

HOLY HOUR, 4:30, Thursday,  
Sacred Heart Church

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
April 11, 1951

Novena for fathers now in  
progress.

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Two Kinds Of Reasonable Students.

Pascal once noted: "There are two kinds of reasonable people, those who love God with their whole hearts because they have found Him, and those who search for God with their whole hearts, because they have not found Him." He won't be found where some are looking.

When the Bulletin swallowed in one gulp by your mailbox knows everyone but a rebellious few is looking for Christ, it is bound to have a kindlier approach than if it assumes that no one at all is interested. It is true, sometimes it must be stern because youthful, hungry mouths can diet on the wrong kind of food--on too many worldly sweets.

There are some things which you have to experience in order to know them more thoroughly. The thrill of watching a Notre Dame game in the stadium has no substitute in its write-up Sunday morning. There are two ways of knowing the poor, by studying statistics on poverty and by living a life of poverty. There are two ways of knowing the Mass, by studying about it in a text book and by living the Mass in our daily lives. There are two ways of knowing Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, by reading about Him in a pamphlet and by actually receiving the Food of the Strong each morning in chapel.

All of this brings us down to this point. There are two ways of knowing about prayer, by perusing your prayer book now and then, by digesting tracts on meditation, and by actually getting down on our knees and praying. If some students knew how much what they say reveals their character they would never chide their confreres who are trying to live more prayerful lives, for in berating what is the one important way of adoring God and imploring His help, they betray their own unprayerful lives.

Pride probably has a lot to do with derision, belittling, and ridicule, because what the derider does not have, or what he refuses to make an effort to acquire, he often despises. For this reason the real Notre Dame student who strives to act according to his convictions on purity, temperance, daily Communion, and prayer, may be subjected to humiliating, petty and mean persecutions from his belitters.

No matter how many essays you read on prayer you will never learn to pray unless you begin to lift up your soul to God. This elevation purifies the soul because it raises it above the environment of the world. All men can pray; all men need to pray; all men ought to pray. Even the sinner who has broken his spiritual backbone by mortal sin can always pray. Prayer is addressed first of all to divine mercy. No matter how low, how wretched, how degraded a man may be in his sin, he can always cry out for mercy, and he will not be lifted up until he does. True prayer stimulates action.

Take the conversion of Magdalen, the thief on the cross, Peter after his three denials. Once the soul is raised up, God is glorified. Prayer is all-powerful then. But when the devil tempts us to disobey God's law through stupid pride, when the allurements of the flesh energize the passions, when the world offers us a "killing" for a few fast but dishonest "bucks," do we really pray, as Christ told us to?

When many of our prayers have been returned apparently unanswered, like letters to a friend who has moved to parts unknown, have we doubted Christ's promise: "Ask and it shall be given you?"

Our prayers will be infallibly answered if four conditions, which St. Thomas lays down, are present: namely, that "we ask (1) for ourselves (2) things necessary for salvation (3) piously, (4) perseveringly. When all these four concur, we always obtain what we ask for."

Prayers: (deceased) grandmother of Dee McGonigle (Wal); father of Fr. Le Blanc. Injured, Floyd Blair; Operation, mother of Father Grimm, Ill, Mrs. Hennigan.