

University of Notre Dame

Religious Bulletin

March 8, 1957

Beginning Sunday: the
Novena to St. Joseph for
A Happy Marriage...

...Offer your daily Mass,
Communion, and Rosary for
this particular future blessing.

Big Boys Have Big Obligations

Query: I'm a Senior, aged 21. You said our Lenten dispensation was local only. Now suppose I want to eat dinner in South Bend, or elsewhere. May I order meat?

Reply: When you leave the campus, you leave the dispensation here, too. But general Church law permits you to eat meat once a day at the principal meal. And so you are permitted to eat meat once a day off-campus -- at the meal you eat off-campus. Hence, too, faculty members, employees, etc., may eat meat once a day at the principal meal at home with their families, even though they have eaten meat already that day here on campus.

Query: Suppose I go elsewhere for a weekend, maybe to Chicago or to Detroit?

Reply: When you leave the campus and enter a diocese, you come under the laws of that diocese for the weekend. That means you no longer enjoy the dispensation given to those at Notre Dame. Find out what the particular laws are, and abide by them. On Sunday, of course, no Lenten laws are in effect anywhere.

Query: What about eating between meals?

Reply: If you're 21, then eating between meals violates the law of fasting. But it should be remembered that liquids, such as milk, fruit juices, coffee, etc. do not violate the law. Thus, if you are away from the campus, you may not drop in for that late evening wedge of pizza, much less order a hamburger.

Query: There's a student under 21. What about him and fasting?

Reply: The law of fasting doesn't touch him at all; he may eat as much as he wishes and as often as he wishes between meals. He's bound only by the laws of abstinence -- which pertain only to meat. On Ash Wednesday and on Fridays, he may not eat meat at all (this law binds all over 7 years of age). On all other days of Lent he may eat meat as much as he desires.

Query: You say I should substitute something else for a penance, then?

Reply: Yes, and so does the Bishop -- he specifies that you attend daily Mass, and the Lenten Series which begins next Wednesday evening; that you abstain from worldly entertainment (maybe the Avon theatre); that you give alms from the amount of money you save by refraining from attending such amusement places; that you practice self-denial in the many forms at your disposal (liquor, tobacco, even candy); that you accent the positive elements of Adoration, the Stations of the Cross, the Rosary. No one -- not even the Holy Father -- can exempt you from penance. It's an order from God Himself: "Unless you do penance, you shall all likewise perish!" That's a pretty straight-from-the-shoulder order. It's not to be taken lightly at all -- not if you have any regard for your eternity. The Church can only remind you of the warning, and specify ways and means. It's really up to you and your conscience to get the job done.

PRAYERS - Deceased: uncle of Jack Saladino of Farley. Ill: wife of Tom Tierney, '46.

Tonight at 6:45 -- The Sorrowful Mother Novena in Sacred Heart Church.

Tomorrow afternoon: 3:30 till 4:30: Confessions in Sacred Heart Church. Drop in, thus leaving the Sunday morning opportunities for Off-Campus men who find it difficult to go to confession at any other time.