with wine becomes the figure of the union of weak human nature with the divine nature in the incarnation of Jesus Christ. The union of the taste-less colorless water with the red wine symbolizes also the union of our own weak, individual nature, with its hopes and fears and sins, and the strong nature of Christ. Christ's elevation of human nature in the Incarnation, and his divinization of our individual nature through frequent infusions of grace--these are our cause for hope.

The priest returns to the center of the altar and elevates the chalice containing water and wine. As he does so he prays: "We offer to Thee the Chalice of Salvation, entreating Thy mercy that in sight of Thy divine Majesty it may ascend with fragrant sweetness for our own and the whole world's salvation." Resting the chalice on the corporal he bows profoundly and continues: "In the spirit of humility and with a contrite heart be we accepted by Thee, O Lord; and so may our sacrifice be made in Thy sight today, that it may please Thee, O Lord God." Then to the Holy Spirit: "Come, O Sanctifier, Almighty, Eternal God, and bless this sacrifice prepared for Thy holy Name."

PRAYERS: (deceased) friend of a student. Ill, friend of Hugh Wahl; Bishop Walsh, Superior General Maryknoll Mission Fathers. 2 special intentions.
Deceased, Varnum Parish ('35), killed in explosion.