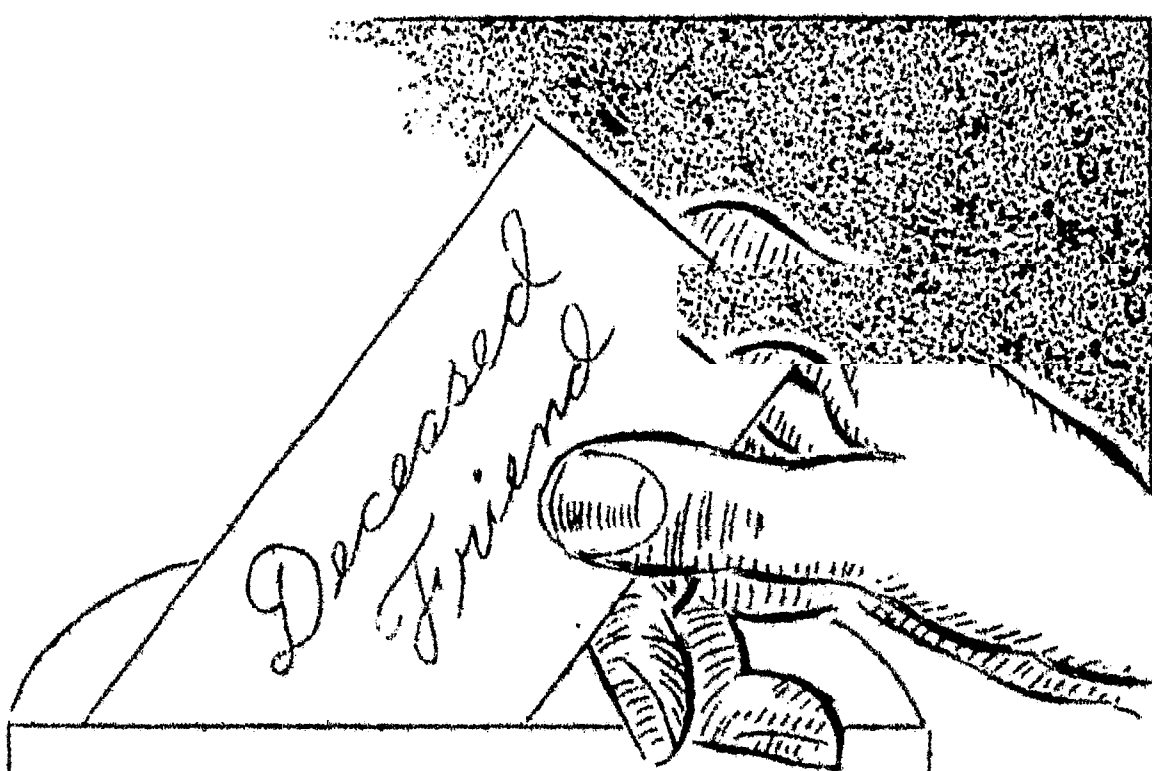


Novena for Poor Souls,
13th (Wed.) until 21st.
Hand in Names.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
November 12, 1946

Confessions tonight at
6:30 in Basement chapel
and at Night Prayer.



LEAVE NAMES IN
ENVELOPE ON
BULLETIN BOARD

Those who sweep out Sacred Heart Church frequently find little slips of paper with prayers written on them, along with the assurance that if the prayer is said so many times, copied and passed along to others, the favor requested will inevitably be granted by God.

The following was found in the church recently. It was entitled "Never-failing Novena." "May the sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, honored, adored and glorified now and forever. Amen." Repeat the above six times a day, and each day leave a copy in the church. At the end of six days your request will be granted. This prayer has never been known to fail."

We have no objection to the prayer; it is thoroughly Catholic. But the counsel given is a violation of the First Commandment. It is superstition, because it places the efficacy of prayer in details not authorized by God or by His mouthpiece the Church.

Moral Guidance by Healy has this to say about chain prayers. "Chain prayer is a superstitious practice which consists in the saying of certain prayers successively by many individuals who hope for the favors requested, not so much from God's goodness as from the magic effect of this unbroken series of prayers. A written or printed prayer is sent to the person who is to form one of the links in the chain. He is requested to say this prayer and to continue the chain by persuading others to take up the praying where he leaves off. These others in turn are to pass the prayer on to still others, etc."

"It is evident how irrational it is to place the efficacy of my prayer in the bare fact of continuousness accomplished, for the most part by others. Whence does such prayer derive the special power which is attributed to it? God surely has not promised to answer petitions because they are made under such conditions. Prayer will be fruitful only when it is said with the proper dispositions; that is, when it is said by one in the state of grace with humility, confidence, perseverance and attention."

Destroy chain prayers when you find them. It is sinful to participate in this form of superstition.

(DEATH) George Obermeier of Dillon hall and Pontiac, Mich., died Saturday night in New York. (More details later). (ACCIDENT) Larry McLafferty and Marshall Prunty, both of Badin, were severely burned and cut when thrown from the student train on its arrival in South Bend. They are in the hospital. Pray for them and George.

Novena Begins Wednesday.

Down in Brazil a Catholic farmer keeps a small plot of his field reserved for the Poor

Down in Brazil a Catholic farmer keeps a small plot of his field reserved for the st time he sells the crop, and brings the proceeds to the church for Masses for the dead. Of course there is a hint for you in this story.

You ought to help your friends and relatives who may be in Purgatory. First, make a list of your deceased friends and drop it in the envelope attached to the bulletin board in your hall. Nine consecutive Masses will be offered for these souls, beginning Wednesday. Secondly, attend Mass yourself for nine days.

Chain Prayers.