

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
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Your Christmas Gift to Your Parents.

You were reminded the other day that nothing will please your parents more than a spiritual Christmas gift for their intentions. At the Pamphlet Rack you will find a card on which you can mark down the offerings which constitute your spiritual bouquet for your parents. You will find indicated such items as Masses said or heard, Holy Communion, Visits to the Blessed Sacrament and the Grotto, Rosaries, Mortifications, and Novena for Christmas. With regard to this last item you may need a few instructions.

The Novena.

Any novena is a prayer repeated for nine days. The usual Notre Dame novena includes nine Holy Communion as well as prayers on the successive days. In the Novena for Christmas you are given a further opportunity to pass some time each day in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament exposed. We have this special privilege through the favor of the Most Reverend Bishop of Fort Wayne. It is a beautiful privilege, and is appreciated by the students. In the past it has been one of the most popular devotions of the year.

The Adoration.

Beginning next Monday morning, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on week-days during the Novena at 7:30 A.M. in the Brownson Memorial Chapel. The adoration continues, as on First Friday, until 5:15 P.M., when Benediction is held. The day is divided into half-hour periods. While a student may remain in adoration as long as he likes, the half-hour period is a very convenient one. Cards distributed through the halls during the past week for the signatures of volunteer adorers have insured the continuity of worshipers during the nine days. Those who have signed cards are the official adorers, and should vest in cassock and surplice when they enter the chapel and kneel near the altar. This privilege is not restricted to those who have signed cards, but may be used by any student. Those who have signed cards should follow this practice, however, so that the official adoration may continue without interruption.

How to Make the Adoration.

It shouldn't be hard to talk to a friend for half an hour, particularly to a Friend Who is as absorbed in your welfare. It should be easy for you to kneel there and look at the Sacred Host and unburden your heart to our Lord. You have problems -- everyone has -- and you appreciate the opportunity of talking them over with One Who will not violate your confidence and Who can help. Talk to our Lord just as freely as you would like to talk with an ideal friend. He is the only ideal friend.

There may be times when your mind will wander, and for these moments there are prayer-books at hand. These books have caught up for you the reasonings of the most beautiful minds the world has ever known and the affections of the hearts that have loved God most. If you prefer, use a prayer-book throughout your period of adoration. But remember this: God knows what you are trying to say. If you simply kneel there without saying a word, He knows what is going on in your heart.

Try to Make the Whole Nine Days.

While the card that you sign pledges you to make only one half-hour of adoration during the nine days, to make a generous Novena for your parents you should try to be present for at least a half-hour every day. The pleasure this will give your father and mother will be ample reward; in addition, God lays your sacrifice to your credit in Heaven.

PRAYERS: Word has just been received of the death of Bishop Chartrand, of Indianapolis long-time friend of the University. The mother of Father John Ryan, C.S.C., is very ill; Vincent McCoola's grandmother, deceased.