

First Friday Benediction at
5 o'clock.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
November 3, 1950

First Saturday--confession
Communion & rosary tomorrow.

Did Prayer Ever Cure You?

Once in a while we meet with a local skeptic who pooh-poohs God's Providence and tells us that the day of miracles is past, or with an ill-instructed Catholic who gets sore at God because He doesn't answer his prayers on the spot. For the benefit of these individuals we quote a letter from a recent graduate:

"Dear Father: Last July you pledged the prayers of the Notre Dame community for my recovery from a serious automobile accident. I am taking this opportunity to report my complete recovery . . . As you remember I fell asleep at the wheel and crashed into a pole. My chances for survival were considered poor. In the accident I received the following injuries: broken right arm, paralyzed left arm, severe neck injury and worst of all a damaged spinal cord.

"The doctors inform me that they have no medical explanation for my escape from death or for my escape from complete lifetime paralysis. I have one answer--and that is prayer. I am tremendously grateful to you and the Notre Dame community for your prayers. I am so fully recovered now that I have been able to resume my teaching duties. . . ." --James K. D., '48.

Prayer And Self-Indulgence Like Oil And Water Don't Mix.

God tells us to seek first the Kingdom of God. Since prayer is an elevation of the mind and heart to God, Who is all-powerful and all-provident, it implies a state of dependence on God, of needing Him, of doing His will. Self-indulgence, on the other hand, seeks self first, self-will not God's will. It means doing what God does not want us to do, or not doing what He wants us to do.

Simply and fundamentally, virtue is doing God's will, whereas sin is not doing it. All voluntary actions merit reward or punishment in so far as they fulfill or do not fulfill His will.

Christ tells us to deny ourselves, do penance. Self-indulgence is the failure to apply this self-discipline. If we petition God in prayer, beg His help, there must be a willingness on our part to practice mortifications, acts of self-denial. Otherwise, our prayer loses its effectiveness by default.

Make your novena for examinations, beg God to give the faith to your non-Catholic father or mother, pray that you will marry a good Catholic girl--but back up your prayers with sacrifices if you expect God to single you out for special attention. For example: rise promptly for early Mass . . . give alms to a worthy cause . . . give up fooling around when it's time to study . . . kneel a half hour in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament . . . make a visit to the Grotto when you don't feel like it . . . cut out smoking during a novena . . . answer the hall telephone.

Waiting For The Light.

Almsgiving, Scripture tells us, is one way to atone for sin. St. Augustin in the Office for All Souls' Day points out that almsgiving helps the Poor Souls. "Nothing we do for the beloved dead matters to them, except what we solemnly supplicate for them through the Sacrifice of the Altar, or through prayers and almsgiving."

How much have you spent on yourself this fall? For shows? On tobacco? On dates? On beer? On sin? You have your hidden virtues, of course. But Our Lord said something about not hiding your light under a bushel. Put it on a candlestick where it will light up the world. We wait in the darkness--to be enlightened, that is.

Prayers: (Deceased) mother of John Flinn, '30; Edward Duggan, '15; Ray Sharkey, '50; father-in-law of Bill Boone (O-C); father of John Martin; father of Prof. J.Fitzgerald.