

Coming up -- First Friday of University of Notre Dame
the month, ..Mother's Day Religious Bulletin
cards available at pamphlet May 4, 1955
racks. Don't forget her!

The turnout for May-Day Ob-
servance was magnificent.
Thanks to all who participated.
The Lady will remember.

Courtesy

"Life is not so short but that there is always time for courtesy."

-- Emerson

If someone asked you for the definition of courtesy, you might very well tell him that it is "the art of combining politeness with kindness." In a broader sense, courtesy is respect for the rights and feelings of others.

A man who is courteous will never neglect the small niceties of politeness. If he remembers this, good manners will come naturally. And it really doesn't matter whether you were born on the wrong side of the tracks or in a restricted suburb, or whether you know when to use six spoons and five forks at a meal, you'll still cultivate courtesy if you are kind and if you think of the other fellow.

Remember: the greatest enemy of courtesy is selfishness. Character is the foundation. Good manners are the tools of expression. Etiquette is the rules of the game. But a selfish person has no time for anyone else, or another's rights, or another's welfare. And so, a selfish man can't be courteous, even on campus.

Here you may spot a selfish man occasionally, as he moves through the course of the day. He has no regard for anyone, or anything, save for himself. He is unmindful that it is a discourtesy to Our Lord to come late for Sunday Mass, or leave early; or to ignore adequate preparation for, and thanksgiving after, Communion. He crashes the lines in the dining hall. He uses the lawns instead of the sidewalks. On some occasions his discourteous conduct is even a violation of justice--with the consequent obligation of restitution as in the case of the man who is dishonest with telephone facilities, or mutilates library books, or destroys property, or appropriates objects for private use. Again, you will find him disturbing others in the halls. In short, he has no regard for property, for the convenience, or for the rights of others. Indeed, he is not even thinking of other people. And by his own choice he will always be a boor, a hick, a public nuisance -- all because he thinks of no one but himself. Basically, he is selfish; and a selfish man cannot be courteous. You can be the rugged, outdoor type, you know, and still be cultured.

You don't have to be courteous to exist; but without courtesy you will find yourself terribly lonesome as time goes on. In business you will find people avoiding you. Socially, you'll be a dead duck, because without courtesy you can never hope to be a gentleman. In the Middle Ages, the Latin word for gentleman was generosus -- which implies something more than you alone. It is largely up to you -- whether you want to cultivate courtesy -- as one poet of your day attests:

"Though courtesy is highly held
And people everywhere admire it,
By law it cannot be compelled --
No power can force us to acquire it.

"True courtesy's a gentle art
That values taking less than giving.
And they who have it, mind and heart,
Have found the way to gracious living."

A comforting thing to remember, too, is that courtesy is contagious. Courtesy begets courtesy. If you start with yourself, it could flare into an epidemic!

PRAYERS -- Deceased: friend of Joe Burke of Dillon; grandmother of Bob Hoffman of Dillon; grandfather of Don Hoodcheck of Farley; grandfather of Henry O'Brien of Dillon; father of Sister Andre, '51; friend of Jack Floates of Alumni. 1 sp. intention.