



NOVENA FOR EXAMS BEGINS TOMORROW

Prayers

(deceased) Father Peter Brooks, S.J., brother of Father Christopher Brooks, CSC; Brother George, CSC; Brother Conrad, CSC (Canada).

(Ill) Father John McGinn, CSC was anointed Sunday, and is in critical condition; William J. Corbett, trustee of N.D. continues very ill.

The Novena for Examinations begins Wednesday. For the nine days of the Novena assist at Mass, receive Holy Communion and say your Rosary.

Pray for all Catholics who have not made their Easter Duty. Sunday is deadline.

The Death of Francis

The first of the Fatima children to die was Francis. He contracted Spanish influenza and died after suffering for several months, in April 1919. Of the three privileged children, he is the most forgotten. His was the most hidden role in the apparitions; Jacinta and Lucy heard the sweet voice of the Mother of God - Francis did not hear that voice even once.

Some people find it difficult to say the Rosary once a day; Francis said it eight or nine times. One day Lucy asked Francis, "Do you suffer much?" He replied, "Yes, very much. But I bear it for the love of Jesus and Mary." His apostolate of suffering for sinners was to be passed on to Jacinta, not, however, against her will. The Blessed Virgin appeared to Jacinta one day. The young girl tells of the meeting in these words, "Our Lady came to see us. She said she would soon come to take Francis to Heaven. She asked me if I were willing to convert other sinners. I told her, yes, I was willing."

When Francis thought death was very near, he called in Lucy and Jacinta to help him examination his conscience for confession. Lucy could think of no fault of his other than disobedience to his mother in hiding away from curious visitors. Jacinta remembered two of his sins; once Francis had taken a dime from his home to buy a mouth organ, and he had thrown stones at some children who threw first.

Francis made his First Communion on his death-bed. Though excused from the usual Communion fast because of the danger of death, Francis asked his mother not to give him food or drink after midnight. The priest came to the house accompanied by a server who rang a little bell every few steps to warn all hearers of the Eucharistic Presence of Christ. When Francis heard the tinkling of the bell, he tried to sit up in bed, as a sign of respect to his Lord and Saviour, but he fell back on his pillow from lack of strength.

Francis lingered through the night. He asked his visitors to pray for him and to forgive him all his faults. He died with an angelic smile on his face, without a struggle of any kind. He was only ten years old. His mission in life was to be perform in a short time, and when it was over, God called him home to his reward.