

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
February 13, 1942

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In the Excitement.

With the Carnival, Valentine's Day and the dance, you might lose sight of the following events coming, extremely important events this year:

1. Forty Hours begins Sunday at High Mass. There'll be no sermons at any of the Masses, but Sunday and Monday evenings there will be Benediction at 7:00 and 7:30, the sermons to be given by one of your favorites, Fr. O'Neil.
2. Monday, lest you forget, there is draft registration, an important day in your lives. You present yourself to your government for service by that registration. Sanctify it as a Christian by offering yourself and your prospective service up to God at Mass and Communion that day.

Offer up your military service and any hardship it entails as a prayer for your own good and protection and for a final Christian peace that will last this time.

3. Then Wednesday is Ash Wednesday with a particular significance this year for youth facing the reality of war.

Well thought out plans and resolutions, considered and prayed over are the kind that carry through. Before the Blessed Sacrament, exposed Sunday to Tuesday, lay your plans for Lent.

Try to answer these two questions in the presence of Christ, "If I am really as sorry for my sins as I say I am, why should I not get up and go to Mass and Holy Communion every morning during Lent? After all, is there any other form of penance more efficacious, more pleasing to You - Whom I may meet as my Judge, soon?"

What The Forty Hours Means.

Once a year the Church offers us an extraordinary opportunity to show our love. She invites us to turn our minds away from everything else for three days, to think about the Blessed Sacrament, to worship it with all the splendor we can command, to praise and thank God for this inestimable gift and especially to make reparation for man's offenses, ingratitude, neglect and profanation toward the Holy Eucharist.

The traditional time for the celebration of the Forty Hours Devotion is during the three days before Ash Wednesday. It grew out of the zeal of a saintly Italian priest who wanted to make amends for the excesses of the carnival, which disgraced Rome with debauchery in anticipation of the fast of forty days. He obtained permission to keep the Blessed Sacrament exposed during three days, and invited the people who loved God to take turns in watch and prayer before the eucharistic throne.

Notre Dame keeps the traditional Forty Hours. At the High Mass next Sunday the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed. A procession around the church will bring the Sacred Host close to the kneeling people, to enkindle their love and their repentance for sins. Exposition will continue until Tuesday evening, and during the time of exposition there must always be worshippers.

Neglect of this sacred opportunity would be unforgiveable in a Notre Dame man. No student is so busy that he cannot find some time to go in and tell our Blessed Lord how much he loves Him, and how sorry he is for the weakness and human frailty he has shown in His service.

PRAYERS: (Deceased) General Philip Fleming, West Point Athletic Director; uncle of Fred McMahon (How); grandfather of Dick Brose (B-P); uncle of Mrs. Paul Bartholomew. Ill, Mrs. Catherine Kelly; grandfather of J. (Al) and D. (Morr) Seuffert. Seven S.I.