

(Ill) Mrs. Mary Carduff,
grandmother of Harry
Hanigan (Ly), serious.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 1, 1949

(Ill) Mrs. D.A. Grenon,
friend of Bob Heneault
(Dil). Eight Spec. Int.

A Mother Strikes.

Mother Church is usually mild in reminding her children of their duties. On Ash Wednesday, however, She throws away mildness and strikes us with a blow that is meant to wake us up..

Tomorrow when you kneel at the altar rail for the blessed ashes there will be no preliminary prayer the priest will say over you before administering the ashes. He will come to you and will immediately rub on your forehead the black ashes, in the form of a cross. That action alone seems very gentle and not calculated to perturb one.

But what the priest says as he applies the ashes is most disturbing: "Remember, man, that you are dust, and unto dust thou will return." Aren't you set to hard thinking when the priest tells you that you are going to end up soon as a lump of dust? Mother Church means those words to be disturbing for the sake of inspiring you to do penance, lest death catch you unawares and unprepared.

About Those Ashes.

The blessed ashes will arouse you to serious thinking about death, sin and your bad habits. But that is not the only purpose Mother Church has in view. A thing which too many Catholics do not know is that the administration of the ashes is also a prayer said by the Church over you and for you. The ashes are sacramental, that is, something like a sacrament in that it brings blessings to you.

In her "Memento, homo," the Church prays implicitly that you will wake up to the need of doing penance, that you will actually start doing penance, and that you will persevere in it for the whole period of Lent. If Mother Church places penances on your shoulders, She also helps you carry it.

By the time Ash Wednesday comes you have already made up your mind about what you plan to do for Lent. But you have not told Christ and the Church about it. So at the distribution of the ashes you, as it were, come to Christ and your Mother the Church, represented by the priest, and tell them silently by accepting the ashes that you consecrate the days of Lent to your program of penance. This ought to be the manner in which you approach the reception of the blessed ashes.

Distribution of Ashes.

In Alumni and Cavanaugh chapels: 12:30 to 1:15. In Dillon and Cavanaugh chapels: 7:30 P.M. In your hall at a time announced by your rector. In Sacred Heart Church at 6:00 A.M. Mass.

Late Masses: 7:20 A.M. in Alumni and Cav.
8:00 A.M. Basement of Church.

