

They Think The Mass Important.

There is a spot on the European battlefield that the American boys who were there won't forget. The Germans were only a few hundred yards away from the Allies. At dawn the American attack was to begin. The Catholics in the outfit were not anxious about the weather, nor the treacherous terrain ahead, nor their supply of ammunition. They wanted Mass.

That was easier said than done. It was a clear night, the moon was so bright that if a priest stood in white vestments, the Germans could see him a mile away. Yet more imprudent would be the gathering of the soldiers for Mass. They would make a compact target. A single shell would bring their certain doom.

An inspiration struck someone, and found acceptance. Then began the digging for one of the strangest sanctuaries of history. The boys dug a hole six feet long, four deep, and four wide. They spread a blanket on the bottom, and there the chaplain set up his altar. The congregation could see the priest as he went through the Mass, for his shoulders, covered with the white vestments projected slightly above the pit. C-rations took on a new dignity that night. They covered the candles, and were thoughtfully slit so that the candles glimmered only toward the congregation, and not in the direction of the near-by Germans.

Camouflaged Vestments.

The Church thinks the Mass is an important element in the life of the military man. She considers it proper that he have access to the Mass even when in danger zones. Recently the Church very willingly relaxed Her law regarding liturgical colors for the benefit of men at the front. Chaplains may now use camouflaged vestments and altar cloths whenever white and the liturgical colors would constitute a danger in a combat zone. The privilege was granted for the duration of the war.

Important To You?

That's best answered by the number of weekday Masses you attend. The person who assists at Mass frequently is big-minded and big-hearted. Through Mass he praises and thanks his Heavenly Father in a manner that pleases God infinitely. The Mass is the act by which one prays with Christ. There is no more powerful prayer. On this occasion one becomes magnanimous and generous. The Mass prompts those in attendance to think of the sick, the dying, the Poor Souls, the needy, sinners and at the same time brings God's all-powerful and merciful hand to assist them. We can pray in our rooms, as we work, even as we play. These petitions are good and effective. Yet they do not have the power of the Mass. The prayer most pleasing to our Father in Heaven is that of Christ His Son. Mass is the prayer of Christ. When we are present at the Holy Sacrifice Christ takes our prayer and blends it with His, thus allowing us to pray with His own tremendous power. If you are anxious about anything, you will be seen at Mass.

Now 117 Gold Stars.

Don Currie, ex-'44, paratrooper, Staten Island, NY., killed in Italy.
Pvt. Louis F. Curran, ex-'44, Dorchester, Mass. killed in Italy Feb. 2, 1944.
Capt. Geo. R. Dempsey, '39, Oskosh, Wis., killed north of Rome June 28.

PRAYERS: (deceased) brother of Prof. Daniel Pedtke; mother of Lieut. Bob Streb, '32
Dr. John T. Burns, '13, father of Robert Burns, former student; E. B. Donohue, '18;
father of Angus Gillon, '40; nephew of Father Leo R. Ward, C. S. C. (Ill) Sister of
Father John Ryan, C. S. C.; Sister Rita, C. S. C.; Joe Degan, '34; Robert Dunn (Niles).