

Lenten Devotions Wednesday
night; Father Laskowski
preaches -- 6:45

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
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Serving class 6:30 tonight
Dillon Chapel. Know how to
serve Mass.

Lent Comes Once A Year.

But don't confine the spirit of Lent to the first week or the next six. Let self-denial become a part of your life. Christ talked about daily self-denial. Offer your study, your disappointments, your trials and temptations, your gripes and hardships, your sicknesses and headaches, offer all the difficult things you have to do or you make yourself do, offer all these things in union with the suffering of Christ on the Way of the Cross. And be big-hearted about it: don't be too easily satisfied that you are ever doing enough in return for God's blessings.

A Little Common Sense.

Many students, usually not more than one-third, are not in the habit of making a proper thanksgiving after Holy Communion. This is a condition that calls for serious reflection. Only reflection can remedy it.

The Council of Trent fixed certain essential points concerning each Sacrament. The sixth canon declares:

"If anyone should say that the Sacraments of the New Law do not contain what they signify, and that they do not confer grace to those who put no obstacle to it, let him be anathema."

The particular phrase to be pointed out is: "to those who put no obstacle." The fundamental obstacle, of course, is mortal sin. As long as we are conscious of mortal sin on our soul, we receive no grace from the Eucharist. Well-informed Catholics need no detailed information why.

However, students complain time and again that they do not seem to get much out of Holy Communion. Although some recognize great progress, others slip into a receiving-Communion routine that is hasty and ill-suited to merit more powerful graces.

The special grace of the Sacrament of the Eucharist is union with Christ. Living in the state of grace is living in union with Christ, but the intimacy of that union and its influence on our life will not become more and more intense if the grace with which floods the soul meets obstacles.

What obstacles? Anything that will prevent greater union. Anything that will come between us and Christ. Anything that will transfer our interests from Him to what is opposed to Him. Such as:

1. Venial sins--laziness, envy, impatience, lying, dishonesty, profanity, neglect of study, intemperance, fear of what others will say or do if we discourage dirty talk, etc.
2. Secular-mindedness: a too great preoccupation with worldly ambitions which does not have the interests of Christ foremost; being more concerned about worldly success than on other-worldly success; a lack of interest in perfecting our Catholic-mindedness through spiritual reading and study of Catholic doctrine; a greater attention and devotion to acquiring those talents which will assure us of worldly success than perfecting those virtues which will prove to God our genuine interest in spiritual perfection.
3. Neglects: failure to appreciate the Mass, lack of initiative in praying the Mass, hasty preparations and thanksgivings, absence from Benediction, no time for Adoration, more time for pleasing men than for pleasing God.

Prayers: (deceased) Rev. William Lonnartz, C.S.C.; mother of Father Jerome Boyle, C.S.C. Ill, aunt of Tom Gausman (Alu). Special Intentions--4.