

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

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Notre Dame, Ind.

TONIGHT AT 8:00

Before, during, and after the bout in Miami, the Bengal Bouts will be going on in the Fieldhouse. That's tonight. While the odds may be rather lop-sided in Miami, here in the Fieldhouse, it's anyone's guess who'll come out the winners. Be there to support your friends and the Missions.

LETTERS

FROM A RECENT GRADUATE:

"We have a little guy of ten weeks, Patrick Michael, who has his first hurdle on the way to Notre Dame next Wednesday, the 15th, when he undergoes heart surgery. We ask your prayers for the success of the operation and for his parents' proper resignation to God's will."

FROM A HOLY CROSS MISSIONARY IN AFRICA:

"There is no doubt about the need of priests in this section of Uganda. The two districts where we work, Toro (355,000) and Bunyoro (129,000) have a total population of 483,000 people. Catholics number 110,000, and there are 20,000 catechumens. Some of the parishes are tremendous. Virika parish, for example, covers a territory 40 by 80 miles. And within its boundaries are 27,000 Catholics who are served by only four priests..... The staple food here is the banana. So, banana plantations are everywhere. It is not a sweet banana, although there are those also. The bananas are steamed, and they come out looking like mashed potatoes (!), but taste like boiled pumpkin. Various sauces and spices are used to give some flavor. At least the people here think they do. There are plenty of white ants in this country. Huge mounds are everywhere, six to eight feet high. The people here eat them, and consider them a delicacy..... There are several beautiful national parks which are game preserves. They are full of deer, elephants, buffalo, hippos, and pigs. Several times we've had to stop when a herd of elephants was on the road about fifteen feet in front of us. Believe me, it's not a pleasant feeling when a big elephant sticks his ears up, looks your way, and you have no idea what he might do next.....In addition to the nuns and brothers and lay helpers (4 nurses and 2 doctors) there are in Toro and Bunyoro 14 White Fathers, 15 African Fathers, and 10 Holy Cross Fathers. Every parish has many villages to visit and many schools to maintain. Distances are great, but roads are pretty good, so the mission in Uganda is completely mechanized. When the Holy Cross priests get together for a meeting six cars and three motorcycles can be seen parked in back of the house.....The initial convert work is done by Catechists. The catechuminate lasts for four years. The first 3½ years are spent in the villages; the last six months are spent at the mission where there is more concentrated training. The work of training for conversion is not easy. There are many problems to be faced and complications to unravel."

IN YOUR CHARITY

Please pray for the following. Deceased: Friend of Frank Fee of Keenan; mother of William O'Connor of Cavanaugh. Ill: Father of David McDonald of Sorin; mother of John McGrath of B-P.

Monday, March 13

A prophecy of the resurrection and two instances of judgment are the Bible readings of today's Mass. All penance, all self-denial, all acts in conflict with the normal will of man to affirm life and to accept human goods and values, can be reasonable only if they lead to resurrection, to a superior value and the affirmation of a higher life. The judgments of Solomon on the mothers and of Christ on the temple merchants stir the souls of Christians out of a worldly torpor to a recognition of ultimate truth and value and goodness.

Tuesday, March 14

Even in Moses' time, in the midst of their liberation and election, the people of Israel were inconstant in the faith, succumbing again and again to the temptation of pursuing pagan gods (Lesson). And in the presence of Jesus Himself, his Jewish hearers would believe today and tomorrow turn against him (Gospel). So, too, in the Church, faith is never merely something to be "kept," to be held on to, to be hoarded. It is a gift, a power, which must be exercised. The Christian's "Yes" to God should be reiterated and renewed daily. This is the business of Lent.

Wednesday, March 15

The new creation of Christ, to be accomplished in the Easter mystery, is the subject of today's Mass. Scarlet sins God will make white. A heart of flesh and a new spirit are his promise. And the faith which is the condition of these gifts is compared in the Gospel to the attainment of sight by the blind. Faith is vision—true, accurate, all-embracing.

Thursday, March 16

Resurrection from the dead by the power of God is the message of both lessons. Lent prepares Christians for Easter Baptism and for the renewal of baptismal promises. And it is in Baptism that man dies and rises again in Christ. The coming celebration of his saving passion, death and resurrection offer life to men. They do not essentially impose a law, or a group of doctrines, or a number of ritual acts. These aspects are secondary. It is life that Easter promises to man.

Friday, March 17

This lesson of Christian discipline as a gift of life is so important that it is the subject of today's Mass also. And the source of this new life in Christ, of its nourishment and inspiration, is above all the public worship of the Church, her celebration of the saving acts of God. That is why Sunday Mass is beginning to undergo a renewal and revival in the present day. Life is Jesus' gift, but our dispositions profoundly affect the measure of our reception. And the gathering for the proclamation of God's Word and for the sacrificial meal is the chief means the Church possesses for exciting these dispositions, for arousing faith and contrition. Active participation of all Christians in the liturgical act has this as its primary object.

Saturday, March 18

God's revelation to his people, his covenant with them his care for them is the basis of faith. The first reading assures men of this covenant and care in the days preparatory to Christ's coming. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of its fulfillment. Christianity is never obscurantist. A false sense of mystery, any hint of magic, is alien to it. Its faith is a response to God's action in history, that salvation-history which the Biblical lessons of the Lenten Masses review.

The Week in Liturgy

With the battle of Lent only half-won, quite a few of those who have been engaged in "keeping" Lent, fell by the wayside this morning. This doesn't speak too well for the future of the Church, which must become one with Christ--upon earth, through suffering; in heaven, through bodily resurrection and transfiguration. Suffering and resurrection characterized the earthly career of Christ; the Mystical Body of Christ must also be so characterized. In our day, as in times past, the Church has walked the Way of the Cross. She knows that only through the Cross can she arrive at her goal, resurrection. If we seek other paths than the Way of the Cross, neither we nor the Church will reach our goal.

From now until Easter, we must join with our suffering Lord, and be crucified with Him. Keep in mind that we are crucified and transfigured at the same time. Through physical and mental pain our souls can be transfigured and given part in Christ's resurrection.

Identify your sufferings and your glory with the Mass. Offer up your sacrifices at the offertory of the Mass. The Masses during the coming weeks make this easy to do. This shouldn't be so difficult, if you've been doing it at least sporadically.

My chief concern, however, is for those who haven't yet begun to prepare their souls for Easter. Their souls are markets of selfishness and greed. And it's safe to say, I think, that there is at least one of this type in every hall on campus. You know the kind. He hasn't been to confession for a year. Maybe out of selfishness. Maybe out of greed. Maybe just out of fear. Whatever the reasons for the let-up; whatever the reasons for the lethargy, this is the time to get serious about the business of Lent. It's now that Lent's supposed to begin to hurt a bit.

Gene Boorman, CSC
Student Chaplain