

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

Vol. 27, No. 16

Monday, October 31, 1960

Notre Dame, Ind.

TOBACCO IN ALL SAINTS' DAY, and a holy day of obligation. Just a reminder that the Mass in the Sacred Heart Church and in Keenan-St. Ann's chapel will be offered at the usual times on Sunday. There will not be a 5:10 Mass tomorrow.

YOUR ATTENTION IS CALLED to part of Bishop Pursey's letter of yesterday in which he speaks of participation by the faithful in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

I am well aware of the difficulties but I believe that they can be overcome through patient and repeated instruction by our priests and a reasonable measure of good will from our people. This is a matter which calls for the closest and fullest cooperation between both. The language barrier, the use of Latin, is formidable for many but, again, I do not think it is insurmountable.

To suppose that the vernacular would solve all the problems of lay participation is not realistic thinking. Our various public devotions, such as the Holy Hour, are conducted entirely in the vernacular, except for the Benediction prayers. Yet this circumstance does not increase the consistently small attendance nor does it add much spirit to the congregational response to the vernacular prayers and hymns. This, at least, has been my experience.

Holy Mass is not a private devotion. It is a corporate act of worship which means the same in any language. This basic and central truth has been emphasized often but it is still not grasped by many, especially in its implications. It is through the Church that we have the Mass, that we know what the Mass is, that we learn how the Mass should be offered. When the Church tells us to use the vernacular, then we shall use the vernacular. Until such time it is my duty to insist that the present rule be followed.

Actually, the number of responses to be made by the laity and the prayers to be said in unison with the priest, constitute a comparatively small part of the whole text of the Mass. They do not occur at such frequent intervals as to become a "distraction." An odd word in this connection! Furthermore, the time of Mass is not the time for prolonged meditation on the meaning of words, Latin, English or any other language. Even the priest is not permitted to pause and reflect on the mysteries which he is celebrating. That should be done before and after, not during, the Mass.

I am not attempting to cover here every aspect of this question. I realize sympathetically that older people brought up, as I was, in a different tradition and custom regarding Mass, may continue to find difficulty in the present form of lay participation. Let me assure them that no one is forced in this matter. We are simply trying to carry out the express will of the Church. Our chief hope is in the present generation of children. Strange words can become familiar by use and their meaning can be understood. A person who knows nothing about baseball can get no sense whatever out of the terms in which the game is described. How quickly the situation changes when an interest is aroused and an effort made to learn. This is an unusual illustration but I think it has a point worth pondering.

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A general dispensation from Friday abstinence is granted for Veterans' Day, November 11.

● MARK THE NOVENA FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY. Attend Mass and receive Holy Communion daily in your hall chapel or Sacred Heart Church, beginning Wednesday and continuing until November 10th. And if you haven't yet placed the names of your deceased relatives and friends in the envelope on your hall bulletin board, do so immediately. They will be remembered in the Masses said at the main altar in Sacred Heart Church during the days of the Novena.

● A PLENARY INDULGENCE may be gained for the Souls in Purgatory, beginning tomorrow at noon and continuing until midnight of Wednesday. To gain the indulgence one must have received the Sacraments either on Nov. 1 or 2, and prayed the intentions of the Holy Father (six times the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to the Father.) The prayers can be offered either in Sacred Heart Church or any one of the chapels on campus.

● PRAYERS. Deceased: Rev. John A. Molter, C.S.C.; mother of Prof. Henry Hinton of the Chemistry Dept.; two friends of Fred Heimall of Fisher; friend of Dick Pugh of Alumni; friend of Ezio Sansone, Off-Campus; grandmother of David Stuart of Sorin; father-in-law of John MacCauley of the Foundation Office; brother-in-law of Rev. Joseph Rogusz, C.S.C. Ill: Grandfather of Joe Bryan, Off-Campus. One Special intention.

● LOST. A wallet belonging to Stan Wielgosz of 402 Keenan. Can anyone help him find it?



(With the approach of All Souls Day, the thought expressed in the following lines may serve to help some take more seriously their obligation to pray for the Souls in Purgatory. Keep in mind that your relatives in Purgatory have an interest in you.)

THE ANCIENT GREYNESS SHIFTED
SUDDENLY AND THINNED
LIKE MIST UPON THE MOORS
BEFORE A WIND.
AN OLD, OLD PROPHET LIFTED
A SHINING FACE AND SAID:
"HE WILL BE COMING BACK SOON.
THE SON OF GOD IS DEAD;
HE DIED THIS AFTERNOON."

A MURMUROUS EXCITEMENT STIRRED
ALL SOULS.
THEY WONDERED IF THEY DREAMED--
SAVE ONE OLD MAN WHO SEEMED
NOT EVEN TO HAVE HEARD.

AND MOSES STANDING
HUSHED THEM ALL TO ASK
IF ANY HAD A WELCOME SONG PREPARED.
IF NOT, WOULD DAVID TAKE THE TASK?
AND IF THEY CARED
COULD NOT THE THREE YOUNG CHILDREN
SING THE BENEDICTE,
THE CANTICLE OF PRAISE
THEY MADE WHEN GOD
KEPT THEM FROM PERISHING
IN THE FIERY BLAZE?

A BREATH OF SPRING SURPRISED THEM,
STILLING MOSES' WORDS.

NO ONE COULD SPEAK, REMEMBERING
THE LITTLE SINGING BIRDS.
STILL OTHERS THOUGHT OF FIELDS NEW-
PLOUGHED
OR APPLE TREES ALL BLOSSOM BOUGHED.
OR SOME, THE WAY A DRY RIVER FILLS
WITH WATER
LAUGHING DOWN GREEN HILLS.
THE FISHERFOLK DREAMED OF THE SURF
OF BRIGHT BLUE SEAS.
THE ONE OLD MAN WHO HAD NOT STIRRED
REMEMBERED HOME.

AND THERE HE WAS
SPLENDID AS THE MORNING SUN AND FAIR
AS ONLY GOD IS FAIR,
AND THEY, CONFUSED WITH JOY,
KNELT TO ADORE
SEEING THAT HE WORE
FIVE CRIMSON STARS
HE NEVER HAD BEFORE.
NO CANTICLE AT ALL WAS SUNG
NOR TONED A PSALM OR GREETING SONG.
A SILENT MAN ALONE
OF ALL THAT THROG
FOUND TONGUE--
NOT ANY OTHER.
CLOSE TO HIS HEART
WHEN THE EMBRACE WAS DONE,
OLD JOSEPH SAID,
"HOW IS YOUR MOTHER,
HOW IS YOUR MOTHER, SON?"