

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

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News Section

● ADVENT, which began last Sunday, is the equal of Lent in importance and impressiveness. Its purpose is to produce in us a mood of waiting, of expectancy, of preparation for the great event. These four weeks of Advent represent the thousands of years during which the world waited for the coming of the Saviour. God occasionally stirred up the hearts of the chosen people in expectation of the Saviour Who was to rise up among them. During Advent, we are expected to get ready for Christmas in such a way that the celebration of Christmas day will call up out of the past that first Christmas and project us into the future and to that second coming of Christ in triumph. Our ears will be assaulted by the chattering of chipmunks and the "singing" of Dancer, Frances, and Nervous. But, remember that the purpose of these weeks of Advent is that we be filled with sorrow for our sins. Our hope should be strengthened; our confidence in God's mercy increased. It is another chance for the sinner to return to Him. Attendance at the Advent masses each day will convince one and all that Christ will come again a second time. And when He comes He will tell us all things, He will vindicate our faith in Him, He will answer the "why" of sorrow and pain.

● FRIDAY OF THIS WEEK IS THE FIRST FRIDAY OF DECEMBER. The lines outside the confessional will be long on Friday morning, if everyone waits until then. Get to confession tonight or tomorrow. And don't forget that the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in the Lady Chapel of Sacred Heart Church, Friday afternoon. Stop by and make a visit.

● "ONE OF THE frightening facts about history is that men could listen to the clear words of Christ: '...This is My Body...This is My Blood,' and retort cruelly: 'I don't believe!' But, the far less intelligible historic fact is that believers who claim they understand the meaning of Mass and Holy Communion, and the living Presence of Jesus among them, should treat the Blessed Sacrament with almost complete neglect."

--Fr. Daniel Lord, S.J.



● PRAYERS. Deceased: Sr. Thecla, I.H.M. brother-in-law of Thomas F. Burke, Jr., '49; grandmother of Chuck Lennon of Dillon; father-in-law of Louis Pilato, Off-Campus; cousin of Bill Perez of Farley; grandmother of George Handley, Off-Campus; grandmother of Bill Zenk of Howard; grandfather of Maurice, Off-Campus, James of Pangborn, and Al Lefere of Farley; grandfather of Dan O'Neill of Walsh. Ill: Grandmother of Gene Ciesla of Dillon; aunt of Mike Edelmuth of Dillon; friend of Charles Rieck of Badin; Gerry Gray; George Sefcik; Bob Nicolazzi. One special intention.



CHRISTMAS COULD BE EMBARRASSING. Most parents have heard or will hear of the Novena for Parents conducted here each year before the holidays. They tell me they look for that card indicating that you've thought enough of them and the sacrifices they're making to offer nine days of Mass and Holy Communion in Thanksgiving for the parents God has given you. The Novena cards will be available next week. But, the Novena itself will begin next Monday. The card will tell your parents that you've been grateful for what they have done for you, and are trying to live a good life. Obviously, this is a consolation to every parent. Parents know that a son who prays has a right sense of values. And it makes them glad to have brought a child into the world.

YOU CAN DERIVE A KEEN SENSE OF enjoyment from knowing that you have made a real effort--and the effort was much appreciated.

EVEN THAT MOTHER'S SON who might be termed a hardened sinner will be glad this Christmas, if he wakes up to the fact that alone he is lost--but with the Saviour he has every hope of victory.

YOUR PRAISE AND LOVE OF God during this Novena will rejoice the Holy Family. There will be new souls entering Heaven during the days of this Novena. They will hear the

story of the First Christmas from the Holy Family itself. They cannot remain untouched by all the praise and love that will be given the Son of God, His mother, and St. Joseph during these days. And how important this will be, if one of those who enter Heaven during the next week is a friend or relative of yours.

FOR MOST OF YOU, Christmas will be marked by material gifts. By your prayers during this Novena, you may learn better how to view your material blessings. You may be reminded that the Saviour loved the poor and inspires us to love them and share our temporal goods with them.

FINALLY, during the Novena, you may come to appreciate better that there are two groups who will definitely be unhappy on Christmas Day. The Souls in Hell and the men living in Mortal Sin. The soul in Hell will never experience joy again for even so much as a second. Those in mortal sin have a chance for happiness, if they can bring themselves to return to God by confession and sincere contrition.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, for many, the hardest part of making the Novena will be getting out of bed in the morning. The effort is guaranteed to be worth it. Make it!

Gene Boorman, w.c.
Student Chaplain