

Make your Christmas  
Confession NOW.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
December 17, 1945

Adoration in the church  
closed tonight.

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The Crib.

When you were a youngster, your mother took you up to the crib on Christmas day. In describing the manger and the people there, she said to you, "There is the Infant Jesus with His mother beside Him, and there is Joseph in the background feeding the animals. And there are the shepherds to whom the angels spoke and directed to the stable." Your mother described the scene as if the Holy Family were really present. She said, "There IS Jesus, there IS Joseph." Before you left the crib, she told you to kneel down with her to say a little prayer to the Infant Jesus, and to Mary and Joseph.

Was your mother deceiving you? Not at all. You were not a thousand years late for the first Christmas Day. For back 1945 years ago, Christ, with his foreknowledge and prevision, saw all those men, women, and children who would come to visit the crib in their parish churches. Christ considered them actually present with the adoring angels and shepherds. On that first Christmas day Christ saw all your visits. Therefore you should approach the crib and the Divine Infant with the attitude that the Birth of your Savior has just taken place.

Don't feel ashamed to crowd around the crib with the kids when you are home. Recall that the first visitors at the crib were grown men, the shepherds, and later, the Three Kings. They were not ashamed.

After hearing Mass Christmas day, go up to the crib in your parish church. Visit the Christ Child and His mother and Joseph with the wonderment and humility of a youngster, and ask for favors with the freedom and assurance they have. For after all, littleness is the way to Heaven: "Unless you become like little children you cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

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The Little Maid.

The little maid who swept the floor  
and did the tasks of drudgery  
Saw Mary turned from the inn's door  
Where she sought hospitality.

She spread her blanket o'er the Child  
And knelt beside the shepherds there,  
As holy Mary sweetly smiled  
And thanked her for her tender care.

And going to her simple room  
She stripped the blanket from her bed,  
and went out through the silent gloom  
To where a star's white gleaming led.

And as he went back to the inn  
A light was glowing in her eyes  
For something told her she had been  
Quite close to God in Paradise.

And lo, upon a bed of straw,  
Within a wayside stable bright,  
A new-born sleeping Babe she saw  
That filled her heart with strange delight.

And passing years could not erase  
Those features from her memory,  
For it was she who wiped His face  
When He went up to Calvary.

(T.E.B.)

PRAYERS: (deceased) Norm Steyskal (Anniv.); James Euckwalter, '35; Sister M. Alexius. (Ill) Hugh Roach (Dil), contracted pneumonia at home, very ill; his sister is also ill; Father Michael Early, C.S.C., appendectomy; Joseph Concannon Jr. (Cav, last semester); Professor and Mrs Fitzsimons; Bob Boerner (ROTC), operation.  
One Thanksgiving and two Special Intentions.

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Don't forget to fill out your Novena Card for your Mother and Father. You should mail it to them, if you are not going home. If you will be home with them, you might slip the card in with some other gift, so that they will find it among their Christmas presents. THERE ARE EXTRA NOVENA CARDS AT THE PAMPHLET RACKS.