

Reminders: Make Easter
Duty now. AT HOME IT'S
LIENT TOC: MASS AND ROSARY

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
February 21, 1945

Masses during vacation:
8:00 A.M. daily in Base-
ment Chapel.

A Question And An Answer.

Civilian students about to be drafted and naval students about to go to sea or to another base have asked the Chaplains many questions during the past few days.

One inquiry has been about Sunday Mass. At Notre Dame one need not travel far to assist at Mass, and there is the convenience of Mass every hour on Sunday morning. It will be a different matter when one leaves the campus. What if one is ordered to travel on Sunday? What if duty prevents one from going to Mass? Navy men are often at sea for weeks at a time without a Catholic Chaplain and Mass; what should they do about their Mass obligation?

God does not expect the impossible of anyone. But He does expect one to inconvenience himself to fulfil His laws and the laws of His Church. Slight inconvenience does not suffice to excuse a Catholic from attendance at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. Only when there is GRAVE inconvenience is one legitimately excused.

Granted a legitimate excuse, there should be a substitute for Mass of some kind, in the form of prayer, though this is not of obligation. The following story gives an example of what can be done by both the civilian who is prevented from participating in Mass (v.g. sickness, broken leg) and by the Serviceman.

"One Sunday morning, when I was in charge of a car full of young air-corps recruits on a troop train, I witnessed the darnedest incident I've seen in five years' service. The boys had been buzzing noisily all morning, but suddenly silence fell in our section of the car. I noticed half a dozen men standing around two seats that faced each other. I didn't care to have the boys arrive broke at their first Army post, so I decided to stop what I assumed must be a card game.

"Instead, I found a chunky young man reading Mass aloud. Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish boys gathered quietly around him and stood with bowed heads. Soon from the cars forward and behind, men came in silently. For 40 minutes, boys of different faiths, or no faith at all -- not knowing the reader, and with no announcement other than the grapevine whispering -- jammed the car.. Their intent faces were something to behold. When Chunky has read the last "Amen" they wandered slowly back to their seats and for an hour it was very, very quiet."

(Sergeant John Leonard, in "Reader's Digest.")

You may not be able to be physically present at Mass. Yet somewhere, in some part of the world there is a Mass being started, no matter what hour of the day it is, morning or night. Wherever there is Mass, there is Christ the great High Priest. And though we are not present Christ offers that Mass for us and with us -- if we care to join Him. Unite yourself to Christ by means of the Missal prayers. Be apostolic. If there is a number of Catholic men present in your outfit, gather them for Sunday services. Lead them in the Rosary, from the Missal recite some of the Offertory prayers and read the prayers that are proper to the Sunday. Every Catholic boy knows a hymn or two. If you don't feel capable of leading the group in song ask someone else to volunteer for the assignment. Sunday is the Lord's Day. Use your Missal and Rosary.

PRAYERS: (deceased) mother Grace Dammann (Pres. Manhattanville College); aunt of Fr. Brannigan, C.S.C.; aunt of Father Louis Kelly, C.S.C.; Stephen Iaco, friend of Pat Nolan (Sor); George Keogan (Anniv.) (Ill) Lieut. (j.g.) Don Hickey '38 very serious; mother of Jim (Z) and Tom '44 Kelly, serious; mother of Fr. Brannigan, C.S.C. 2 Special Intentions.