

High Mass 9 tomorrow for  
Jack Sweeney; at his  
mother's request.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
November 30, 1935.

The 7 o'clock Mass  
tomorrow will be for  
Father Hope's mother.

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Why Obey Laws?

Here I am hemmed in by all kinds of moral laws. Why can't I be free from them? Who's harmed if I break them?

This, without question, is a world of laws: fire burns, bodies fall to earth and not up to the sky, hunger weakens.

Man himself didn't make these laws. In fact, they are often the reverse of what he would have made them.

But whether man likes them or not, he cannot get away from them. He may act as if laws didn't exist, but, if he does, he starves, or he gets his hand burnt, or he takes an unpleasant tumble with a thump on the end of it. The laws damage or destroy him.

There is no such thing as freedom from these physical laws. There is only freedom in them, in knowing them and in cooperating with them.

The moral law, too, which governs the soul, was not made by man and is not dependent upon man's approval.

Man can ignore the moral law, he can break it, but the result will be his own diminution or destruction.

Excessive drinking, disorderly and irrational indulgence of sex, lying, swearing-- these diminish a man's dignity and social worth and turn him off from paths that lead to temporal and eternal happiness.

There is no such thing as freedom from the moral law either. There is only freedom in the moral law, in knowing it expertly and in keeping it.

God's laws are the expression of His knowledge of man's nature and destiny. God knows the kind of being man is, for He made man. And for the same reason He knows what man is made for, and He knows what will make man happy.

God's laws are a precise statement of how this particular kind of being may avoid destruction and reach his particular goal.

The maker of an automobile is not limiting your freedom when he tells you to oil it at certain points or not to run it beyond a given speed. He tells you that because he knows what will injure or destroy your automobile.

And if you plead that you demand more speed, that you feel stifled by slow running-- he may very well grow impatient. He knows what speed is right for your car, for he made it.

God's laws, too, are best thought of as "Maker's Instructions"--directions for the right use of ourselves.

Drive an automobile against maker's instructions and you wind up with a heavy pile of useless iron and steel. Observe instructions and you get efficient service.

For the greatest share of contentment on earth, and for your eternal happiness, observe the moral law, which is your Maker's Instructions for the conduct of your life.

PRAYERS: (deceased) James Patrick ("Bubber") Byrne of Chattanooga; sister of Rev. Joseph Burke, C.S.C.; father of Brother Cyril, Indianapolis; father-in-law of Herb Jones, and a relative. Ill, Sister Catherine of Carmelite Monastery, New York. Four special intentions. Joe McGuire (St. Eds.) during convalescence after an appendectomy, contracted pneumonia. Please give him a special place in your Masses and Communions.