

NOVENA for EXAMS begins today. Late Mass in Sorin daily: 7:20 A.M.

University of Notre Dame
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40 Hours begins a week from Sunday. Sunday collection for flowers.

Joseph Cupertino, A/S -- Duncce.

(Yet patron of those taking examinations.)

You may think yourself poorly equipped for taking these final examinations. Even with your small supply of gray matter, if that is the case, you can't match Joseph of Cupertino. He was dull, absentminded, awkward, so nervous that the ringing of the church bell would make him drop all his school books on the floor, so abstracted that he frequently forgot his meals, imagine! Books were not along Joseph's line, so he became an A/S, an apprentice shoemaker. He failed at the job. He was tolerated by his employer, but he never learned to make or mend a shoe.

When seventeen years of age, Joseph decided that his place was not in the world. After much effort, he found a religious community that would take him on trial as a lay brother. The monks could not live with him and his forgetfulness. In the midst of some occupation, Joseph would stand still and drop everything -- literally. Fits of abstraction would seize him when carrying food into the dining room. Your memory may be in a sad condition, yet you have sufficient wits to tell the difference between white and brown bread. Joseph didn't and so he lost the bread job; and he lost the opportunity of becoming a monk. He was made stable boy, the keeper of the monastery mule.

A dullard, yes, but not despicable. Joseph had a merry heart. When his troubles passed, he was filled with laughter and gaiety. The monks were infected by his lightheartedness; it was contagious. And his kindness made him a trusted man. The Franciscans found promise in Joseph and admitted him to the course in theology.

Studies again. Failure again? Yes and no. Only one text in the Gospel seemed to take hold in Joseph's mind, the text from St. Luke (11,27). Time came for the examination preceding ordination to the diaconate. Joseph prayed and walked into the presence of the examining bishop. The bishop opened the Bible, and picked a text at random and asked Joseph to explain it. The text was St. Luke, 11,27. Joseph spoke that day with eloquence of a Doctor of Theology. The bishop passed him without question.

Then the day of examinations for the priesthood arrived. Joseph prayed and studied - if you can call it study at all, for he read only with difficulty and his writing was worse. This time the bishop did not call on Joseph. A number of seminarians were questioned and found to be intelligent and far above the average. The bishop, satisfied with what he had heard, cut the examinations short, and passed the rest of the seminarians unquestioned. Joseph was among the group. He was ordained at twenty-five.

Joseph made the grade. He never became brighter. But he worked hard, prayed harder still and remained humble. His is a strange life. In every episode of it you can see the guiding and helping hand of God. God thought so much of this young man from Cupertino that He made him a Saint.

So what? Joseph's case looked hopeless. Maybe yours does too. All things are possible with God. Make the Novena for Examinations, and study.

The Dunciest Of Dunces.

1. The fellow who makes the Novena for Examinations and then prepares a crib.
2. The student who studies faithfully and zealously for the exams, and yet won't go to Mass daily to sanctify his work and to offer it to God.
3. The man who will do all his studying in mortal sin. How can he expect God's blessing on his examinations and on his future? What loss! No Glory for God, no merit for himself. Contrition and confession will change all.

CONFESSIONS: AT 5:00 P.M. MASSES AT 6:45 P.M. MASS IN DILLON; IN SORIN AND B-P AFTER 7:30; IN BASEMENT CHAPEL AT 6:30 P.M.