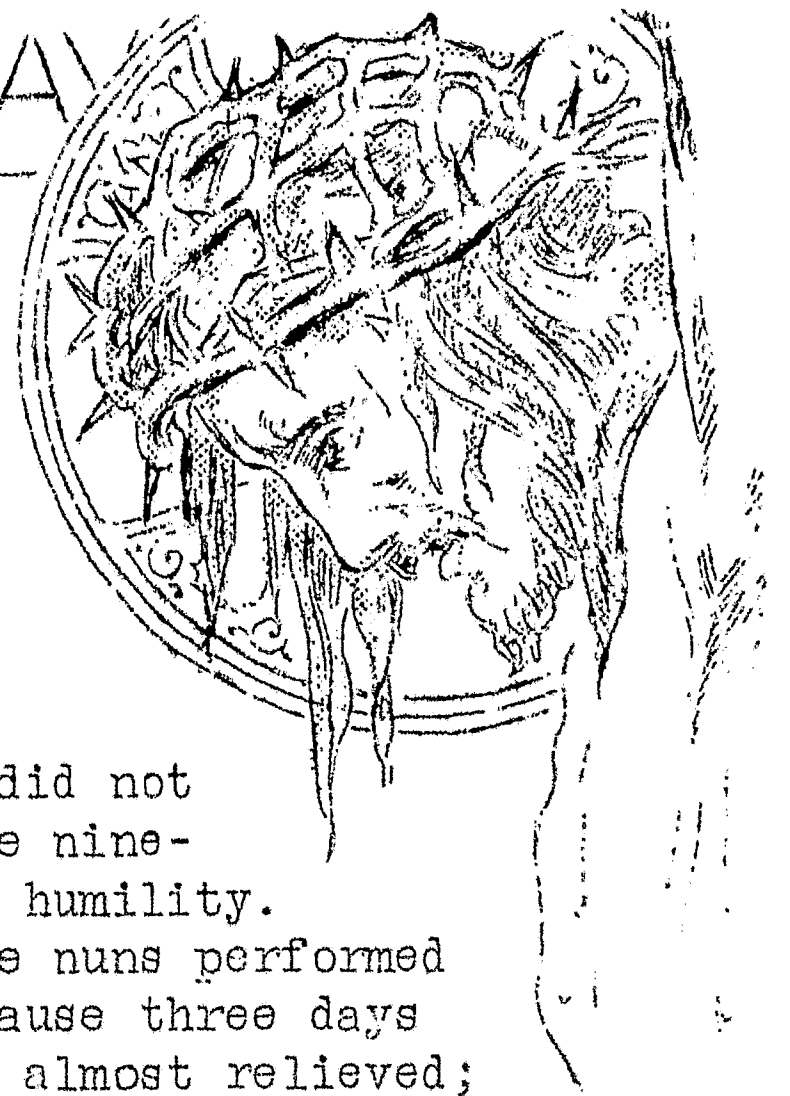


MAKE REPARATION FRIDAY

One day Our Blessed Saviour appeared to St. Margaret Mary. On His head rested a rough crown made of nineteen very sharp thorns which pierced His skin.

Those thorns had been thrust into Him by a sinful person, Christ said, and He wanted Margaret Mary to remove them, "She pierces my head with a thorn every time she prefers herself to me by an act of pride."

Margaret was most anxious to take out the thorns, but she did not know how. So she asked Our Blessed Lord. He said that the nineteen thorns could be removed by an equal number of acts of humility. Margaret Mary asked the cooperation of her convent, and the nuns performed many acts of humility. This pleased Christ very much, because three days later He showed Margaret Mary three thorns of which He was almost relieved; the rest remained for a long time afterwards.



On another occasion, Our Blessed Lord again asked for acts of reparation. He appeared to Margaret Mary while she was praying before the Blessed Sacrament. He showed her His Sacred Heart saying, "Behold this Heart which has so loved men that it has spared nothing, has emptied itself and died to show them its love; and in return I receive, for the most part, only ingratitude in the insults, the acts of irreverence, the sacrileges and the coldness that men show towards me in this Sacrament." Christ begged Margaret Mary to compensate for all this.

Reparation is not hard to understand. You hold many people in high esteem. Your girl and your mother, for instance. If they had suffered an insult, you would rush to do something to make up for that offence. You might say a kind word or give a gift, and you would not even consider the extra sacrifice you would undergo. That's the way we act with our friends and particularly with those we love. Such an act is called reparation, which is simply an effort to undo the hurt which someone has caused a friend.

Every sin insults the Sacred Heart. Every sin caused Christ to suffer when He went through His Passion and Death. You can say that your sins have hurt Christ. The Sacred Heart wants reparation. Are you going to make it?

Why First Friday?

Reparation on First Friday is Our Lord's own idea. He picked the day Himself. And He has hinted very clearly the type of spirituality He wants on that day. First, He wants special devotion to Him in the Blessed Sacrament. Read again the quotation above, where Christ says that men show a coldness towards Him in the Blessed Sacrament.

The Sacred Heart desires all Catholics to receive Holy Communion on First Friday. Again His intention is reparation. The blessing Christ gives for repeating this devotion on nine consecutive First Fridays is extra graces which assure one's salvation.

Tomorrow is First Friday. You can sleep in if you wish. You can busy yourself with many things during the day, and thereby remain away from Adoration. If you do, you will have missed a chance to prove, in a special way, your love for Christ and your hatred for sin.

PPAYEIS: (deceased) father of Father Howard Zenna, CSC, Director of Studies. 7 S.I.

Adoration Fridays 3 to 5