

University of Notre Dame

Religious Bulletin

May 9, 1955

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"Say A Prayer For Me, Will You - Please?"

You often ask a priest, or Brother or Sister to do just that -- maybe adding: "I am on the spot, and I need some help!" You trustfully think the latter has a special entree, approach, or intercessory power, or is a special friend of God. That may all be very true. Maybe you feel that you don't even know how to pray -- and that the latter is an expert.

But do you know that the special efficacy is only through Christ? It was He Who said that we should pray in His Name; hence, the ending of the Church's official prayers: "Through Christ, Our Lord."

If a priest, Brother, or Sister -- poor human creatures -- has some special efficacy with God because of closeness, how much is that efficacy increased -- to a million times, even infinity -- when the Son of God prays for you! That is just what happens at every Mass you attend. The very Son of God, your elder Brother, prays to God for you -- offering infinite adoration, reparation, thanksgiving, and petition.

Mind you, it is good to have private devotions -- very good. But in all those instances, we are largely on our own, so to speak. None of our good works -- no matter how nearly perfect our dispositions -- could begin to compare with the efficacy of the Mass. Why? Because the Mass is the perfect sacrifice worthy of infinite merit. It is at Mass that we best unite ourselves with Christ the Victim -- and the perfect Intercessor. It is the Mass that begets perfect praise, perfect adoration, reparation, thanksgiving, and petition.

Are you getting to Mass these days? It will never be so easy again in all your life. At Notre Dame, each morning, it takes almost a determined effort on your part to avoid the chapel -- that's how easy and accessible the Mass is for you here. And how rich you can become -- storing up graces against the future, when there will come to you days of tribulation, possibly disappointments, sickness, worry, and all manner of severe temptations! It will be comforting in those days to have some reserve -- much of it stored up here through attendance at daily Mass!

Furthermore, a missal will help you to keep your mind and heart on the drama before your eyes; it will also help to keep the world out of your thoughts, and harness your mental wanderings. A missal will also give you an intelligent appraisal of the Latin as it is read by the celebrant. It is an excellent preparation for Communion, too -- saying the same prayers the priest says before He receives Our Lord.

Is someone sick? Is someone deceased? Is there a problem in the family? Are you having problems of your own? Do you want to make a show of gratitude? Do you want to make an effort of reparation for past sins? Do you need an increase of Faith? Did someone ask you to remember him (or her) in your prayers?

You can do nothing better than get to daily Mass -- daily during May.

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BLOOD DONORS NEEDED: Did you sign up to give blood and fail to keep the appointment? Or would you like to participate in this charity? The Blood Bank is precariously low on its reserve. Those who contributed 3 months ago are now eligible to make a second contribution. Call the Central Blood Bank (CE- 41157) for an appointment -- or see the Prefect of Religion (117 Dillon).

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WAYERS -- Deceased: Rev. Wm. Condon, C.S.C.; grandfather of Don Moser of Sorin; father of Ray Gibbons, '52; friend of Ken Donadio of Sorin; friend of Dick Prather of Dillon. Ill: uncle of Jim Cogan of Morrissey; friend of Don McKenzie of Alumni; uncle of Gene O'Connor of Badin.