

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 1, 1934.

St. Jerome and the Study of the Bible.

"Saint Jerome wished that the young should be taught from infancy to learn the names of the prophets, patriarchs and Apostles, and that they should also commit the Psalms to memory. As they grew older, he recommended a study of the Proverbs of Solomon to help them live wisely, and of Ecclesiastes that they might estimate worldly vanity at its proper value; then the Book of Job, from which they might learn the lessons of patience in the troubles of life.

"Finally, he would have them pass to a study of the Gospels, a study which should henceforth be unceasing, and also of the Acts of the Apostles, and the Epistles. With advancing years and increasing understanding, they were set to work upon the Pentateuch, the Book of Kings, of Paralipomenon, Esdras, and Esther; and lastly, when there was no risk of misunderstanding the mystical and spiritual meaning, the Canticle of Canticles. For adults he prescribed, in addition to daily and persevering study of the Scriptures, the reading of the Commentaries of the Fathers."
-- Cardinal Rampolla.

A Method of Reading the Sacred Scriptures.

"To those who shall thus read and study the Sacred Scriptures, the divine Book will, as St. Jerome tells us, 'be as a field enamelled with celestial flowers, or as a diamond flashing forth various lights while he hold its facets to the sun'.

"Having the heart filled with the right dispositions for the reception of truth, through the guidance of the Sacred Scriptures, our next care must be to have a suitable method in our study of them. We find this method ready to our hands in that document which St. Jerome drew up for that band of holy women, whom he inspired with so great a love of the Bible that, to all intents and purposes, they scarcely ever laid it aside. He advises all students of the Sacred Text, to begin with the Book of Psalms, in which the royal Prophet pours forth his joys and his sorrows, his tears and his sighs, inasmuch as these sacred lyrics give expression to all the needs of the human heart. After the Psalms, the student should instruct himself unto eternal life by the wisdom of the Proverbs. Then will follow the Book of Ecclesiastes, which will teach him to make but little account of the gaudy baubles offered to him by the world. In the Book of Job, which should succeed to Ecclesiastes, he will have set before his mind's eye the most brilliant examples of virtue, and particularly of patience in affliction. After this preparatory study, he may next pass on to the Book of the Gospels, which should be the daily subject of his devout meditations.

"When thoroughly conversant with the Gospels, he should fill his mind with the history of the infant Church. This history he will find in the Acts of the Apostles. Thus enriched with a store of heavenly learning, he may next proceed to the reading of the Prophets, the Pentateuch or Books of Moses, the Book of Judges, Paralipomenon, Esdras, and Esther. When his soul has, as it were, been steeped in their spirit, he may, with the advice of his spiritual father, and under his guidance, read the Canticle of Canticles, for then he will easily grasp its spiritual meaning, and will suffer no harm from its imagery which seems to speak of only an earthly love. Lastly, he will now be able to gather priceless lessons of spirituality from the various Epistles written by the Great Apostles, Epistles in which is compressed the very marrow of all that the Scriptures teach the human soul." -- Father Doyle, O.S.B.

Prayers.

Deceased - Don Tremblay, '25; an aunt of Lindsay Phoebus; four friends. Ill - Bro. Irenaeus, C.S.C. (operation); Jon. D'Amico, St. Joseph's Novitiate (mastoid operation) Lewis Kelly's grandmother; an uncle of Don Martin; a friend. Three special ints.