

The Novena for Seniors.

Seniors, you face a future of special problems. Realizing your needs, and after consultation with a number of your class, it has been decided to offer a Novena for Seniors. During this Novena there will be conferences which will treat some problems confronting you in the army, in marriage and in future life. These conferences will be held in the evening at 6:00 p.m. (just before the evening meal at a place to be announced later) followed by Benediction.

At Benediction all will unite in saying prayers for themselves and for one another, begging God to shower each one with success and happiness. In addition to the prayers at Benediction and the daily conference, the Novena will consist of daily Mass and Holy Communion in your own hall chapel for the nine days.

Each morning of the Novena there will be a Mass offered for your intentions by one of the Prefects of Religion. Write down your intentions and place the list in the Novena Box in your hall. These intentions will be placed on the altar at which Mass will be offered for you daily.

The Novena begins Monday. Get your fellow seniors to join you. The more who unite in this appeal to God, the more blessings will flow to each one. Out of this Novena will spring confidence in yourself and in God, courage and peace of heart.

A Soldier Dies.

The newspapers recently carried an account about a Catholic young man at Pearl Harbor. This soldier had volunteered his services to the chaplain and was given the work of sacristan, of preparing the altar for Mass. At the first Mass on December 7th he had received Christ in Holy Communion. There was to be a second Mass. While the young soldier was preparing the altar for the Sacrifice the enemy bombers arrived and began their work of destruction. When the attack was over, the young sacristan was found dead at the foot of the altar.

First Point

Every time you attend Mass you must be found dead at the foot of the altar. Not in body, but in your own will. You must stand before God and put yourself to death, that is, tell God that you will do His Holy Will throughout the day, throughout the week. At Mass time God should find you at the altar offering yourself to conform your will to His. Practically, it means that you promise God to accept patiently the difficulties of the day: studies, failures, disappointments, sickness, and to carry out your duties faithfully with charity to all.

Second Point

If God asked you to die at the foot of the altar at Mass this Sunday, would you? No? Then you have not caught the meaning of the Sacrifice. Your desire to do the will of God should go as far as actual physical death. Christ makes the promise to be obedient unto death in every Mass. At the Consecration time He comes from Heaven to the altar and deliberately offers to do the will of His Father. In fact, at Mass we stand with Christ and with Him and through Him die to our own wills. When you offer the Chalice and the Host offer God your will.

Third Point

If you "die" at Mass - every time you attend, you will be ready later in the day to "die" to your own will by avoiding temptation, by doing good and by following the inspirations of grace. Real death becomes easy after a man has died daily at Mass. Let God find you dead at the foot of the altar. There is no better preparation for the death which will lead you into eternity and Heaven.

PRAYERS: (Deceased) anniv. father of Tom Farmer (Dil) friend of Bro. Meinrad, C.S.C.; mother of Jack Cleary (B-P). (Ill) relative of Joe Goeken (Dil) Seven spec. ints.