

Mass Sat. of St. Thomas of
Aquinas, p. 761. Collect as
in the Mass.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 6, 1936.

Deceased, friend of Bill
Horan (Bad.); father of
Don Sconfietti (Corby).

Feast of The Angelic Doctor.

The Church, since Christ, has not produced an intellect superior to that of St. Thomas Aquinas, glory of the Order of St. Dominic, patron of all Catholic schools. Tomorrow, the 662nd anniversary of his death, we celebrate his feast.

Three qualities stand out in the life of the Angelic Doctor: love of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, angelic purity, a heavenly luminosity of mind.

Once St. Thomas wrote a letter of advice to a young student. This paragraph from the letter merits repetition from Bulletins of bygone years:

"Be slow to speak; love purity of conscience; pray often; love to be in your room; be kind to everyone; do not inquire into the affairs of others; do not be too familiar with anyone, because too great familiarity breeds contempt and gives occasion for leaving off study; do not be interested in the sayings and doings of people in the world; avoid all needless running about; imitate the saints and the just; remember every good thing you hear and do not consider who says it; understand what you read and hear; labor to fill the storehouse of the mind; do not inquire into things above you."

Tomorrow say a prayer at the altar of the great St. Thomas Aquinas in Alumni Hall. Ask him for help in your studies, for purity, for attachment to the Christ in our tabernacles.

Penance and Joy.

Joy does not mean freedom from effort or discomfort. It can exist side by side with deepest agony of body and even anguish of soul. The anxiety of the lover, the restraining impulses and the rigorous training of the athlete, the toil and self-sacrifice of the student, of the struggling artist and man of letters, the burdens and labors of parents struggling for the education and advancement of their children, the courage and heroism of the soldier on the battlefield, --these cannot be called joyless so long as there is a reasonable hope of reaching the goal. Character, like iron and gold, must be purged in a crucible and tempered by fire. Penance and the penitential motive have a definite purpose, a constructive part in the development of character. They represent a striving towards a real hope, and in their unselfish concentration upon a supernatural ideal they are the practical assurance of an eternal prize.....

Evidently (penance) requires both generosity of spirit and sincerity of purpose. Otherwise (it) can hardly contribute either to atonement for sins of the past or to the development of beauty and maturity in Christian character. "When you fast," Christ said, "be not hypocrites, --sad. For they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thy head, and wash thy face. That thou appear not to men to fast, but to thy Father who is in secret. And thy Father who seeth in secret will repay thee." Penance, whether it be expressed in secret self-restraint, in religious observance, or in sharing with others that which has cost us effort and expense, is essentially a prayer to God. Prayer is an elevation of the mind to God in hope and faith; and that is essentially an action of joy.

(--James A. Wagner in The Ave Maria, Feb. 29, 1936.)

PRAYERS: (deceased) Mrs. John Mahoney, mother of John, '17, James '27, and Phillip Mahoney; friend of Bill Gallin (Lyons); friend of J. McCarthy (Bad.); Sister Stella, C.S.C.; grandfather of Pat McCarty (Bad.); friend of Bob Kennedy's mother; (Brow.); father of Art Zimmerman '28; father of Lawrence O'Connor (Cor.); uncle of Cy Stroker (Cor.); father of Joe '26, and Paul '33, Regali; father of Joe Fitzgerald '29. Ill, aunt of Dan Finn (Alum.); mother of J. Duke Ellis (Bad.); friend of Hal Miller (Cor.); uncle of Frank Vallez. Five special intentions.