

First Friday Benediction  
tonight at 7:00 P.M.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
June 7, 1946

Don't wait until Sunday  
Mass for confession.  
Go during the week.

### The La Salle Hotel Tragedy.

Christ was at that fire. The news accounts did not describe it quite that way. Reporters simply said that "priests were present giving the Last Rites to the dying." When a priest hears of an accident, he rushes to the scene with the Holy Oils and anoints the dying persons whom he thinks might be Catholic. The Last Rites means the priest is administering the Sacrament of Extreme Unction.

Extreme Unction is really Christ come to help the person enter Heaven, in case of death. We can say that Christ is invisibly present when the priest anoints. Through the anointing with Holy Oil, Christ forgives the recipient of the Sacrament all his sins, mortal and venial, even though the person is unconscious. The person, of course, must have some love of God in his heart to obtain this merciful forgiveness. Our Blessed Lord forgives only where he finds sorrow for sin prompted at least by a fear of hell or a fear of losing Heaven.

Christ instituted Extreme Unction to hurry a person into Heaven; through the Last Anointing He helps one bypass Purgatory. Heaven is closed to those who have a debt of demerit or temporal punishment. Christ Himself pays up a great part of that indebtedness in virtue of Extreme Unction, and He encourages the dying person, if he is conscious, to suffer patiently, and thereby pay up the remainder of the debt.

Christ sometimes cures a sick person through the power of this Sacrament, though the recovery may not be immediate. And he never fails to whisper words of encouragement and confidence in the mercy and goodness of God.

This fire, like every disaster, reminds you to be ready for sudden death. It should remind you, too, to learn to call for a priest when injured or sick, and to call a priest for relatives and friends who are seriously ill. For a Catholic the priest is more important than a doctor when death hovers over one's home or family. A priest brings Christ who is your God, and when you have God you have everything.

### On Your Prayerbones.

The morning mail brings the following request: "I just received word that my brother-in-law's father has had to undergo an amputation of a leg. He is past seventy and is one of those old fashioned Irishmen who never knew what it meant to miss Sunday Mass. But he will miss it for a few Sundays now. He has heard a good deal about the Notre Dame gang -- about the prayers, the students say at the Grotto, the frequent Communion, and the other great traditions that are part of the life of the campus. How about having the boys throw in a few Ave Marias at the Grotto or before the tabernacle for this grand old man? Last night after the amputation, the nurse dropped into his room and asked him how the leg was. 'Sure, and its dead and buried by now,' he replied with a quick Irish smile. That's courage. Don't you think this Irishman rates a quick prayer from the Notre Dame lads?"

Note: A Catholic hospital buries amputated members of the human body in consecrated ground. The severed parts are not treated as refuse, because the body is sacred. St. Paul calls it "the temple of the Holy Ghost."

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DAYS LEFT TO MAKE YOUR EASTER DUTY

OR ELSE...