

University of Notre Dame
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The Empty Christmas Stocking.

So your mother hasn't a chance, eh?

When you came to Notre Dame in September (perhaps it was some other September), your first group experience was the freshman mission. With the rest of your class you were called to the church each night by the bell, and there you heard Notre Dame's definition of Catholic education. You meditated each night on one of the following points:

1. It will profit a man nothing to gain the whole world if he lose his soul;
2. There is only one evil in the world, sin; it alone can keep you from God;
3. The time of death is uncertain; most student deaths here are sudden;
4. If you die in mortal sin you will spend eternity in hell;
5. The Passion and Death of Christ merited for you God's mercy, which is extended to you through the Sacraments;
6. Perseverance is a special grace which comes in answer to prayer, and without this grace your mission is of little avail.

Each morning of that week hundreds of your friends gathered in the church to hear Mass and receive Holy Communion, begging God and Our Blessed Lady to make them good Notre Dame men. Perhaps you did the same; perhaps you received Holy Communion once or twice. But you did not persevere.

The strongest appeal that has been made to you this fall has been an appeal to be good for the sake of your mothers, to give them some satisfaction for the great sacrifices they have made for you.

How have you responded? Well, if you are not making the Novena for Christmas, if you are not taking part in the daily adoration, if you are not making other spiritual offerings for your mother's spiritual bouquet, her "Eucharistic Christmas Gift," you have missed the whole purpose of a Notre Dame education.

Your mother's Christmas stocking will be empty.

She has a right to expect a spiritual return for what she has done for you. She has a right to your prayers, your Holy Communions and Masses, your mortifications and aspirations, for after God she has done more than anyone else to give you life and keep you well, lead you on to be a man, a good man.

Most mothers of Notre Dame men know that the boys here are in the habit of showing this special mark of affection at Christmas time, and most mothers of Notre Dame men appreciate above all the gifts in the world the spiritual offerings of their sons in their behalf. Will your mother's heart ache on Christmas Day?

You have a few days left. If you begin a Novena now and carry it over when you get home, you still have time for nine Holy Communions before Christmas Day. If you have in your system the elements of decency, you will not neglect this possibility.

The Third Sunday.

The Third Sunday of the month carries with it three features at Notre Dame: 1. The Bengal Mission collection; 2. the Mass of Exposition at 9:00 (this will be the only adoration on that day); 3. The Notre Dame indulgence, a plenary indulgence (applicable this year only to the Poor Souls) for all who receive the Sacraments and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father.

PRAYERS: Deceased - the father of Sister Constance, C.S.A.; uncles of John Neeson and Emil Ott. Ill - Father Ryan's mother; Geo. A. Miller's father; John Jauch, '32 (ruptured appendix). Two special intentions.