

Thanksgiving Notes

By Presidential proclamation, next Thursday is Thanksgiving Day, a national holiday on which we Americans give thanks to God for His benefits.

Since the first Thanksgiving Day observed by the Pilgrims, the day has been marked by feasting. For many today, the only real thanks given to God is expressed as they sit down to carve the golden brown turkey that is the centerpiece of a table laden with superabundant delicacies.

For Catholics, every day is a thanksgiving day, for on every day the Eucharistic banquet is served, and eucharist means gratitude or thankfulness. The Canon of the Mass, also called the Eucharistic Prayer, always begins with the words: "It is truly meet and right, it is our duty, it is our salvation to thank you always and everywhere, to thank you, Lord holy Father, God almighty and everlasting."

Through the Mass, then, Catholics have the means of giving the true Christian spirit to what has become largely a secular holiday.

GIVE THANKS BY GIVING -- Before leaving for vacation, don't forget to give your unwanted but still serviceable clothing to the Bishops Thanksgiving Clothing Collection. You will find a box set aside for that purpose in your hall.

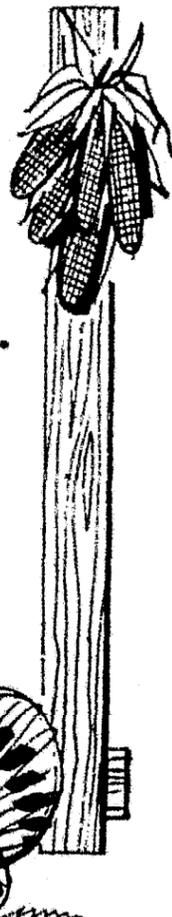
DISPENSATION -- On the Friday after Thanksgiving Catholics of the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese have been dispensed from abstinence by Bishop Pursley. If you are at home or elsewhere, you must abide by the regulations of the diocese where you are.

ON CAMPUS -- 1) The 5:10 Mass today (Tuesday) will be the last 5:10 Mass until Monday, November 30.

2) The 11:30 Mass in Sacred Heart Church will be said each day of vacation.

3) No Masses next Sunday in Stanford-Keenan Chapel; only the regular schedule in Sacred Heart.

4) No confessions next Saturday evening in Sacred Heart Church.



THE REAGENT TO ENSLAVEMENT "The value of a civilization," says Joseph de Maistre, "depends upon the quality and forms of prayer that men offer to God." Arnold Toynbee approximates this thought when he adds, "The Abba Pater addressed to the transcendent God forms the only certain foundation for complete brotherhood among men." These thoughts are developed in a new book, God's Encounter with Man,* by Maurice Nedoncelle, who tells us that the survival of a nation depends upon its communion with the divine.

The danger, says our author, that threatens to impoverish mankind today is twofold: first, the fact that men are ceasing to raise their hands to God in prayer, and second, the fact that they have lost the capacity for human relationships which are the result of being drawn together to share in divinity. For in losing the latter capacity, they are ceasing to regard the human individual as a sacred being.

Of the two threats, says Nedoncelle, the second is more insidious, and justifies considerable alarm. We are taking part in a vast massacre of those natural sacraments which fertilized all earlier civilizations, and so we are on the way to de-humanizing ourselves.

The great evil of modern life doesn't lie in the fact that science has emptied our world of the spiritual. Actually, true science develops one's sense of wonder. The evil lies rather in a hardening of the human person, which is the result of the use of mere techniques. We are becoming enslaved by a worship of our own productions, and count nothing valuable except in so far as it contributes to our material advancement.

We need to regain a respect for the deep reality which is the source of our freedom, says our author. It is impossible to live or act in full truth without God. Human relationships are stunted and stifled if men do not find the originating principle of their personalities in a source higher than themselves. Without a vital drive towards God, the human condition rapidly becomes pointless, and without God, love among men becomes puerile and unstable.

Prayer is a privileged approach road to self and to others. Sometimes it is the means to freedom, sometimes its result. To the extent that prayer takes place from man to God, man acquires his true stature and freedom. The religious man knows this from experience. He knows that in union with God, his true self begins to be and to develop. Prayer discloses one of the ultimate secrets of being. Today more than ever before in history, the prayer of mankind will decide its history.

-- Claude L. Boehm

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IN YOUR CHARITY please pray for the following: III -- Frank Forcier of Dillon, (appendectomy); Tom Guccione of Morrissey (surgery today); Tom Walton, Off-Campus (surgery); friend of Jim Grant of Dillon; father of Jim Kane, '61; Damian Karnsiewicz, '60 (serious). Deceased - father of Dick Strack of Morrissey; aunt of Ed Dasso of Lyons; father of Louis Scherano, '62; grandmother of Richard Pisano of Zahm; Robert E. Williams, '21.

*Sheed and Ward, 1964, \$3.95

And once more the cycle of the Church's year draws to a close. We shouldn't be too quick to accept that word "year" in its ordinary meaning. The Church's "year" has nothing to do with fiscal reports or astronomical observations! It is simply our continuing meditation on and sacramental participation in the mystery of our Risen Lord; it is, in a way, a prolonged living meditation with our eyes fixed on Christ, whether in Advent hope, Passiontide sorrow, Easter joy or Pentecostal sharing in His life in our daily life through the indwelling Spirit of His loving presence. This lengthy "time after Pentecost" (which is the present Christian era) comes to a dramatic end (both in the liturgical Gospel and in reality) with the fruition of the Holy Spirit's work -- the appearance of the Lord and our union with and in Him.

Likewise does the Council close. A Council -- an extraordinary moment of the Holy Spirit's presence in this time after Pentecost! Liturgical changes, greater awareness of our vocations in Christ's Mystical Body (whether Pope, bishop, priest, or layman) clarification in our Christian outlook on the world and our fellowmen -- all of this, not for the sake of change or "definition" alone, but that Christ appear more clearly in this world and that we men, through His Spirit, be more deeply and personally united to Him. Pope John expressed it so well at that first closing:

"... May the Lord make the holy fervor of our work fruitful, sustained as it is by the prayers of all [the faithful], so that it may not only call down ever-renewing graces of apostolic zeal, but also produce the magnificent results we hope for, to the salvation and joy of the world entire. This is the grace brought to us by Christ Jesus who has come to kindle a fire upon this earth so that all might burn with a resplendent faith and an ardent charity.

"To all of you, venerable brothers in the episcopacy, we can offer nothing more moving by way of humble and sincere encouragement than the words St. Paul wrote to the Colossians, words which resound as a great order! 'That Christ be all and in all!' And then, 'Then put on the garments that suit God's chosen people, His own, His beloved: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience. Be forbearing with one another, and forgiving, where any of you has cause for complaint; you must forgive as the Lord forgave you. To crown all there must be love, to bind all together and complete the whole. Let Christ's peace reign in your hearts...and be filled with thanksgiving, in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to the Father through Him. (Col. 3:11-17)'"

Christ grant us the strength of true Christian men -- humility to accept, patience to build and move ahead, courage and honesty to continue, and thankfulness through it all.

--Father Langdon, C.S.C.

For Freshmen Only.....

I CAN READ ANYTHING

A college education (contrary to some current thinking) does not erase the traces of Original Sin. But it does provide a young man with the opportunity to formulate for himself a solid set of intellectual, cultural, social, aesthetic and moral values. A university student should be equipped to see through the sham and phoney. So his encounters with the slick and shiny-covered publications, whose emptiness is passed off as art and interesting reading, should cause a reaction.

What is your reaction to this type of reading or viewing material? It should be much more than a personal moral struggle. Your very presence at a university compounds your responsibility. You are in a position of leadership, whether you recognize it or not -- everyone else does. If you are duped by cheese-cake and commercialized sex, what about all the fellows who have not had your opportunities? Who will stem the tide if you don't? You know as well as the next man that the day sexual sensationalism, sexual depravity, and cheap nudity stop selling, publishers will be faced with a real crisis -- a threat to their very lucrative industry.

Are you to be a herald of the great books? Are you to introduce the people of the under-developed countries to the world's finest authors and thinkers of today and yesterday? Are you going to lead others to experience the beauty of the world's great poetry and to come to grips with genuine realism in outstanding novels? This is your commitment. This is your unavoidable responsibility. What is your leisure reading diet today? Are you feeding off the dry-rot of sexuality out of context?

You have sexual curiosity as all men do. Your college education does not vaccinate you against it. Curiosity is not a bad thing. It should be satisfied. And here is where your education should make a distinct contribution. Your years of study have placed at your disposal great sources of knowledge not only in books but in competent and responsible men who are interested in your growth, not in your retardation. With countless opportunities to arrive at truth, it would seem that there is no reason for prurient and morbid sexual curiosity in a university atmosphere. Do you think that is true here?

--Father Baker, C.S.C.

P.S. Don't buy anything for a song until you know what the pitch is.

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IN YOUR CHARITY please pray for the following persons deceased: sister of Brother Cosmas C.S.C.; friend of Gary Franc, Off-Campus; father of Robert J. Fink, '52; Benjamin F. Tyler, '23, father of Benjamin F., III, '56; George J. Williams, '39; August G. Desch, '23; Joseph G. Gorman, '24; Peter M. Griffin, '08; Thomas E. Kerrigan, '44; Thomas J. Dunn, Jr., '36; Wilson E. McDade, '27; wife of Hobart Shean, '31.