

(FOR THE CATHOLIC STUDENT AT NOTRE DAME)

University of Notre Dame

Religious Bulletin

August 25, 1944

The Summons.

A priest tells this story of devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.....

"In the church where I officiate, I had frequently observed a certain working man who was in the habit of making extremely hurried visits to the church. The extent of his hurry may be judged from the fact that he was wont to come literally running in and, after advancing a short way into the church, to genuflect, turn, and run out again.

"This behaviour seemed to me rather extraordinary and even to savour of irreverence. Accordingly, finding an opportunity, I took occasion to speak to the man and question him about his conduct. I said to him: 'Why do you run into the church and out again in that extraordinary way? Do you think that is quite reverent to Our Divine Lord in the Blessed Sacrament?' 'Well, Father,' said the man, 'I am sure Our Dear Lord will understand. This is my meal hour and I have to hurry all the way to get here. I have not time to do more than just run in and out again and get back to my work in time to recommence.'

"I was impressed by the man's evident sincerity and devotion. Here, apparently, far from any irreverence, there seemed to be a deep spirit of piety, practiced with constancy and sacrifice. 'Ah, yes.' I replied. 'I understand. In that case, no doubt, Our Lord will make allowance for your circumstances, and will have regard for your sacrifice. 'But,' I insisted, for my curiosity was aroused, 'what prayers can you say in those few hurried moments?' His answer astonished me still further. 'I speak to the Master,' said he, 'as to a friend whom I have come to see and, for want of time to say more, I just say: Jesus, it's Jimmy.'" Here surely was confidence, that a poor workman should address the Master of heaven and earth in such familiar terms! But mark how the humble workman's confidence was vindicated.

"Sometime afterwards, I was summoned to a sick call. Nothing was said about the patient being in any danger but, according to my custom, I took the Blessed Sacrament with me. When I arrived at the place mentioned, I found that the sick man was none other than my friend of the hurried visits, Jimmy. Jimmy's pilgrimage was drawing to a close. He was on his deathbed. I heard his confession and prepared to give him the Holy Viaticum.

"Then the extraordinary thing happened. At the moment of placing the Consecrated Species on the man's tongue, a triumphant smile, a smile of heavenly joy and peace came over his face and I distinctly heard the words, 'Jimmy, it's Jesus.'"

"What a touching thought that the Almighty Lord, to Whose feet, Jimmy had so often hastened, should, in his need, hasten to him, and address him with his own familiar words. The Creator, speaking to the creature as a friend had come to summon him home."
(Preservation of the Faith)

For The Atheist.

"There is nothing good in atheism. Will men be more virtuous for not acknowledging a God who enjoins the practice of virtue? Assuredly not. I would have princes and their ministers acknowledge a God-- nay, more, a God who punishes and who pardons. Without this restraint I should consider them ferocious animals, who, to be sure, would not eat me just after a plentiful meal, but certainly would devour me were I to fall into their clutches when they are hungry, and who, after they had picked my bones, would not have the least idea that they had done anything wrong."-(Voltaire)
PRAYERS: (deceased) Cardinal Maglione, Papal Secretary of State; Lieut. Dominic Ternan, Catholic Chaplin, killed in action; friend of Jerry Terhaar (BP).