

Mass Thursday in Dil-
lon, 7:20, for father
of Ed Disser of Sorin.
Request Ft. Wayne Club.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
December 14, 1938.

Thurs. afternoon 4:15 Wash.
Hall hear Aileen O'Brien
about Spain. Have your
questions ready.

It Hurts Less To Kneel Down.

Suppose a person has just had the misfortune to commit a grave sin. The unhappy man has closed the switch, electrocuted himself! He has burned divine life out of his soul. And no state is so bad as mortal sin. For mortal sin is the beginning of hell.

Now suppose you see the same person thinking things over. "I'm without divine life," he says. "God has fled from my heart. I can do nothing without Him. I am lost. If I die now, I spend eternity in hell. . . . One thing I can do. That's confess my sins and obtain absolution." If he carries through with his good resolution, once more he closes the switch, this time ignites his soul with the spark of God's inner life. He starts out again on the road to eternal glory. Grace is where heaven begins.

The devil, of course, will try to dissuade him. "No. . . . Don't be a sap. You don't have to tell him your sins. It's enough in your heart to say, 'God, I'm sorry.'" Then the man's Guardian Angel rushes up to his side. "Don't fall for that line. You remember when God became man? Christ ordained His Apostles and said: 'Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; whose sins you shall retain, they are retained.' Go show thyself to the priest. Only he can help you."

Confession may hurt-- but not much by comparison. Suppose, when you do shift the load to your knees, it embarrasses. Remember, it's electrify or electrocute: the spark of God's own life in your soul or a charred corpse that will ever burn with the devil's fire. It hurts less to kneel and confess than to sit, sit, sit in Satan's electric chair.

Those Ember Days.

You heard the announcement Sunday. If you stay on campus this week, you are excused by the Most Reverend Bishop from the fast and abstinence. But if you're travelling, find out what your obligation is wherever you happen to be. You may be bound.

Here's a thought which may not have occurred to you. With Christmas coming, you want to prepare your soul to honor Our Lord. Mortification, doing the hard thing (even when you don't strictly have to) helps chasten your soul. You can waive your exemption, say Saturday, and at least abstain. Eggs without ham don't taste quite so good.

But actions speak louder than words. By your self-sacrifice you can show love for the Christchild, sorrow for sin, you can ask peace for the world at Christmas.

During the Novena for Parents, you have been adoring Our Lord in the Lady Chapel. Recall His words long ago: "This kind is cast out only by prayer and fasting." Add fasting to prayer. You'll rout the Tempter.

PRAYERS: (deceased) aunt of Prof. De Landero; uncle of Chas. and Tom O'Malley (Walsh); Mrs. Vaughn; friend of Joe Gueth (Badin); grandfather of Lee Topscott (Bro.); (accident) father of Henry Donnelly '34; mother of Glenn Carberry '24; Phil Keane, cousin of John Jaxtheimer; aunt of Father Foran, C.S.C.; father of Bob Roach '31; uncle of Jack O'Brien (Mor.). Ill, (seriously) Miss Rose Armstrong, friend of Jack Joyce (Bad.); four friends of Bill O'Toole (Al.); (improving) Jackson Chung; uncle of Frank Kiener (Cav.); sister of Rev. D.A. O'Shea, C.S.C. (Indianapolis); Sister M. Hilda, cousin of Dick Donnelly (Cav.); friend of Dan Schmidt (Walsh); Rev. Ed. Fitzgerald, C.S.C.; (seriously) grandmother of Jim Ray (Dil.); uncle of Frank Kelly (Sorin); cousin of Phil Sheridan (Off-Campus); father of Joe Ryan (Dil.); friend of Jack Kelly (Cav.); friend of Jack Reith (Badin); (operation) friend of Don Smith (Dil.); (appendectomy) Jimmy Welsh (Badin); grandmother of Marg. Hannagan (St. Mary's); friend of Neil Geary (Dil.). Three thanksgivings and fourteen special intentions.