

(FOR THE CATHOLIC STUDENT AT NOTRE DAME)

University of Notre Dame

Religious Bulletin

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A Pointed Meditation.

I looked at a carpenter, nailing one day
Some weatherboards on, in a workmanlike way,
And saw that the claw on the hammer he clapped
To a nail which the moment before he had tapped;
And, drawing it out, threw it by with a jerk,
Took another instead, and went on with his work.
"See," he remarked: "it bent in the driving, and so,
Lest it make a bad job, to the ground it must go.
We draw while we're able," he said, with a grin;
"For we can't pull it out, once we hammer it in."

When the nail had been followed by one that was good,
I noticed beside it a dent in the wood--
The mark had been made by the base of the claw
Through the strong force exerted the bent nail to draw;
And there the depression, to eyesight quite plain,
Though twice painted over will doubtless remain,

No marvellous incident certainly; still
It set me to thinking, as little things will,
How habits, like nails, be they wrong ones or right,
Can't be drawn from their places when hammered in tight;
And though drawn ere they sink to the head, leave behind,
By their drawing, some traces on body and mind.

Thomas Dunn English, in THE AVE MARIA

Streamlined Thanksgivings.

A number of students are making hurried thanksgivings after Holy Communion. The two minute period of gratitude with Christ is the exception, not the rule. Prolong the time of your thanksgiving to seven or eight minutes. It is not fitting for a communicant to run out of the church or chapel to eat, to joke with his companions or to mix in with wordly business -- unless charity, necessity or some emergency demands it.. The reason is this: Christ remains within the communicant's body for many minutes after he receives the Sacred Host. He is a tabernacle for that length of time. Only when the stomach action has changed the Sacred Species into another form does Christ leave the communicant. If you are tempted to rush your thanksgiving without reason, recall the story of St. Phillip Neri.

St. Philip noticed that a young friend of his was in the habit of receiving Holy Communion and almost immediately getting up and going out. So one morning the Saint called two altar boys with lighted candles and told them to accompany the young man home, one on each side of him. The young man didn't like the humiliation. He returned to St. Philip and asked for an explanation. This was the Saint's reply: "When the priest is carrying the Blessed Sacrament, he is accompanied by two acolytes with lighted candles, and it seems to me the same escort is due to anyone who is carrying Christ in his breast." The young man discontinued the accelerated thanksgivings.

PRAYERS: (deceased) Brother Anastasius C.S.C.; Sister Adelaide Britton, SSJ; Larry Cuff; father of Harold Johnson, '44 and father-in-law of Ensign Jerry Klyn, '44; father of John and Dan Stack, '41; grandmother of Paul Lo Presti (St. Eds); brother of Sister M. Kathleen, RSM; Joseph Kennedy Jr; friend of Celia Biever; mother of Father Maurice, Robert, Dr. E.L. and Patrick Rigley; Lieut. Art Johnsen, friend of Dick Martin (Sor). Two Special Intentions.