

(111) Father James Young,
C.S.C., serious.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
November 22, 1944

Late morning Mass in
Sorin Chapel, 7:20 A.M.
daily.

Not The Gift But The Giver.

A study club of Catholic women was in session. During a lull in the discussion, someone spoke about a recent news story of a philanthropist who had given a staggering sum to a needy institution. Everyone in the group began praising the wealthy man for his charitable deed. The priest-moderator of the club happened to be present at the discussion. An opening was given for him to express his views. In a very quiet manner, he said he hoped the gift was given from a Christian motive, otherwise the offering would not glorify God nor bring the philanthropist any heavenly reward.

Immediately the women were up in arms, and the priest was subjected to a storm of protests. The priest explained the Catholic viewpoint. But some of the women went home not quite convinced that the essential element making good works pleasing to God is the motive prompting the act, not simply the work itself.

There is a danger that many actions of students go to waste because they are not inspired by a supernatural motive. To study hard, to perform acts of kindness, to give a helping hand, simply because it makes one "feel good inside" gives no glory to God. Natural motives are not to be despised. But neither is the plan of God. It is for Him that all our actions must be performed, even the most commonplace. St. Paul is very clear on this point: "Whether you eat or drink or whatsoever else you do, do all for the glory of God."

There is a variety of supernatural motives--"super" because they go beyond the mere natural. All of them can be reduced to the glory of God. To name only a few: for the Poor Souls, for the dying, for the honor of God, for Christ, for Our Blessed Lady, in reparation for sin.

A student should have a holy picture or a crucifix in his room to aid him in supernaturalizing his motives. A glance at a picture of Our Lord before study, as one leaves for class or recreation with the thought, "This action is for You," will make that natural act a source of glory for God and a means of heavenly merit.

What is your motive for action?

Give Thanks Tomorrow At Mass.

Thanks be to God for the light and the darkness;
Thanks be to God for the hail and the snow;
Thanks be to God for shower and sunshine;
Thanks be to God for all things that grow;
Thanks be to God for lightning and tempest;
Thanks be to God for weal and for woe;
Thanks be to God for His own greatness;
Thanks be to God for what is, is so;
Thanks be to God when the harvest is plenty;
Thanks be to God when the barn is low;
Thanks be to God when our pockets are empty;
Thanks be to God when again they o'er flow;
Thanks be to God when the Mass-bell and steeple
Are heard and seen throughout Erin's green isle;
Thanks be to God that the priest and the people
Are ever united in danger and trial;
Thanks be to God that the brave sons of Erin
Have the faith of their fathers as lively as aye;
Thanks be to God that Erin's fair daughters
Press close after Mary on heaven's highway.