

Two-thirds of student body  
started Novena for Mother  
today. Still time to start.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
April 27, 1967.

High Mass, A. Zell's father,  
6:25, Wed., M. Church; a re-  
quest of student friends.

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Awareness of God's Presence.

"Whither shall I go from thy spirit, O  
Lord, or whither shall I flee from thy  
face....

"If I ascend into heaven, thou art there;  
if I descend into hell, thou art present...

"If I take my wings early in the morning  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the  
sea, even there also shall thy hand lead  
me; and thy right hand shall hold me,

"And I said: Perhaps darkness shall cov-  
er me, and night shall be my light in my  
pleasures. But darkness shall not be  
dark to thee, and night shall be light as  
the day."

Here in the Psalmist's elegance is a most  
fruitful Christian truth, often neglected.  
God is not confined to His heaven; we are  
not isolated from Him on earth. Neither  
is Christ imprisoned in the chapel, nor  
are we distant from Him on the busy  
street.

God was not more present to the apostles  
and martyrs than He is to you in the state  
of grace. Try to realize it. Holy men  
and women made themselves aware of God's  
presence; that awareness transformed  
their lives; made them fearless, zealous,  
and just; made them think and talk and  
act as if God were with them.

That awareness can become the dominating  
influence in your life. (And if you can  
make the world, too, realize it, there  
will be no more wars or labor troubles,  
no longer difficulty in caring for the  
poor. This, the task of Christians.)

But, someone may say, people will be  
strained and fearful and self-conscious  
if they habitually think of God's presence.  
Not at all. That objection manifests a  
false, unchristian sense of God. Pagans  
and savages feared His face, but with  
Christ there came a new relationship be-  
tween God and man, a relationship of con-  
fidence, of intimacy, of love.

Recall Christ and the two disciples chat-  
ting along the dusty road, and then at  
Emmaus: "And they drew nigh to the town

PRAYERS: (deceased) father of Dean Konop; uncle of Tom Kavanagh (Dillon). Seriously  
ill, Bob Benavides (Sorin). Two special intentions. Ill; appendectomy, Bill Sharp (Alum.)

where they were going: and he made as  
though he would go farther. But they  
constrained him saying: Stay with us,  
because it is towards evening, and the  
day is now far spent. And he went in  
with them, and..whilst he was at table  
with them, he took bread, and blessed,  
and brake, and gave to them."

Remember the oft-repeated words as He came  
again and again after the resurrection:  
"Peace be to you...It is I; fear not."  
He wanted no strain or fear amongst His  
friends.

Close-knit charity that binds members  
among themselves and to their Head--this  
is the very essence of the Church that  
Christ established.

To you, God's presence should mean this:  
in weakness, He will--if you ask--invest  
you with His power; in temptation, His  
holy breath will be ever upon your cheek;  
in danger, He, your commander, will stand  
shoulder to shoulder with you in the trench

"And I said: Perhaps darkness shall cover  
me, and night shall be my light in my  
pleasures. But darkness shall not be dark  
to thee, and night shall be light as the  
day."

If you would develop the habit of God's  
presence, often reflect: You need not  
seek God in the far heavens. Night and  
day He is in all creatures that surround  
you. In your neighbor especially He is  
present, and what you do to your neighbor,  
you do to God Himself. You yourself are  
a living tabernacle with the Blessed  
Trinity as your Guest.

Live, then, as if God were with you. Offer  
to him all that you do--your work, your  
play. Refer to Him your problems. Turn  
to Him often in quick and affectionate  
prayer.

The habit of realizing God's presence will  
transform your whole life; it will hurry  
the kingdom of God on earth by first es-  
tablishing Him as the real King of your  
soul.