

First Friday Confessions  
tonight in your hall  
chapel; also in Sorin  
and Cavanaugh after 7:30

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin

April 4, 1946

Every morning and all  
morning, Holy Communion  
is distributed in Sorin  
hall chapel (confession too)

## THE DRUNKARD

Matt Talbot collapsed on a street in Dublin in 1925. Those who had known him only from his younger days would have exclaimed, "Dead drunk again." That would have been rash judgment, for Matt had changed himself, with the help of God's grace. A heart condition had brought the sudden death. Those who prepared Matt for burial saw one of the means the good Irishman used in breaking his habit of intemperance. Matt had wrapped chains around his body as an act of penance. One chain was attached to his arm, another to his leg. He had worn these instruments of penance for fourteen years; little wonder they had penetrated deeply into his hips. Matt had once declared that one of these pieces of metal had raised him from earth to heaven.

Besides daily acts of penance, Matt used two other necessary means of conquering the liquor habit, the avoidance of bad companions and constant prayer. The influence of drinking companions not infrequently undermines a sincere resolution to drink reasonably. Fellow workmen in a liquor supply house started Matt on a period of drunkenness that extended over a span of ten years. He who puts his hand into the fire gets burnt. Matt was painfully aware of that fact. The workmen usually spent their free time in the evening in the local saloon. Matt avoided this proximate occasion of sin by spending his recreation time elsewhere; he like to visit a distant church. Matt's own brothers loved the bottle affectionately. When they would not listen to his pleas of reform, he left the home of his parents and did not return until his brothers moved out. Naturally, Matt quit his job in the liquor store.

Sobriety is not attained without prayer: "Without me you can do nothing." Matt took up prayer with a vengeance. His spirit of prayer is recommended to everyone subject to sins of intemperance. At 2 A.M. Matt rose and prayed until 4 A.M. In the evening he gave four hours to prayer. He said the Rosary every day and recited the various litanies. When there was a lull in the loading of trucks in the contractor's yard, he would turn his heart to a short conversation with God or the saints. Lest he miss daily Mass, Matt quit one job so that he could make the 5:30 A.M. Mass. Five dollars was not a very rich weekly income, yet the poor often felt the benefits of alms from these wages.

The Catholic Church beatified Matt in 1932. Plans for his canonization are being made. The young man who knows his weakness for drink will do well to pray to saintly person to assist him in developing the manly quality of sobriety.

### Statues Will Be Covered Until Easter

Sunday is called Passion Sunday. It opens the season of Passion-tide. In Catholic churches the crosses, crucifixes, statues of Our Lord, Our Lady and the Saints will be covered with purple veils so that we may more easily direct our thoughts to the Passion of Our Saviour. The first four weeks of Lent Mother Church spent in telling us about the forty day fast of Christ. Throughout the next two weeks She wants us to consider prayerfully the Passion, the suffering Our Redeemer underwent for our salvation. (The long Gospel of the Passion is not read until next Sunday which is Palm Sunday.)

# FIRST FRIDAY

PRAYERS: (Ill) father of Betty Kayser (Audit Dept.); Seba F. Mahony, friend of Jerry Feeney (How); Robert Schriner; father of Don Hollenhorst. Four Special Intentions.