

Help Helena Earthquake Victims!

An urgent appeal has come to the Bulletin from Révérend Joseph M. Gilmore, the Chancellor of the Diocese of Helena, Montana. Successive earthquakes have riddled homes and hospitals and places of business there. Suffering is intense and widespread among Catholics. They ask no luxuries, merely for food and clothing, and for shelter from the austerities of the winter that is upon them.

It is conservatively estimated that there are about 150,000 readers of the Bulletin, apart from students here on the campus. We appeal to this large family, in the name of Christian charity, to help the Catholics of Helena!

Many of our readers, we realize, are high school students. They will not feel able to give much. But we beg them to band together, make up a purse, large or small, and send it on quickly. If we get only a penny from every reader, our Christmas gift to Helena Catholics will be well over a thousand dollars. And if we get some larger donations, well, our contribution will be much greater. Let's do our best--everybody!

Catholic Loyalty.

During a recent synod of the New York State Presbyterian churches, the Rev. Russell H. Stafford, of the Old South Church of Boston, Mass., had this to say: "The Catholic Church is a vital element in the changing social order because of the loyalty of its followers."

Loyalty was an early characteristic of the Catholic Church. In the first centuries Christians pooled everything they had, so that all might have at least the necessities. The situation in Helena calls for loyalty from Catholics everywhere in the United States. Address your donations to the Prefect of Religion, 117 Dillon Hall, Notre Dame, Indiana.

A New and Significant Custom.

The Holy Father has recently granted an indulgence of 100 days, to be gained once a day by married people in the diocese of Westminster, England, who, with a contrite heart, kiss the wife's wedding ring and say: "Grant us, O Lord, that, loving Thee, we may love each other and live according to Thy holy will." Beautiful, isn't it?

We have always realized that there is something sacred about the Bishop's ring, which we kiss to show respect for his authority. We know, too, that a nun's ring, visible sign of her final religious profession, deserves honor and respect. But the wedding ring! It has seemed wholly secular--part of the mere paraphernalia of a marriage along with the bridal veil and the bouquet.

The Holy Father would have people take a different view. He would have them realize that the wedding ring is a reminder, too, of solemn vows, that it is the sign of a holy vocation which calls for brave dedication to Christ's service. It is harder today than ever to live and love in married life according to God's law. Pagan divorce and pagan birth control are ruining the sanctity of marriage. Let us hope that the Westminster indulgence may be extended to Catholics everywhere--that through the beautiful practice and the indulgenced prayer all married people may find help and encouragement to love each other and to live out their vows according to God's holy law.

First Friday.

Adoration from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Benediction 7, and 7:30. Mass, 6:25, main church in the morning.

PRAYERS: (deceased) friend of R. P. Kowaczek (Sorin); father of Gus Crisci (Badin); cousin of Tom Gillespie (St. Ed's); Rev. E. L. O'Connell, Pittsburgh, Pa.; friend of Frank Egan (Alumni); father of Wells Robison ('34). Ill, Bob Hoywood, appendectomy.