

(FOR THE CATHOLIC STUDENT AT NOTRE DAME)

Lenten Confessions:
Sun., Mon., Tues. in
Church from 6:30 P.M.
until all are heard.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
February 18, 1944

No sermon at Sun. Masses.
Be on time. Little chance
for confession Ash Wed.
Go NOW.

Monte Cassino.

The great old Abbey of Monte Cassino has received more publicity during the last seven days than in all the 1415 years of its existence.

Monte Cassino is the most ancient monastery in Europe. It was founded in 529 by Saint Benedict, the Father of Western Monasticism, and the Rule which he wrote for his first monastery has become the foundation of the religious life of all the Orders of the Catholic Church.

A monastery is a place where men go to live a common life, and to pray and work for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. During the interminable barbaric wars of the "Dark Ages", the monasteries of Western Europe were the only places where culture and refinement survived. We consider ourselves lucky today that we have a Bible; that we possess the writings of the great pagan philosophers, Plato, who gave us the wisdom of Socrates, and Aristotle; that we know Euclid and Archimedes, the great natural scientists and mathematicians of the past, who laid the indispensable groundwork for many of the sciences which we are studying today. Well, we can thank the monks that we have this accumulated wisdom of the past. Their scribes, their copyists, their scholars, saved it for us. Our debt to them is inextinguishable.

Monasteries are not "a thing of the past". There are monasteries in Indiana, and in Michigan and Wisconsin, in which the same life of study, work, and prayer flourishes in 1944 as it did at Monte Cassino in 1244 and in 544.

Monte Cassino has been destroyed before: in 580 it was pillaged and burned by the Lombards; in 884 the Saracens overran Italy, burnt the monastery, and murdered the Abbot; Frederick II took it over in 1239; French troops plundered it in 1799; and in 1866 the monastery was suppressed along with all other religious houses by a bitterly anti-Catholic Italian government.

But a new twist has been given to the latest destruction of Monte Cassino. Always in the past the great Abbey has been destroyed by its enemies. This week, sadly, unfortunately, it has had to be destroyed by its friends. Sometimes, in order to stop a forest fire from spreading a man will have to burn down his own house. That is about all that need needs to be said about the Fifth Army's destruction of Monte Cassino. But Monte Cassino will live again.

Forty Hours Adoration.

The Solemn Mass Sunday at 8:30 (no 9:00) opens this three day period of grace. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the main altar of the Church all day Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. There will be evening devotions at 7:00 P.M. on these days. Sunday and Monday evenings there will be a short sermon followed by Benediction. Tuesday evening the formal closing will take place with procession of the Blessed Sacrament and Litany of the Saints. (Servicemen note: devotions over by 7:30 Sunday and Monday. Tuesday service a little longer - better log out.) VOLUNTEERS needed for Adoration Periods on Mon. and Tues: 7:00 and 7:30 A.M. (See Chaplain).

Ash Wednesday - Beginning of Lent.

Blessing and distribution of Ashes followed by Mass in the Church at 6:45 A.M. for ALL CIVILIAN STUDENTS; no hall Mass. Servicemen will have Mass and the distribution of Ashes in their own halls at 5:00 P.M. This is not A Holy Day; nevertheless, all good Catholics make a sincere effort, even at the cost of sacrifice, to assist at Mass and receive Holy Communion on this day.