

A Yank That Rested In Peace.

This is a story about an Irishman who went to sleep and woke up only to find a Mass for the Dead being offered over him. It's a true story. The paper carried it last week.

It happened this way. This Yank, a Private with the 3rd Army, had gone for several days without sleep. When his outfit reached a Belgian village he was given the opportunity to recuperate his dwindling energies. It was 2:30 A.M. when he found what to him was a haven of refuge -- a Catholic church. The church was open. He went in, proceeded to the altar immediately, put aside his arms, slipped into his bedroll and fell soundly asleep.

At 7:00 A.M. that morning there was to be a Requiem Mass, a Mass for the Dead. The priest came to the church and found the sleeping Yank. He did not disturb the slumbering Irishman. Why? Maybe it was charity. Maybe he felt that the sight of the "dead" body in the sanctuary would help the congregation put more fervor into their Mass for the Departed.

Anyway, the Mass was offered "with the body present." The rubrics called for movement about the sanctuary. The priest followed every directive, though it required his stepping over the prostrate Yank a few times. Near the end of the Mass, the soldier awakened. Too horrified to move, he played possum until Mass was over and the congregation had departed. Then he went to the priest and apologized. The good Belgian curé sent him away with his blessing.

Are you wondering why this lad picked a spot within the shadow of the tabernacle? Maybe in his civilian days he learned he could find peace and calm in kneeling at the altar rail in the presence of Christ. Where else would there be better protection from enemy shelling than in the House of the Lord and the very feet of The Master!

Let this Yank teach you a lesson. The same Christ who watched over him is really present in your hall chapel. When you are dead tired from study, from fighting with temptation, from carrying your daily cross, go in for a few minutes to rest at His feet. If you want a Divine lift, visit Christ in your chapel. He gives you the invitation: "Come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will refresh you."

The February Calendar.

February The month dedicated to the Catholic Press. Do good reading.
February 2 Candlemas Day (also First Friday).
February 3 Feast of St. Blase. Have your throat blessed.
February 2nd - 11th. . . Novena for the Sick and for Peace. The 11th is the
Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, patroness of the sick.
February 11, 12, 13. . . Forty Hours Devotion. Adoration all day and night.
February 14 Ash Wednesday. Lent begins.
Novena for examinations begins.
February 21st - 27th . . Examinations, and then vacation - Deo gratias!

PRAYERS: (deceased) son of Frank McKeever, '03, killed in action; father of Brother Sidney, C.S.C.; father of Father Salvatore Fanelli, C.S.C.; grandmother of Brother Emmanuel, C.S.C.; Lieut. M. Joseph Hogan, brother of John Hogan, '42, and brother-in-law of Lieut. Patrick J. Carroll, USNR, '35; Pfc. Bernard Hart; father of Charles E. Guth, '25; father of Emil Telfel, '31; Henry Hoban, brother of Bishop Hoban of Cleveland; uncle of Walt McDermott (Sor). (Ill) grandfather of Jim Donnelly (Sor); father of Bill Hamilton (Cav); Sister M. William (Mayo's), operation; John Niven, friend of Jim Brisbois (St. Eds), missing; friend of Father Leo R. Ward, C.S.C.; Joe Dosmann, missing in action (not N.D. student). Two Special Intentions. One Thanksgiving.