

Masses Sunday begin at
6, 7, 8:30 and 10.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
January 11, 1941

Courtesy to God says
"Be on time".

Our Lady's Perpetual Virginity.

Were you stumped by any religious questions raised by friends during vacation? Two or three of you, judging from office visits, met this: "Doesn't the Bible itself say Mary was not, or at least did not remain, a Virgin?"

They evidently have been listening to or reading certain non-Catholic professors or writers who pose as "experts" on the life of Christ. You can tell your friends that superficial reading of the New Testament by a layman might raise some doubt regarding the perpetual virginity of Our Lady (showing all the more the necessity for an infallible interpreter), but close examination of the Bible settles all such doubt.

1. The fact that Mary was a virgin in and through the birth of Jesus is stated simply by Holy Scripture. Isaias prophesied, about 770 B.C., that the Saviour would be born of a virgin. Almost every time Mary is mentioned in the New Testament in connection with the birth of Jesus, she is called a virgin. She herself raised the question of her virginity to the angel who tells her she is to become the mother of the Redeemer, and he answers that it will be accomplished miraculously through the power of the Most High.
2. The phrase, "brothers of Jesus", in the New Testament is no proof that Mary was not a virgin, or had more than one child. a) The Hebrew language had no word for "cousin", and used the word "brother" for almost any kind of relative. Instances in the Old Testament prove this; e.g., the word is used in Genesis for nephews, in Leviticus for distant cousins, in I Paralipomenon for first cousins, and in Job for relatives in general. b) Moreover, what evidence we have of the families of the men of whom it was used in the Gospels indicate that they were actually cousins of Jesus.
3. Jesus is called Mary's "first-born son". But that phrase does not prove that she had other sons. "First-born son" was a legal and technical phrase used of a mother's first child, whether there were any other children or not. Among the Jews, even an only son was called "first-born" because special ecclesiastical legislation applied to him.

So you see, there's nothing to the objection raised, and Our Lady continues to reign gloriously as the Queen of Virgins.

Get Rid of Worries.

Some of you came back from vacation packing worries, some of them domestic, some financial, some moral.

A student who is not at peace cannot advance scholastically or spiritually. If the worry does not disappear within 24 hours, you should see a priest, any priest on the campus, or one of the Prefects of Religion.

If it's a moral problem and you hesitate to speak personally to him, you merely have to press the buzzer twice in Dillon, Howard or Cavanaugh Hall any night. Then, in the confessional, you can talk to your heart's content and go out relieved and at peace with God and yourself — and you won't be holding up other penitents in line.

PRAYERS. Regarding Matt Millenbach, latest reports show no change in his critical condition. He still needs your prayers. Deceased: Brother of George Reilly, '31; Kevin J. Byrne, ex'37; Father Hudson, C.S.C. (anniv.). Ill: Friend of Jack Bennett, (Ly); Sister of Pat Bannon (Sor); Mother of Gene Fahlig (Bad). 4 Spec. Int.