

Mass 7:20 Dillon, Saturday,
for mother of Fr. Mucken-
thaler; request of K. of C.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 31, 1938

First Friday tomorrow,
Fr. Farley still needs
your prayers.

Are You Chained To A Corpse?

History records many incidents of barbaric cruelty. But condemn a living man to be chained to a corpse, and you have reached the depths of human fiendishness.

If your buddy lives continuously in mortal sin, you have just about chained yourself to a corpse.

If your buddy misses Mass on Sundays and Holydays of obligation, he is living in mortal sin. His soul is dead. And he is worse than dead.

It's A Mortal Sin.

To neglect, knowingly and willingly, the Sunday obligation of hearing Mass, is definitely a grave sin. Outside of sickness or grave inconvenience no excuse for missing Mass is sufficient.

To miss Mass is not a sin of human weakness, as it is to be impure, or to get drunk. Hence missing Mass is a sin of the mind, malicious--almost diabolical.

The fallen angels stood before God and refused to obey. "We will not serve," they said.

The Catholic who misses Mass sins in like manner: "I will not go to Mass...I know the Mass is the unbloody sacrifice of the Cross...I know the Church makes attendance obligatory...I know the Church is infallible...I know Christ founded the Church...I know Christ is God...But I will not serve."

This is why he is on the way out of the Church. He neglects graces and soon will be ready to deny his faith. The Pentecostal fire which once glowed so beautifully in his childhood now dies down to a few smouldering embers. The next blanket of self-indulgence will completely smother the fire.

Not To Be Pitied.

Christ sympathized with sinners like Magdalene and Peter. They were human and weak. He hated sin but he loved the sin-

PRAYERS: (deceased) Msgr. John T. Slattery (friend of Univ.); Mr. John Hagerty (Chic.); mother and aunt of Sister M. Anselm C.S.C.; Ill, brother of Bill Hawes (brownson); mother of Doctor McMeel; father of Gene Dolan (Walsh). Eight special intentions.

ner. Yet He showed no love for the white-sepulchred Pharisees. They sinned with their eyes open, through malice and pride. Therefore, Christ cursed them in the infinite wrath of His wounded Love.

Your Friend?

"I know my buddy doesn't go to Mass; but anyhow he's a good friend."

Is that so? Can true friendship develop between two men, one of whom is a friend of God, the other an enemy?

"A faithful friend is a strong defense: and he that hath found him hath found a treasure...A faithful friend is the medicine of life and immortality." (Eccles.)

How can your so-called friend, who has been faithless to God and His Church, be faithful to you of lesser degree? What kind of defense and medicine is such a friend? You can't trust him. He is selfish. The proud man is predominantly so. Don't ever expect him to sacrifice himself for you. And self-sacrifice is necessary for loyal and lasting friendship.

What To Do.

Prove you're really his friend. Urge him to be humble enough to go to the Sacraments, and courageous enough to get to Mass (on time, too) every Sunday. Offer to wake him up.

Prove your interest in him is not based on his external qualities alone: on his pleasant disposition, his athletic ability, the sentimental pleasure of his good company.

Don't be yellow or afraid to tell him what's what. Maybe a priest could do the job better. But if he's too stubborn, if you're slipping because of his bad influence, if you're not strong enough to stay with him to the bitter end, then courteously but definitely sever your bond of friendship, or he'll ruin you. Recommend him to God. And pray that God will give him some sense.

The question: Are you chained to a corpse?