

Why The Mass?

"You insist so often that we attend Mass during Lent. Why?"

The insistence has been, not upon attending Mass, but upon offering Mass with the priest.

"Pray the Mass" Pope Pius X advised. Get yourself a missal and learn how to use it. See a priest and he'll help you.

The Church interprets the meaning of the Mass chiefly through the words of the Mass itself. The Mass can't mean much to you if you don't know what it means.

Repetition of the Rosary or of Our Fathers and Hail Marys is not a good way of offering the Mass.

This is why the Mass is a good Lenten devotion, why it atones for sin: it is Calvary over again in an unbloody manner. And you'll admit that Calvary was the atonement of atonements.

Even if you yourself could actually duplicate Christ's physical sufferings-- if you let them spit in your face, slap you, make a fool of you, scourge you until your back lay open in red, throbbing wounds: if you bore the crown of thorns, submitted your hands and feet to be nailed to the cross; and, finally, if you hung suspended on the three spikes for three long hours, you could not approach the efficacy of one Mass.

The Sacrifice of the Mass is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. That makes it infinite.

When you devoutly offer the Sacrifice of the Mass with the priest you share in the merits of an infinite sacrifice.

And that seems to be worth, during Lent especially, the price of a few minutes' extra sleep.

How Receive Better?

"Often when I go to Holy Communion late I don't seem to receive so fervently. Have you any suggestions?"

Yes, by all means. Don't try to receive in too big a hurry. Speed often kills -- devotion.

Don't figure on dashing into the chapel, receiving, and dashing right out again.

After all, you spare an hour and a half a day in order to feed your body. Just think a little and you'll always find at least ten minutes in which to nourish your soul.

Foolish starvation of the body is considerably more painful, but not so important as stupid starvation of the soul.

If you come to Dillon Hall for Holy Communion prepare while you're walking to the chapel. Get loose from the gang and pray as you walk.

If you suffer habitually from chapel fidgets--a most common nervous disease-- get a Purple Prayer Book at the pamphlet rack, and read both your preparation and thanksgiving until you can pray "on your own."

After Holy Communion you should remain on your knees at least until the Sacred Species is dissolved in your stomach. That ordinarily means, for seven minutes at least.

If for any reason your thanksgiving is unexpectedly cut short, walk away from the chapel by yourself, and continue your thanksgiving as you walk.

Don't neglect Dick Swisher. From reports, he seems to show improvement.

PRAYERS: (deceased) father of A. Jarrett (Dill.); mother of Ed Crotty (Alumni); mother of John Beer, (Dad); friend of Tom Doody (Carr.), Ill, nephew of John P. Donnelly (Howard); Mr. Michael Steinrouck. One special intention.