

Pray for the plane acci-  
dent victims of last  
Saturday evening ...

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
October 29, 1957

... two priests and two laymen  
of the Rockford Diocese  
going home from the Pitt  
game.

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Questions Of The Hour  
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Query: We are told that it is a mortal sin to miss a notable part of the Sacrifice of the Mass on a day of obligation. What is a notable part of the Mass?

Reply: A notable part of the Mass is any one of the three parts of the Sacrifice itself, namely, the Offertory, the Consecration, or the Communion. In addition to this, theologians add (as a notable part) the combination of what precedes the Gospel with what follows the Communion. Therefore, a mortal sin is committed:

- a) by one who misses the part extending from the beginning of Mass to the Offertory inclusive;
- b) by one who misses the part of the Canon preceding the Consecration (i.e. from the Sanctus bell to the Consecration);
- c) by one who misses the Consecration itself;
- d) by one who misses the part from the Consecration to the Communion;
- e) by one who misses that which precedes the Gospel together with what follows the Communion.

A venial sin is committed by one who misses a part of the Mass not so important, for example: to miss the beginning of the Mass to the Creed; or to miss that which follows the Communion. In either case, there should be good reason for the omission. Remember the obligation: an entire Mass.

Rather than measure the parts of the Mass in terms of mortal or venial sin, the faithful must come to a realization that attendance at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation is not a matter of choice or convenience; it is both a duty and a privilege: a duty because it is prescribed by a twofold command -- "Keep Holy the Sabbath," and the first Precept of the Church: "Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation." It is a privilege because it is an invitation to keep an appointment with the Lord Himself -- not for a prayer meeting, a sermon, or a Bible reading -- but for an offering of one's self in union with Christ in the Holy Sacrifice which promises our Redemption.

To reduce this obligation to a matter of time, let us remember that Sunday is a "day off" because of God's commandment, and all God asks on that day is one hour. Remember, too, that God is displeased by venial sins as well as mortal sins. The fellow who skimps and "chisels" on giving Our Lord an hour on Sunday, drawing a fine distinction to a point just short of committing a mortal sin, is like a son who would say to his father: "I shall offend you just short of the point where you can disinherit me, and cast me out of your home forever." What an attitude!

How much of his father's blessing, and love, and affection would such a son deserve? Yet, that's about the way it is with the fellow who just gets under the Mass wire! He has little hope of God's blessing on his day, his week, his life. Not you!

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PRAYERS --Deceased: friend of Jim Garrity of Keenan; mother of Father James Lane, CSC; father of Rev. John Lubbers, CSC; father of Rev. Donald Draine, CSC; grandmother of Carl Noelke of Keenan; cousin of Herb Riband of Keenan; mother of Charles Buckley of Cavanaugh; father of Al Stepan, '31; John G. Koehl, '31; Fernando Mendez, '12; father of John Buckley, '52; Mr. Harry D. Crooks (benefactor); Edward W. Gould, '23; Edward J. Slevin; grandfather of Tom Brady of Lyons. Ill: father of Pat Fish of B-P hall; friend of Tom MacLennan of Dillon; aunt of James O'Day of Keenan, sister of Father Switalski, CSC; mother of Bob and Phil Pier; Mrs. Eggers (the little old lady in black who spends all her time in Sacred Heart Church praying for you and Notre Dame).