

We Celebrate An Anniversary On Sunday

On November 22, 1903, Pope Pius X issued his Motu Proprio encyclical, in which he Commanded that special efforts be made to restore the use of Gregorian chant to the people -- so that the faithful might take a more active part in the Mass, and in the Divine Office.

Twenty -five years later, not very much had been done about that command; and so Pius XI wrote his Divini Cultus in which he said: "In order that the faithful may more actively participate in divine worship, let them be made once more to sing the Gregorian chant, so far as it pertains to them. It is most important that when the faithful assist at the sacred ceremonies they should not be merely detached and silent spectators, but, filled with a deep sense of the beauty of the liturgy, they should sing alternately with the clergy or choir, as it is prescribed."

Twenty years still later, Pope Pius XII had to write in his Mediator Dei: "We exhort you, Venerable Brethren, to promote with care congregational singing... Let the full, harmonious singing of our people rise to heaven like the bursting of a thunderous sea; and let them testify by the melody of their song to the unity of their hearts and minds, as becomes brothers and the children of the same Father."

This Sunday we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Pius X's Motu Proprio. The University will mark the Golden Jubilee with two congregationally sung High Masses-- at 9 and at 11 o'clock. There will be Solemn Vespers in the afternoon at 4 p.m. And finally, there will be a concert of Sacred Music by the Moreau Choir in Washington hall at 8 p.m. Of course you are all invited to participate, and attend the concert.

More Than Important

The Motu Proprio strikes at the core of the problem existing today in divine worship. It is the answer to our lack of fellowship, and of dignity, of attention, and of devotion in the worship of the Church. After all, the liturgy is corporate worship; every act of the liturgy is an official, public act of the Mystical Body. The Mass, Vespers, etc., each is an act of worship performed by the Whole Christ -- Head and members. Participation in this official, public worship of God is the only way of forming the faithful according to the Mind of Christ.

We are blessed at Notre Dame with a splendid example of Gregorian Chant in the work of the Moreau Choir. Sing with the choir this Sunday, in alternating verses of the Ordinary of the Mass, under the guidance of Father McAuliffe. Be a participator in the ceremonies -- not merely an on-looker. Truly, this is an important part of your Catholic education.

Those of you who do not attend Sacred Heart Church, watch for the time of Mass in your own hall chapels, this weekend -- a football-crowded Sunday when we have one Mass in almost every chapel. The late Masses in Sacred Heart are for visitors and for the Off-Campus group. You owe them this courtesy.

Tonight, The Novena

The Novena to the Sorrowful Mother will be held in Sacred Heart Church at 6:45 -- as usual. Don't let any other activity interfere with this devotion. It is a brief ceremony; and there will be ample time later for the pep rally and other diversions.

PRAYERS -- Deceased: John F. Delph, '16; uncle of Jack Coon of Zahm; uncle of Bill Wahl of Walsh, of Larry Wahl of Lyons; grandmother of Dan Maloney of Farley; friend of Jim Rourne of Dillon; Ill: Mother of Peter Ritten (Off-Campus); grandmother of Pat Foley of Alumni hall. 3 Special Intentions.