

Assorted Headaches.

1. Late comers at Sunday Mass. It is a venial sin to arrive late for Sunday Mass. God is not only offended by all the Sunday delinquents but so are the members of the congregation who are trying to pray through all the distractions caused by those arriving late.
2. Early departees. The Sunday Mass obligation demands that one remain in church until Mass is over. Those who leave at Communion time, for no reasonable excuse, are guilty of venial sin. The Pope has asked that the prayers at the end of Mass be offered for the conversion of Russia. So he must desire all to remain in their places until these prayers have been said.
3. Easter Duty Holdouts. These boys are an easy mark for temptation. And if they have a difficult confession to make, the continued delay is not going to make the ordeal less difficult. There may be no tomorrow for the sinner. He should clear his conscience in confession tonight, and then start doing penance for the remainder of Lent.

Hurried Communions.

Not all communicants receive the same amount of grace from their Communion. Christ gives more where he finds greater faith, love and confidence. It takes time to warm up the heart to these acts. Plan your rising so that you will have from five to ten minutes to give to your preparation. Mass is the ideal way to approach Our Blessed Lord.

A quickie thanksgiving likewise limits the amount of grace received. Moreover, there can be irreverence in a hurried thanksgiving. Christ remains present within the communicant for a number of minutes after the reception of the Host. It is not fitting that one rush out to breakfast or to his daily duties after a two minute period of prayer, unless duty or charity demand it.

The statement of the Church about the Sacraments is very clear: "They...produce a greater effect in proportion as the dispositions of the recipient are better, therefore care is to be taken that Holy Communion be preceded by careful preparation and followed by a suitable thanksgiving, according to each one's strength, circumstances and duties."

The Passion and Death of Christ.

There is nothing more profitable for the Christian soul than to meditate on the Passion and Death of Christ. St. Augustine, inflamed by love at the sight of Christ nailed to the cross used to pray: "Imprint, O Lord, Thy wounds in my heart, that I may read therein suffering and love." St. Thomas Aquinas one day visited St. Bonaventure and asked him from which book he had drawn all the beautiful lessons he has written. In answer St. Bonaventure showed him a Crucifix. St. Augustine used to say that a single tear shed at the remembrance of the Passion of Christ is worth more than a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, or a year of fasting on bread and water.

PRAYERS: (deceased) Tom Fitch, friend of Al Manion (Dil); James Alvey, friend of John Alvarez (Sor). (Ill) father of Jerry Ferrari (St. Eds, very serious); grandmother of Bob (Dil) and Bill (OC) Griffin. Two Special Intentions.