

Blessing of ashes, Mass,
7:00. Ashes distributed
before Mass, Bkfst, 8:00.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 5, 1935.

Confessions tonight; also
tomorrow morning at Mass.
Come tonight!

The Lesson From Holy Writ.

The first of all positive laws God laid upon man was a law of abstinence. Our First Parents were forbidden to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge.

The breaking of that law brought sin and death and suffering and labor and the danger of hell upon mankind.

Throughout the Old Testament the leaders of the people did penance, preached penance.

David fasted to avert the death of his son which the prophet had announced as punishment for David's sin.

Ahab, frightened by the terrible chastisements foretold by Elias, tore off his garments, put hair-cloth next to his flesh, fasted, slept in sackcloth, walked with his head cast down.

The Prophets exhorted the people to penance--"Be ye converted to Me with all your heart in fasting and in weeping and in mourning."

St. John the Baptist, last and greatest of the prophets, herald of the new Order, was, par excellence, in word and example, the apostle of penance.

And then came Christ. Did He change this hard law of penance? Here are His words:

"Do penance for the kingdom of heaven is at hand";
"I came, not to call the just, but sinners to penance";
"Unless you do penance you shall all likewise perish."

Here is His example.

He Himself invented Lent by forty hard days of fasting, alone, in the desert.

His whole life was a penance. Although He was God, he lived in a poor man's house; or worse, he sometimes slept in a cave. He wore the poor man's garments. He ate the poor man's food.

He took upon Himself the manner of a servant. He made Himself obedient to puny man's laws.

He humbled and punished Himself even to His passion and death on the Cross--severest of all human penances.

Tomorrow Lent begins. Who are you to ignore these fearful warnings from heaven? Look again at those words of Christ. Think for a moment upon the only possible meaning of His example.

Go daily then, above everything else, to Holy Mass and Communion. Spend frequent half-hours of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Try to make every day the Way of the Cross.

Get yourself a daily working schedule. Fill it out. Follow it during Lent.

Give up dancing, drinking, dates. Give up movies in town.

"Unless you do penance, you shall all likewise perish!"

PRAYERS: Deceased, cousin of Father McAvoy; friend of student. Ill, uncle of Tom Hayes (Morr.); Ed Kirby (Sorin); Joe Sullivan. Five special intentions.