

Office of the Prefect of Religion
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana

Dear Notre Dame Family:

Will you join with other Notre Dame families (those of the students and the alumni) throughout the world in making Holy Week this year (April 18 to 24) a genuine HOLY WEEK OF PRAYER, our one great need in this frightful hour of the world's history:

The world calamity is a crisis of nations, of individuals, and of families as well. Our American families, and our Notre Dame families, are being scattered everywhere: our fathers, sons and brothers -- and some of our daughters and sisters -- are in Africa and in far Eastern jungles; some of them are prisoners in Jap and Nazi hands others have already given the last full measure of devotion. Even here at home the crisis of our families is just as extreme. The wholesale mobilization of women and the many so-called "war marriages", in which husband and wife are compelled to live apart, constitute a terrible menace to the stability of family life. And we are convinced that the future of our nation is the future of its families.

Surely it is obvious that the basic issues of the war are spiritual, not material. Already we have seen the light of individual liberty snuffed out in many parts of the world. Even worse, we have witnessed the enslavement of whole peoples to an inhuman order of violence and oppression. We have heard of the cruel separation of families, of forcible evacuations, of husbands and fathers hounded off to labor camps in foreign lands. We know that there are thousands of hearts, once bright with Christian Hope, now shrouded in the mists of gray despair. We in America face identical danger.

Now if we were all alone, and had no one to depend on but ourselves, surely the troubles of our times would drive us to despair. But we are not alone. Our Heavenly Father is deeply interested in ourselves and in our families, and Our Blessed Lord and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, died for us and for our families. Consequently, the Prefects of Religion at Notre Dame are asking all members of the vast Notre Dame family to join together this Holy Week in a great mass effort of concerted prayer. Certainly no time could be more opportune than the week in which we commemorate the Great Mysteries by which we were redeemed. We suggest for your Holy Week three Intentions and three Devotions. The program is very simple. Its appeal is to your generosity and your spirit of prayer.

THREE INTENTIONS

- 1) For the restoration of Christ's peace throughout the world;
- 2) For our Notre Dame boys on the campus and in the Services, and for the Missing, and for those who have died in Christ;
- 3) For the unity and security of our families after War.

THREE DEVOTIONS:

- 1) Daily Mass and Holy Communion throughout Holy Week (except Good Friday, of course).
- 2) Daily Family Rosary in Common, at home or in the Parish Church.
- 3) Attendance at Holy Week Services.

The great week will close with a sermon by Father J. Hugh O'Donnell, C.S.C. President of the University, on the CBS Church of the Air, Easter Sunday, at 12:00 Noon, CWT. Will you take part in this great campaign of prayer? WE KNOW YOU WILL. Send a card saying you are joining us.

April 12, 1943

Faithfully in Christ,
WILLIAM T. CRADDICK, C.S.C.
Prefect of Religion