

(FOR THE CATHOLIC STUDENT AT NOTRE DAME)

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Complaining: God's Loss And Yours.

Most of the suffering in the world is going to waste. A veteran Catholic chaplain before whose eyes pass many of the victims of the Pacific war, believes that hardly one percent of the mental and physical agony at home and on the fighting front is giving glory to God.

The motive for suffering makes the difference. Men are not accepting suffering for the love of God.

Men who are living in serious sin cannot have a right motive. There are those who can run their finger down this line from St. Paul and touch the sin which they have committed and for which they have not expressed sincere sorrow: "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are immorality, uncleanness, licentiousness, idolatry, witchcrafts, enmities, contentions, jealousies, anger, quarrels, factions, parties, envies, murders, drunkenness, carousings, and suchlike . . . I have warned you, that they who do such things will not attain the kingdom of God." Serious sin makes one an enemy of God. Until the prodigal returns to His Father with repentance, his wounds, disappointments and heartbreaks are a total loss.

Many men have a sense of courage. They do not complain because "it's not the manly thing." They hold their tongue and cover up their anguish to give the impression that they "can take it". These are mere natural motives. There is nothing of God in them. They are not to be despised. Yet when they stand alone, they do not change suffering into supernatural glory for God.

Only the supernatural motive makes aches, pains, humiliations, embarrassments pleasing to God. Only acceptance inspired by some truth of Faith brings heavenly merit for the sufferer. Here are a few motives put into words: For the love of God, for a sinner, for the souls in Purgatory, in reparation for my sins, for a dying man, in union with the sufferings of Christ on the cross, "Thy will be done". The repetition of short aspirations like "My Jesus, mercy," "Jesus, Mary and Joseph," not only supernaturalizes actions but makes crosses easier to carry.

The man who is forever complaining, the griper, is not following Christ's injunction: "Take up your cross daily, and follow me." His hardships are wasted. Those who take drill, the burdens of long study, restrictions, failures, sickness as mere routine without lifting their hearts to Our Blessed Savior or Our Lady during the affliction are losing a tremendous opportunity of honoring God.

Choose a short prayer that appeals to you, and say it reverently when Christ permits suffering, big or small, to cross your path.

The Better Way.

Maybe Christ is holding back classroom success from you until you humble yourself and admit that you need His help in prayer. God has blessed you with the most powerful of prayers, the Mass. At the daily Mass in your hall, Christ waits to hear you offer Him your service, and to pray with you for success. When you add Holy Communion to your Mass you make yourself more worthy of God's favor.

PRAYERS: (Ill) Thomas Green; father of Ensign Greg Rice, '39; aunt of Brother Philbert, C.S.C.