

Last of Father Lee's
sermons tonight...It
will help you prepare
well for Holy Week.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 29, 1939

Friday Eighth Anniv.
High Mass for "Rock"
in Sacred Heart Ch.,
6:20. Details Thurs.

"Today, if you shall hear His voice,
harden not your hearts."

These words of the psalmist David fit Easter Duty Day rather well. This morning the vast majority of you received Holy Communion in a body. *** If you were one of the few who did not, either--

1. You did not hear His voice, and in that case you should give your faith a good shaking, for when faith slips, life does; or--
2. Having heard His voice, you deliberately hardened your heart, and that's bad because the only cure for bad will is good will. God Himself can't make a bad will good. That's up to you.

Weakness is easier cured than malice. Hardness of hearing is easier remedied than hardness of heart. A broken-down human wreck is easier reconstructed than a defiant man. *** But no matter how hard-hearted, malicious, defiant the sinner, there's good in him and he can be reclaimed. *** He's good but he can be much better.

One Supposition.

Suppose you did not hear His voice this morning. Two thousand others did. Obviously the voice can be heard. The voice still can be heard. *** Listen. *** It is your conscience. It is common sense. It is your better self buried under this cheap appearance. It is the sermon tonight.

If you hear that voice tonight, as you sit or kneel in Church, do not harden your heart. That is the one, only thing that stops His voice. Before you return to your hall, halt at the "box." There again you will hear His voice saying, "I absolve..... go in peace.....sin no more."

You're missing too much as long as you're missing Christ. He is the life of your soul.

Another Supposition.

Even suppose you have, up till now, been a hard-heart. What hardened your heart? An unkind priest? God forbid, for Christ will judge him severely. In any case, why let him harden your heart? Infinite kindness says, "Harden not your heart."

Do you think it might be your own fault? Some point of morals you've slipped on for a long while? Perhaps you fought hard, time and again; still you slipped. Then you rationalized, you kidded yourself. "It can't be corrected." Pride may have kept you from asking questions. Inwardly you may have despaired. But you had to put on a front. You wound up, after you saw you couldn't "get back" and couldn't readjust your morals to your faith,-- you wound up saying something which at first you didn't mean. Instead of saying, "Sure, I do believe. But I'm weak," you said, "No, it can't be done. God doesn't expect it. He never said it. I don't need to believe!"

Like an unbelievable advertisement which people swear up and down is bunk-- because they know it is bunk-- the passage of time and the day-after-day repetition lulled you asleep. "Fink toothbrush!" *** "I don't need to believe." You began to think so.

By degrees you hardened your heart. *** "Today, if you shall hear His voice, harden not your hearts." *** Magdalene, Augustine softened. You can. "Take up the Cross!"

FRAYERS: (deceased) Rev. Francis Noel (Chambersburg, Pa.). Ill, mother of Ted Leonas (Hew.); (seriously) mother of Ed Shevland (Mor.); aunt of John Krajniak (Cav.).