

(FOR THE CATHOLIC STUDENT AT NOTRE DAME)

NOVENA for EXAMS
begins Fri., Feb. 11.

University of Notre Dame
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Equipment For Departing Servicemen.

In army camps there are Catholics who think of Christ when they pass their Chaplain and use that meeting as a reminder to tell Our Lord (The Great Highpriest) that they will drill and labor throughout the day for His honor and glory. If foxholes could speak, they would relate stories of Catholic fighting men who spoke to God about their wounds and their fatigue and offered their sufferings to Him as an act of homage and as a petition for some personal intention. For some souls, a watch is a reminder that it is time to tell God again that the next series of actions will be done to please Him.

The practice of the frequent renewal of one's intention must be part of the equipment of every Catholic. The saints and all spiritual writers recommend it as a requirement in the development of a true Christian spirit. And since the perfect service of God is the objective of every Catholic student, it is recommended to those who are about to leave Notre Dame to live elsewhere for the praise and glory of God.

Why Renew Intention.

God is jealous, terribly jealous, of one thing -- His right to hold first place in your hearts. The principal motive inspiring all your actions must be the love of God, and this must be the case wherever you are and in whatever you are doing. The primary motive of the machine gunner firing from his nest, the bomber pilot on a mission, the young man at study or on a "date" must be the love of his Heavenly Father.

The love of God is very often not the intention propelling a person to action. Sometimes the motive is bad. Other times a supernatural motive is pushed aside by a natural one. An overweening zeal for success colors the motive of many people. The praise of friends is not an unfamiliar source of motivation. Love of pleasure and a passion for power are others. There may be secondary motives at the basis of an action. God does not forbid these; He merely wants the first place. A sailor attached to a battleship in enemy waters expressed the correct order of things in a note he sent to his former Chaplain: "I am trying to do everything for God and for Betty." Divine and human love can work together for good.

The motive is so important that one should frequently throughout the day turn his heart to God and renew the offering of his good works, for His glory. The Morning Offering, known to students educated in Catholic schools, is of tremendous value if said at the start of the day; it sends all acts Godwards, even the simplest and most enjoyable of the day. The Morning Offering, however, is not enough for anyone bent on serving God faithfully. Men are men; their motives change; sometimes the change comes suddenly so there is a need for everyone to renew, to purify their intention for acting.

It takes but a second's time to tell God you want to honor Him by your work. And it pays dividends. The thought of God and the desire to serve Him adds zeal and joy to work. The recollection that God is glorified by patience in suffering makes every Cross easier to carry.

Supply yourself with little acts of offering before you leave the campus: "All for Thee, my Savior", "To Jesus through Mary", "Behold I come to do Thy will, O God". And then use them at the front, on the bus, at recreation, in the midst of study or manual labor. God, your Father will be mighty happy about it, and your spiritual credit in heaven will zoom a thousand percent every day.

And if you don't work for God, for whom will you work?