

BENEDICTION 1ST FRI AT
6:30 AND 7:00. OLD MEN
FIRST, YOUNG MEN LAST.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
February 2, 1939

BLESSING OF THROATS TO-
MORROW IN YOUR CHAPEL;
TIME FIXED BY RECTOR.

LOU AMBERS

"On the night of September 3rd, 1936, Lou Ambers fought through fifteen blistering rounds to become Lightweight Champion of the World. That's history.

"At the celebration after the fight, Thursday night changed into Friday morning and Lou refused food and drink because he was making the Nine First Fridays. That was news, for it was reported in the daily press.

"But why news? Catholics from every state in life are frequently making the Nine First Fridays. It's a rather common practice. Common, yet so superlatively lovely, that one might not expect a pugilist to so engage himself. But that's Catholicism.

"To make the Nine First Fridays one goes to Mass and Holy Communion on each of the first Fridays of nine consecutive months. On each occasion he must be free from grievous sin and must abstain from food and drink from midnight till after Mass. That is the practice and the obligation. That's what Lou Ambers was doing; but listen to his reason for doing it.

"The Nine First Fridays is a devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus -- a sort of love tete-a-tete in which the Catholic tells his Saviour how much he is trying to realize and appreciate the infinite love of God for man; and how hard he is trying to love God in an extraordinary manner to make up for the lack of love on the part of millions who know not God or who have turned their backs upon Him. And finally the Catholic prays with full confidence for the grace of final perseverance in his quest of Heaven and for the infinite graces of the Sacraments before he dies.

"Friday, September 4th, 1936, - 12:01 A.M. Please visualize the scene. A twenty-two-year-old Italian boy being acclaimed world's champion. 'What will you have, Champ?' 'Nothing, thank you, I'm making the Nine First Fridays.'

"News? Much more than news. That was 'giving evidence' of far-reaching effect. For world champions of the ring are more adulated and imitated than world leaders of arts and sciences, of kingdoms and empires.

"Lou Ambers, here's to you! May your fifteen-round victories and your Nine First Fridays go on and on. May you ever shine forth as a model of physical and spiritual strength for every little boy, - yea, and for every great big man."

Word for word, there you have a splendid example of the snappy leaflets prepared by the Catholic Information Society of Scarborough, Ontario. Surely none of these facts about the First Friday devotion was new to you. But thousands of leaflets like these tell non-Catholics about them and other Catholic truths for the first time. This idea started with Mr. Karl Rogers of the Narberth (Pa.) Information Society. To both these societies and similar ones, health and success. Notre Dame students can interest themselves in this sort of work if they want to. . . BY THE WAY, TOMORROW IS FIRST FRIDAY. CONFESSIONS TONIGHT 6:30 to 10:00 IN CAVANAUGH, HOWARD AND DILLON.

PRAYERS: (critically ill) infant son of Mrs. Marie Auman, niece of Fr. Hagerty, C.S.C.

