
The Morning Offering.

Some think that to love God, which is another word for being holy, we must be on our knees all the time, praying. But Saint Paul with wisdom divine, saw that even eating and drinking could be a prayer. Hence, he could well write in his Epistle to the Corinthians, ordinary laymen they were too, "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatsoever else you do, do all for the glory of God." He chose the most common incidents of the day, eating and drinking, to show that our whole day can be offered up to God. If we fail to do this, we are the losers.

Prayer, after all, is simply lifting the heart up to God. Now unfortunately none of us can be on our knees all the time, praying formally. Each day, now and after graduation, we have or will have a certain amount of work, recreation, eating, drinking, and even sleeping to do. Did you ever realize that Christ's religion, sublime and perfect in its totality, nevertheless is so simple that we can offer that whole day up to God?

"Do you mean, for example," you may ask, "that even my reading this Bulletin can be offered up to God? If reading this Bulletin is a form of suffering, I have a hazy idea that it can be offered up because all suffering can and should be so offered. But how about a good movie?"

Yes, even a good movie, if it is legitimate recreation, can be offered up to God and is a prayer. One of the great saints, while playing cards, was asked what he would do if he were told that he was to die in five minutes. He answered that he would continue playing cards, that before starting he had offered his playing up to God and he was willing to die in prayer.

Of course we, not being saints, haven't the ability or wisdom to pause before every action and offer it up. But we can, by means of the Morning Offering, put everything—our works, prayers and sufferings of the ensuing day—on a paten, as it were, and offer it up to God.

Then, with the exception of sin, everything we do throughout the day, being so offered up, takes on supernatural value which means that we merit an increase of sanctifying grace. Everything we do throughout the day is offered up with Christ and through Christ in union with His sacrifice of Calvary repeated in the Mass throughout the world. Everything we do that day is offered up in reparation for our past sins, and thus decreases our possible time in Purgatory.

It's simple, isn't it? And yet, like so many simple things, it is too valuable to omit for even one day.

Memorize this Morning Offering:

"O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer Thee my prayers, works and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of Thy Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, for the intentions of all our Associates and in particular for the Intention recommended each month by the Holy Father."

Say it every morning. Get into the habit of saying it at the first break of the day so that it will be so much a part of your ordinary life that if you omit it, during your vacations or after your graduation, the omission of it will be as noticeable as the omission of your breakfast.

PRAYERS: (Deceased) father of Father Clancy C.S.C.; cousin and aunt of Rev. James Kline. Ill, mother of Fr. John O'Connell C.S.C.; Most Rev. Joseph H. Albers, Bishop of Lansing; brother of Tom McIntyre (Dil); mother of John Ruppel '34. Eight spec. ints.