

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
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The Mass For Our Deceased Parents.

This Mass, which we hope will be an annual feature at Notre Dame, was inaugurated last year. It was perhaps the most beautiful and touching religious ceremony ever held at the University. It was attended by 164 students who had lost either father or mother, or both. In their faces, when they received Holy Communion, was reflected the spirit which the faith alone teaches; for the doctrine of the Communion of Saints teaches us not only that we have not lost those whom God has taken from us, but that we can help them more now by our prayers than we could by our material solicitude while they lived. The Mass will be sung tomorrow morning at 6:25. Last year a goodly number of off-campus students came to the Mass.

The Easter Duty.

Next Saturday, the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, Patron of Catholic Learning, has been set aside for the common fulfillment of the Easter Duty, the annual obligation of the Catholic who wishes to be called practical. The "duty" is this: During the Easter season (which in this diocese extends from the first Sunday in Lent till Trinity Sunday, fifty days after Easter) every Catholic is bound under pain of mortal sin to receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist at least once. Note that the season begins on the first Sunday in Lent, not on Ash Wednesday. There are quite a few students who receive daily before the first Sunday and have not received since the season began.

We have two principal reasons for fulfilling this precept in common:

1. Because this common act of worship is a partial fulfillment of our social obligations to God, of which we have many at Notre Dame;
2. Because the fixing of a definite day and the appeal of "safety in numbers" have a psychological value in encouraging laggards.

Notre Dame does not force any student to make his Easter duty. She urges him to do it; she offers her help if he finds difficulties in the way of it; she tells him plainly that if he is not a good Catholic here he will probably be a worse Catholic elsewhere; she tells him that if he is here rejecting all the advantages which she has to offer, he is selfishly crowding out some worthy boy who would be a credit to her and a better citizen of earth and heaven for the Catholic education she could offer him if she had the room to take him in. But she does not expel any student for failure to make his Easter Duty -- at least, up to the present she has refrained from adopting that policy in the fear that such action might lead to a sacrilegious reception of the Sacraments.

Enter into the spirit of this common fulfillment of our common obligation. Urge the laggards to action. Receive yourself next Saturday, even though you have already complied with the law; your reception may aid a weak soul to attend - and you may offer it for that intention. That is true Christian charity.

The Murderers of Souls.

Any person who leads another into sin is a sharer in the guilt of that person, and in all the sins that follow from the first sin. A boy who brings a bad book to the campus, for instance, is primarily responsible for all the bad thoughts, desires, words, and actions to which the circulation of that book may lead; and if as a result of that book a boy is led into a whole series of sins, which may run into years and involve hundreds of people, all of that guilt is heaped upon the head of the first sinner. The student who aids in the circulation of the book is likewise guilty.

PRAYERS: Hubert Hogan has just lost his father; his mother died recently. Louis Del Prete underwent an operation for appendicitis last week; there are five other students in the hospital with lesser maladies. A sick friend. Nine special intentions.