

Special Notice: Knights of  
Columbus vocational holy  
hour tomorrow, 4:30-5:30...

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
December 6, 1950

...Knights will also pray for  
333 N.D. men killed in last  
war. Dec. 7 is 9th anniversary  
of Pearl Harbor.

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The Forgotten Virtue.

Expressing gratitude to our benefactors is part and parcel of the ritual of gracious living. Giving thanks to God is one of the four ends of sacrifice. Not to be appreciative of the kindness of benefactors is indicative of a churlish personality. None of us is so self-sufficient that he will live many days without being on the receiving end of someone's kindness.

God demands that we be grateful for His benefactions. He is divinely aloof when we take Him for granted. If God is not too great to expect appreciation, then parents and friends are not too small to expect it either. When Our Lord healed ten lepers, He was plainly disappointed when only one returned to say, "Thank you."

As a matter of fact, gratitude is a virtue, a moral virtue that disposes us to acknowledge with appreciation and to repay with gladness the big favors as well as the little favors we have received. Parents expect their sons to appreciate them, not only verbally but by way of good deeds. Any normal boy, at one time or another, feels keenly this obligation to be grateful to his mother and dad.

Christmas is an ideal time for paying this debt of gratitude. You can buy them gifts with their money and think you have fulfilled your obligation. But you haven't Cigars and perfumes, neckties and handkerchiefs really do not cost you a red cent. Why not give them a gift that does cost you something, a gift that represents a sacrifice of sleep and recreation, a sacrifice of prayer, such as getting up mornings to attend Mass and receive Communion, kneeling one half-hour daily in adoration.

Christmas Novena For Your Parents Starts Tomorrow.

A novena lasts nine days. While you are asked to take part in it, as far as daily adoration is concerned, for only one half-hour, you may, if you want to be big-hearted, make a period of adoration each of the nine days.

There are other serious reasons for prayer. If you are dismayed by the thought of total war, what do you think your mothers and fathers are worried about? You are their own flesh and blood. You are for them an "incarnation" of their love for each other. Thousands upon thousands of men your age are trapped by the hordes of Chinese Reds in the bitterly cold vastness of Korea. There are twice as many, or even more, motherly and fatherly hearts trapped in an encirclement of fear and anxiety. All human avenues of escape are blocked. There's only one recourse, perhaps the last. . . . God.

If you are so miscreant as to think that you will not be sorely affected by this impending catastrophe, then may God have mercy on your niggardly soul. It will be almost too much to expect the rest of us to have pity on you for your wilful neglect.

On Going To Confession:

It is humanly impossible to hear the confessions of the whole school during morning Masses. It is likewise humanly impossible for two priests to hear more than a very limited number of confessions over a short period of time. So kindly take advantage of evening and morning confession opportunities in your halls, or make better use of the opportunities afforded every night of the year in the basement chapel and Dillon Hall after supper--beginning at 6 p.m.

A word to the wise: Buy a missal for yourself for Christmas. Buy a missal for your mother. Buy a missal for your "one and only." Come to 106 Dillon after supper.

Prayers: (deceased) friend of R. Guthrie (O-C); father of Bill Ryan (Dil); grandmother of A.J.Scriba, '50; Ill, Bob Fanning, '47; Lt. Jack Herrle. Sp. Int. 7.

(FR. JOHN RYAN C.S.C. DIED THIS MORNING. KINDLY REMEMBER HIM IN YOUR PRAYERS.)