

WARNING! THIS IS HEAVY,
BUT IF YOU WANT TO BE
CHASTE READ IT THROUGH.

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MASS THURSDAY 6:30 IN
BASEMENT CHAPEL FOR
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You Are God's Temple.

Two weeks ago you read all about King Baltasar and the Holy Ghost. That wasn't the first time you learned you're the Temple of God. But how much do you understand it?

God is everywhere. He fills heaven and earth. In Him you live and move and are. He's not only in you, He lives in the tabernacle. He's in the wood of your door, your electric light bulb, on top of the Dome, in the concrete roots of the Rockne Memorial, in South Bend, in China, at the tips of the poles, in the sun and the moon and the stars, in every split-atom of space, in the fiery pit of hell.

How, then, are you especially God's Temple? Well, He's everywhere different ways. He's even been in you differently. If you're in the state of grace tonight, He's in you as His Temple. He wasn't in you, as His Temple, when you were conceived nor when you were born. Baptism made you His Temple. Every time, if ever, you have had the misfortune to commit a grave sin, you've ceased being His Temple. Let's explain.

Surely Our Lord meant what He said: "If any man love Me he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our abode with him." "He will come." But, obviously, since He is already everywhere, and so immovable, He won't come by a change of place. He comes and abides this way: He begins to exist in your soul in a new and superior way.

From being merely His creature, you become His son. From enjoying merely the natural dignity of being human, you begin to partake of the nature of God. God is in you now by His grace and love-- not as He is in a stick or a stone or the tent of a sinner, but as He is in His Temple. "Know you not", St. Paul reminded his beloved Corinthians, "that you are the Temples of God?" You Notre Dame men are also His Temples-- as long as you stay in the state of grace, as long as you keep His commandments.

"If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Paraclete, that He may abide in you forever: the Holy Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive," that is, men sunk in sin; such a world, first dazzled, then stupefied by the enticements of sin, blinds its eyes to the truths of Christ's holy Faith and the working of God; such a world cannot receive the Spirit of Truth, cannot be His Temples, because, as Christ continues, "it seeth Him not nor knoweth Him." God "will not enter into a malicious soul nor dwell in a body subject to sins." "But," and here Christ assures His faithful disciples, "you shall know Him because He shall abide with you and shall be in you." God will inhabit the faithful Christian and elevate his mind and heart to a special knowledge and love of Himself.

Get it straight. God dwells in the tent of the sinner by force of the sheerest necessity, even as He dwells in these letters of black, to account, as He must, by His natural presence, for their very existence. God has to be everywhere to keep things and you from slipping back into the utter abyss of nothingness whence all things sprang at His beneficent call.

But how differently He dwells in you as His Temple. By love, by grace, by a new and intimate relation, the grandest that man can conceive, God comes and abides in your soul. "The charity of God is poured forth into your hearts by the Holy Ghost, Who is given to you." God gives you Himself as your own possession. You become His Shrine. You have Him within you to know and to love, to adore and to pray to, to tell Him you're sorry for having offended Him, to ask Him for favors. God dwells within you in an even more intimate way than He dwells in the tabernacle, for in you as His Temple He becomes the activating, elevating, divinizing principle of everything you think and say and do. (Tomorrow: those promised "students reactions to this mystery of the Divine Indwelling and some practical resolutions they base upon it.")