

Flood Relief Fund starts today. Hurry contributions!

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
January 25, 1937

Ill, Mrs. Frances Fitzpatrick,
friend of Ned Joyce (Dillon).

Miss de Bethune Interprets The Mass.

(From "Common Sense" by Adelaide de Bethune in Liturgical Arts.)

"...(T)he Sacrament of the Eucharist has two parts to it, I found out: (It is just a common sense thing, but somehow, I have never thought about it.)

"First, it seems, we all offer something. It is the Sacrifice, the new Sacrifice of Calvary. We go and give something to God, as Christ did when He first offered Mass, by dying on the Cross. Christ offered Himself. So we all do again the same thing, and we all offer ourselves. We don't give God what is bad in us. No. Evil and sin we give up, we decide to eliminate altogether. We give God what is best in ourselves. What is best in us is our soul; it is the Christ within us.

"All our poor offerings of the meager good in us are placed together on the Altar. The simple bread and the wine stand for them. We join them all to the offering of Christ. And so our offerings become Christ's. The bread and the wine become Christ. We are united to Christ, as much as we have given ourselves.

"But secondly comes the Resurrection (which is the 'Life Eternal,' that death cannot kill). Christ gave us a part in His Resurrection already, when he gave us the eternal good of the New Life at the Last Supper. We have it still to this day, all over the world. Communion is the Resurrection. 'He who loses his life, shall find it.' We have lost our individual life by giving it in the Sacrifice. We find the eternal Christ-Life in receiving the Communion. We receive our own gift back, increased, improved, and renewed. All the gifts that every one had given are now distributed to all. I had given just myself. Now I receive myself right back, together with every one else: Helen and Dorothy, Catherine and Mary, Francis, Lawrence and George, and old Peter, and little Charlie...and above all, and within all: Christ.

"I was alone before. Now I am one. I am one with all, and one with Christ and in Christ. 'I live no longer, but Christ lives in me.' We are all in Christ. We have received his Body and His Blood. We are all His Body. We are brothers, all members of the Mystical Body of Christ.

"The Sacrament of the Mass is one of brotherhood. It binds us all together. Do you suppose we are partaking in it very well when we merely 'go to Mass' as so many isolated sacks of potatoes sitting upon wooden pews? Do you suppose we are making a very good job of offering Mass, when we cannot forget the grudge we have against our neighbor, which makes us so grouchy that we are bored all through the Holy Sacrifice?

"First we should try to forget everything, but the Spirit of Love of God and our Brothers in Christ. That will bring out the best we have as a fit offering. It will make us forgiving and kind. It will make us happy and we will all want to sing together. We will all sing the happy praise of God, our Father, 'for His great glory,' as is said in the Gloria. We will all sing out our freedom of belief in the Truth of God: 'I believe in God,' says the Credo. We will all sing out the Life Giver, the Sanctifier, the Holy Spirit: 'Holy, Holy, Holy!' sings the Sanctus.

"Our good Holy Father, the Pope, begs of us to, please, keep this in mind when offering Mass. He wants us to receive this precious Christ-Life more abundantly. So he begs of us to think more of our bond of brotherhood, to offer Mass by actively and outwardly participating in the Holy Sacrifice. He asks it not just of the priests, but of us, the congregation, the laity. We are all priests, Saint Peter reminds us. We must all offer the Mass together (as one Body) with the ordained priest at the Altar...."in the spirit of unity, harmony and brotherhood, in the spirit of Christ.

PRAYERS: (deceased) grandfather of John Gella (St. Ed's); friend of Oliver McMahon (Howard); aunt of Father Healy; Charles B. Foley '22; uncle of Franke Brame (Cav.); relative of Tom Liston (Freshman); friend of Vice Hartnett (Alum.). Ill, friend of Roger Sweeney (Carroll); George Beltz. Six special intentions.