

## Now With His Eucharistic King

That you have the privilege of daily Adoration during Lent is due in no small way to the suggestion and encouragement of a priest, the Rev. James J. French, C.S.C., who died Thursday morning after 58 years in the priesthood; 58 years, and every one of them distinguished by a singular devotion to Christ in the Mass and Eucharist.

During his long membership in the Community, he was most intimately connected with the spiritual as well as the physical development of Notre Dame. He was one of the novices who cleaned brick for the reconstruction of the present Main Building after the disastrous fire of 1879.

Ordained in 1883, he first served as President of St. Joseph College, Cincinnati, Ohio, then as Superior of Holy Cross Seminary at Notre Dame. (1887-1893.) He was Vice-President of the University of Notre Dame, from 1893 to 1905, and also acted as Director of Studies some of those years. He thereafter served twenty years, until 1926, as Assistant Superior-General of the Order, being in the meantime also Superior of Holy Cross Seminary for the second time, from 1906 to 1912.

In 1912 he helped to reorganize and to establish the famous reputation of the Holy Cross Mission Band. Superior of that Mission Band for 18 years, ill health forced him to retire from such a rigorous life in 1931. Though then 71 years of age, he would not listen to suggestions of retirement so he was appointed to the Chaplaincy of St. Joseph's Hospital, South Bend. Even after 8 years as chaplain, he was a little offended when he was retired from all active life in 1939 at the age of 79.

Even after leaving his direct University connections, he still kept an active interest in the spiritual life of the students. It was at the suggestion of Father French that Perpetual Adoration was made possible for you students in the seasons of Lent and May, and he constantly encouraged daily Communion for all students.

He was nationally known among the clergy and hierarchy for his work in the priests' Eucharistic League and Congresses, and his popularity as a missionary extended from coast to coast. At his Golden Jubilee in 1933, celebrating 50 years in the priesthood, he was the recipient of nationwide tributes.

His last few days reflected his unwavering fidelity to his priestly life and rule. The last two days of his life he had been too weak to say Mass, but he spent several hours each day in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in a wheel chair. His last day alive he laboriously arose and dressed completely to receive his Eucharistic King, spent much time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, said his office, attended the Common Community night prayer Wednesday evening in a wheel chair; then, his great heart worn out, he died calmly, early in the morning of Thursday, the day dedicated to the Eucharist.

Funeral services, consisting of the Office of the Dead followed by a Requiem High Mass, will be held in Sacred Heart Church at 8 A. M. Saturday. Lenten Adoration will be deferred until after the services. Remember gratefully this Eucharistic devotee in your Masses and Communions Saturday, and also in your Adoration throughout Lent.

