

Low Masses Palm Sunday
6:00, 7:00 and 10:00.
SOLEMN MASS AT 8:00.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
April 9, 1938.

Be sure to receive
the Sacraments before
beginning vacation.

The Holy Cross.

Why did Our Blessed Lord stretch out His hands and feet on the hard, rough wood of the Cross? Why did He let them be savagely spiked, when a single word from His baby lips in the stable at Bethlehem would have sufficed to redeem the world?

The birth of Christ, it is true, was enough to redeem the world. It beautifully proved God's infinite love, His delight to be with the children of men. But man needed something more. The Birth of Christ was too tame. Something exciting was needed to shock man away from sin. And God gave us the ghastly Death of His only Son.

St. Luke says Our Blessed Lord advanced in wisdom and age and grace with God and men. But He grew to full manhood for a single purpose, to make the Way of the Cross for us. By the Cross we learn in an unforgettable way the unforgettable lesson of the infinite malice of mortal sin.

God went to extremes to show us how much He hates sin, and how much He loves us.

To balance the pride and rebellion of man, God humiliated Himself by taking our flesh.

Surely it was degradation and abasement enough thus to take the form of a slave. But no, love drove Christ on. He would dive to the very bottom of shame, hiding not only His Godhead beneath the humble form of a man, but emptying Himself of even His manhood through the death of the Cross. All this to impress us with the heinousness of grave sin!

This infinite God of light cramped Himself for nine months in the dark womb of His Virgin-Mother. Thirty years this God, Who had kindled the fire of hell, lighted a kitchen hearth. The Creator of all obeyed the word of His maiden-Mother. This God who had fashioned the Universe stooped over a workbench, made tables and chairs. Thirty years He did chores for a man and his wife.

At last, when His time had come, each day of His public career He walked meek and humble of heart among arrogant, insolent men.

All through His dread Passion he bowed down His will to the will of the Father Who sent Him, He braced it to meet each frightful and ever more frightening detail of a blood-soaked redemptive plan.

He was quitted by all His friends. He was kissed by the traitorous kiss of a coward. He was falsely accused and crookedly judged. He was spit on and contemptibly mocked. He was cruelly scourged and His brow was pierced with a crown of needles and thorns. His feet were dug and His hands were pitted. And at length the virginal Flesh of this merciful God was frozen to the wood of a man-made tree. God died for the love of men! And to teach them the price of sin.

Holy Week

begins tomorrow. Meditate well on the Passion of Christ and you will fly from sin as you would from the head of a snake poised to strike at you with a deadly venom. With all the love of your heart you will love your Redeemer, Christ Jesus!

The Cross will teach you two things: the evil of sin, the happiness that comes of devotion to your Lord and God.

The World Today

does not believe, as you do, in the malice of sin, because it does not believe in Christ and the Holy Cross.

You can change the world by preaching Christ and Him crucified.

You need do nothing more than fly sin and love God. Your radiant joy will set the world after Him and one day she will kneel at the foot of Calvary and pray:

"Hail, Holy Cross, our only hope!"

Mass, Monday, Dillon Hall Chapel, 7:20, for father of Art Selna, request of K. of C.
PRAYERS: Ill, George Jackoboice '31. One thanksgiving. Five special intentions.