

Again: don't leave the campus unless you are in the state of grace.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
November 25, 1936.

Mass Thursday of St. Sylvester, p. 1059. --Deceased, relative of Tom Quirk, dining hall.

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Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving Day! The mayor writes a solemn proclamation and it rates bold type in a box on the daily's front page. There is a free day--no school no mail, no work. There is a football game, after turkey and cranberry sauce.

Scarcely anyone goes to church; scarcely anyone offers special prayers that they seem to mean; and, therefore, only a few really give thanks on Thanksgiving.

The genuine spirit of Thanksgiving is religious. The special posture for giving thanks is that of prayer. The chief place for thanksgiving is the church. God is the supreme Being from Whom all good things come, to Whom thanks are due.

You don't please God by overloading the stomach when there are hungry mouths all about you. Above all, you don't please Him by wantonly wasting food.

Early settlers in America, hemmed in by hostile Indians, felt spontaneously the need of thanking God. People in danger, in suffering or want, usually do.

But when man has much for which to thank God--health, freedom, plenty, and prosperity --he thanks God poorly, artificially, grudgingly.

Early Christians sneaked like hunted beasts, at the cost of their lives, to obscure fields, to the catacombs sometimes, in order to celebrate their Eucharistic Service, which means Mass and Holy Communion.

Pause a moment. Eucharistic service (from Eucharistia, thanksgiving) means thanksgiving service. Early Christians named the central religious action of their lives a Thanksgiving. And in that name they expressed their whole reverential attitude towards God their Creator and Redeemer, their only Hope.

Tomorrow, just before breakfast, at 7:30 in the main church, there will be a Eucharistic Service, consisting again of Mass and Holy Communion. Again it will be a thanksgiving service, highly appropriate even for civilized people.

Try to make the awful sacrifice of a few minutes' sleep, and come to this thanksgiving service on Thanksgiving Day.

Eat your turkey dinner at noon. And for the afternoon, what? A game over the radio? A movie?

To the east of the University a few blocks, and a few blocks to the north and south, there are poor families--really poor. Do you often think of them? Do you ever help them?

Early Christians were fond of caring for the poor because early Christians remembered how deeply Christ loved the poor and how often He spoke of them.

The local St. Vincent de Paul Society, with offices in Lyons Hall, will tell you how you, too, may help the poor. Helping the poor is the Christian way of causing thanksgiving in others.

Have you ever watched the eyes of desperately poor people light up quickly in thanksgiving? If not, tuck some little gift under your arm and visit the poor tomorrow.

PRAYERS: (deceased) friend of Lou Smith (Sor.); Mr. John Kavanaugh, friend of student; grandmother of Bill Tucker (StEd's.); Gregory Fr nwa, alumnus; uncle of Ed and Frand and Dick Husking; uncle of Tom Elder (Dil.); uncle of Larry Thompson (Lyons); Mr. Ernest Graham, honorary alumnus. Ill, friend of Tom McCarthy (Alum.); Mr. Patrick Quilter, Binghamton, N.Y.; Rev. James Drought, New York City; Jack Mahoney, Sioux City, Iowa, sophomore here last year; sister of Dan Monaghan (How.). 2 spec. ints.