

(FOR THE CATHOLIC STUDENT AT NOTRE DAME)

Mass on Candlemas Day,
Wed. Feb. 2, 8:15 A.M.
in Church (not 6:00 A.M.)

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
February 1, 1944

Confessions: at 5:00 P.M.
Masses; at 6:30 P.M. in
Basement Chapel; after
7:30 in Sorin.

The Candle in Bernadette's Hand.

The lighted taper in the hand of the little shephardess is no detail of the artist's imagination. It is a matter of fact that Bernadette, on arriving at the Grotto of Lourdes to see Our Blessed Lady, lit a blessed candle and held it in her left hand during each apparition. This was her practice after the fourth apparition.

One day, near the end of her ecstasy, Bernadette arose and bent towards her aunt who happened to accompany her to the Grotto that day, and said: "Will you give me your candle and let me leave it in the Grotto?"

The aunt gave the child the candle. Bernadette went towards the end of the Grotto and placed the taper in the ground, leaning it against the rock and lit it, then returning to her usual place. After the apparition, her aunt asked her, on their way home: "Why did you ask me for my candle and why did you leave it there?" Bernadette replied: "I wished to leave it burning in the Grotto, when I went away; and as it was yours, I could not do it without your permission."

Thousands of candles light up the Grotto at Lourdes. Hundreds of candles are burned every week at the replica of Lourdes at Notre Dame. Why? You must look into the heart of the person who lit the candle to find the answer. The candle is a sign of the devotion of the Christian heart. The visitor would stay longer at the shrine of Our Lady, but duty elsewhere calls him away. So he leaves the lighted taper which represents himself enflamed with the fire of faith and of love and glowing with thanksgiving and petition. The candle burns itself out, and that is what the devotee of Our Lady would do in praise and prayer, if it were possible. Look at every candle with the eye of Faith and see in it the homage of a client of the Mother of God.

Your love for Our Lady of Lourdes and your charity towards your sick friends will bring you to the Grotto behind the Church every day during the Novena for the sick which begins Wednesday, February 2. Besides the daily visit, assist at Mass and receive Holy Communion for your intentions. The Blessed Sacrament is part of Lourdes. Many of the miracles take place during the blessing of the sick with the monstrance. Leave the list of your sick in the envelope which is attached to the chapel door. These lists will be placed in the Grotto for the duration of the Novena. Among the sick are sinners, those spiritually ill and in need of Our Lady's help in working up courage to make a good confession. Pray for them, too.

Blessing of Throats.

Thursday is the feast of St. Blase. Catholics throughout the world call upon this saint to protect and to cure them from throat diseases. Don't miss the blessing. When the priest places the candles beneath your throat and says the prayer of blessing, let there be trust and love of God and St. Blase in your heart. In the civilian halls, the blessing will be given after the morning Masses and at night prayer. In the military halls, the ceremony will take place after the afternoon Mass and after the evening meal (6:30 in Dillon, Alumni and Walsh; 6:40 in Cavanaugh and Zahm.) The blessing may be received in Sorin any time Thursday morning (Press the buzzer), and during the office hours of the Chaplains.

PRAYERS: (deceased) The Most Rev. James J. Hartley (Columbus); father of Brother Fidelis, C.S.C.; grandmother of Bill Gillespie (Sorin); cousin of Don Cleary (Cav) (Ill) father of Brother Paulis, C.S.C. - critical; Robert Dunn, ex. '44. 4 Spec. Int.