

40 Hours closes tonight
at 7:00 with Procession
and Benediction.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
February 13, 1945

Begin Lent with good
confession. Go tonight
in Church, Sorin or Cav.

Suggestions For Lent.

When Lent started Bill Smith took up the practice of going to Mass every morning, and the early one at that - 6 o'clock. The pastor bragged about Bill's Christian spirit. But the neighbors thought differently about Bill; they knew him for what he was - a wifebeater.

Lent also brings to the fore another type of penitential spirit. It is exemplified by the sailor who for Lent gave up candy, movies, dates and cigarettes, and then on Easter Sunday bought a case of rye with the money he saved and went on a bender that lasted forty days and forty nights.

Far-fetched? Not at all. There are wifebeaters, naggers, men who let someone else do all the work. These men and all their ilk have forgotten the first principle of Lent (and always): DO WHAT GOD DEMANDS OF YOU FOR YOUR SALVATION - it may be giving up gangster tactics with the wife and family, bad companions, wild spending, impurity, wasted hours of study, bad and foolish reading. It is a trick of the devil to let one believe that Lent means extra prayer, but does not demand the giving up of old sins, old bad habits and the person or places occasioning sin. Daily Mass will help Bill Smith once he makes up his mind to do all in his power to treat his wife with respect. That's the first move a Catholic must make on Ash Wednesday - to convince himself that penance without doing one's duty is worthless.

The sailor has brothers of the same pedigree, those souls who save their money on lenten denials only to spend it on themselves later. There can be no sin in this, but it is not penance of the first order. It would be better to give one's lenten savings to the poor or to the foreign missions. The Church recommends the practice of prayer, feasting and almsgiving for Lent. An offering given to the poor is almsgiving.

Daily Mass - No Better Lenten Practice.

What the world needs is more prayer. Catholics have the perfect prayer, the Mass. It seems that the student who has Mass so available and yet does not assist at it daily during this holy season is not giving God his best.

Penance is for sin. The God-given remedy for our weakness is prayer and the sacraments. A person may pray and yet continue to sin. His need is not prayer alone, but perseverance in prayer. And that is why one's penance for Lent should be DAILY Mass, that is, perseverance in the most efficacious means of reparation for sin.

If you do your duty and assist at Mass (and receive Holy Communion) daily during Lent your penance will be most acceptable before God. If you think DAILY Mass is too much for you, take a good look at the crucifix to see what your sins have done to the innocent Christ. He deserves more than your second-best.

PRAYERS: (deceased) father of Albert and Frederick Funk; Fred P. Motz, Jr., friend of Lt. J.T. Trueman, '41; grandmother of Father Gerald McMahon, C.S.C.; father of Father Thomas J. Bolger (Grand Rapids); Louis H. Williams; mother of Jack Florence (Cav). (Ill) mother of Prof. John Sheehan. Three Special Intentions. One Thanksgiving.

CHANGE IN ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Late Mass during Lent:
7:20 A.M. Sorin
8:00 A.M. Basement
Chapel

Ash Wednesday Mass (and Ashes) in Hall
Chapels at usual weekday Mass time, and
not in Church as previously announced.

Easter Duty Period
opens Sunday.
