

Lenten Adoration Monday thru University of Notre Dame
Friday, Bascom chapel,
12:30 to 5:00.

Religious Bulletin
February 7, 1951

Vocational Holy Hour Thurs-
day. Pray for an increase
in vocations.

"Remember Man. . ."

"Remember man that thou art dust, and unto dust shalt thou return." With these words the Church brings us to attention and reminds us pointedly that some day we are going to die.

If we become too much wrapped up with the world and what it stands for, we had better watch ourselves. . . Say it again: SOME DAY WE ARE GOING TO DIE. When that day will come, we know not. But come it must. Then the account of our stewardship.

We will be judged. And the Judge will pass sentence. What that sentence will be may depend on how we are going to make this Lent. If we do not acquire a taste for the things of God now, what makes us think our tastes will suddenly change when our time comes? Make a clean cut break with sin. Knuckle down to penance.

A Tip For The Topsy.

Taken for granted--you have already made your Lenten resolutions. Rugged ones? Yes. Review them tonight when the priest prints the sign of the cross with ashes on your head.

One week from today review these same resolutions with your confessor. Keep him in touch with your success or unsuccess. You can use his help.

Self-Denial Not For The Timid.

Instead of talking about resolutions, let's talk about the mortifications they imply. Mortification should aim at some form of self-denial, some curtailment of pleasure.

During Lent we do not stress that kind of mortification which is necessary for salvation. For we are on that ascetical diet every day of the year. We are bound under pain of sin to resist temptation, to say NO to sinful pleasures. No man, therefore, fulfills his obligation of doing penance during Lent merely by resolving not to steal, not to get drunk, not to curse, not to lie or cheat.

What the Church has in mind for all of us during this holy season is abstention from certain permitted pleasures, either as atonement for sin or as a spiritual means we re-employ to fortify the will's control over lower nature and disordered inclinations.

Once we acquire the habit (which implies facility) of saying NO to permitted pleasures, it becomes by far easier for us to say NO to forbidden pleasures. Temptation to sin is a temptation to enjoy forbidden pleasures. One reason why Our Lord emphasizes self-denial is to undermine the dangerous allurements of pleasure as a motive for our actions.

Strange Faces.

St. Cyprian's dictum, "He cannot have God for his Father who will not have the Church for his mother," is well known. From the number of strange faces seen at Holy Communion this morning, the first day of Lent, it would seem that there is renewed earnestness in the prodigals who once again have God for their Father, the Church for their mother and Christ for their brother. Ashes may be black and tasteless but they have power to brighten up many faces and make hearts strong again.

Prayers: (deceased) father of Prof. Richard Sullivan; Thomas Fauls; Ernest Essig; William Schmitz. Operation, brother of Bob Noonan; seriously injured, friend of Joe DiPinto; seriously ill, Ed Fitzpatrick's cousin; injured in auto accident, Jane Corser. Operations: two friends of Jim Doyle (Dil), one for T.B., the other a leg amputation.