

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
February 1, 1952

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He's Taking It.

Jim Aoki's letter, dated January 21, was too late to catch the last Bulletin before exams, but it's as good now as it was then:

Dear Father: The weather here (Rocky Hill, Conn.) is great. Lots of sunshine and no snow left on the ground. It makes me think of the day I'll be going out to enjoy some of that sunshine. I have been in bed since September, but in a few weeks I expect to be in a wheelchair.

I'd like to thank you and all the fellows and friends of Notre Dame for the many cards and prayers for my recovery. I really had a nice Christmas holiday. . . There's another fellow here who has the same kind of back injury I have. He also is permanently paralyzed, but his mental outlook is very dim. He has no faith to turn to and therefore has no conception of offering up what he has to endure. Please offer some prayers for him.

My daily Communions are for all at Notre Dame. (Signed: Jim Aoki.)

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Candlemas Day.

Another name for the feast which is celebrated on February 2. Candles are blessed before the main Mass of the day and distributed to the faithful (of the parish) for use in their homes.

The feast is also called The Purification. In general it commemorates three events: (1) The Purification of Mary; (2) the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple; (3) the meeting of Jesus with the aged Simeon and his wife Anna. The Presentation of Jesus is the event which gets most emphasis in the liturgy.

Before the Mass, candles are blessed and distributed and a procession with candles is held. The origin of the candle ceremony is not known with certainty. Some think it was suggested by the words of Simeon designating Our Lord as "a light of revelation to the Gentles" (Luke 2:32). Others think it is a Christianization of a pagan feast of lights.

It is the custom of the faithful of the parish on Candlemas Day to procure candles after they have been blessed and to keep them in their homes for use whenever the sacraments are administered--Viaticum or Extreme Unction.

Little Sins!

"He that despiseth small things shall fall by little and little." The present Holy Father not long ago in an address to the Lenten preachers of Rome declared that one of the great evils of today is that the world has lost its sense of sin. He did not single out mortal sin; he said THE WORLD HAS LOST ITS SENSE OF SIN.

We take venial sin nonchalantly. How often have you heard this: "Why, it's only a venial sin." Why get all warmed up about venial sin? So we take it as of little or no consequence. With typical American good-naturedness we think the good Lord will understand and more readily forgive these insults to His heavenly Father.

With this mortal-sin complex--"How far can I go before I commit mortal sin?"--no wonder there is little progress in love of God and neighbor. Venial sin, says Saint Thomas, "produces the same effect upon the soul as a lasting, though not deadly, disease produces upon the body. It cripples the powers of the soul."

Prayers: (deceased) grandfather of Dick Keegan (Cav); James T. Foley, '10; William C. Snyder, III, sister of Father Kennedy, C.S.C. 11 special intentions.