

Prayers: (deceased) father University of Notre Dame ...mother (operation) of
of Mrs. Leo Maheux. Ill, Religious Bulletin Jack Haddox (Ba); Brothers
father of Jack Schauer (Ly)... April 13, 1950 Elliott, CSC; and Peter CSC

First Friday and Good Friday.

Question: This year (1950) the first Friday of April fell on Good Friday. Does this mean that the series of nine First Friday Communions has been broken and that the novena must be begun over?

Answer: This question has come up time and time again. The Bulletin quotes from EMMANUEL (April, 1950): "The text of what is known as the Great Promise, which St. Margaret Mary narrates with great humility, requires the Communions to be on nine consecutive Fridays. Writers on the subject agree that if the nine Fridays are interrupted, even through no fault of the communicant, the novena must be started again by those who piously desire to comply with the conditions attached to the promise."

Why Does The Holy Father Insist On Works Of Penance?

On Passion Sunday Pius XII went to St. Peter's to pray and to admonish and to encourage Christendom: "This day of world penance," he said, "corresponds in truth to the most urgent needs of the society in which we live."

Why? Because there is sin in the world. The Holy Father urges Catholics to pray for the Christian renewal of the world ALMOST UNIVERSALLY FLOODED WITH MORAL DECADENCE. When he exhorts Catholics, that means he exhorts YOU--all of us. No need to point the finger at the other fellow and say: "He should change his life." Point the finger at your own hide: "I MUST DO PENANCE...I must pray...I must renew my own spiritual life."

We are created to glorify God, destined for beatific union with Him. To reach this goal we must die in union with God by sanctifying grace. Because we do not know the hour when we shall die, it is not only good sense but high wisdom to acquire the habit of living in the state of grace, beginning not tomorrow--but today.

Only one thing destroys union with God: Mortal sin. Venial sin weakens the union. Penance and mortification destroy sin and its consequences, heals the wounds caused in the soul by sin. To effectively destroy personal sin and the weaknesses it causes, we must apply drastic spiritual surgery--penance and mortification.

"Mortification is the destruction of sin and its consequences, the renouncement of things licit but not useful for us, so that preoccupation with them may not absorb us to the detriment of divine union.

Christ laid down a condition for discipleship: "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me." Heeding what Our Lord meant for all, this self-denial is mortification which we impose on ourselves. It is an integral part of penance and just as essential to Christian life.

If You Are A Sinner Then You Must Be A Penitent.

Read what St. Thomas Aquinas has to say about penance, then you will understand better why the Holy Father is insisting so much upon it: "Now it is evident that there is a special reason for praising the act of penance, because it aims at the destruction of past sin, considered as an offense against God, which does not apply to any other virtue. We must conclude that penance is a special virtue.....Every special virtue removes formally the habit of the opposite vice, just as whiteness removes blackness from the same subject: but penance removes every sin effectively, inasmuch as it works for the destruction of sins, according as they are pardonable through the grace of God if man cooperate therewith." --Summa, IIIa, q.85, a.2

Prayers: Critically Ill: aunt of Frank Driscoll (Mor); 2 Sick friends of Frank Tripodi (Al); 2 Special Intentions.